

MIDTERM EXAM (Fall 2013)

Complete all five parts.

1. NAME (print legibly):

2. Five ID's (out of seven): not more than a sentence or two apiece:

1. How many books does the Hebrew Bible contain?
2. 587 BCE
3. Etiology, etiological story
4. Four assumptions (Kugel)
5. manna
6. Covenant code (Book of the Covenant)
7. Miriam

3. Fill in the timeline – identify each block (see overleaf)

4. Identify and assess the significance of five of the following biblical passages (out of seven):

1. When God began to create heaven and earth—² the earth being unformed and void, with darkness over the surface of the deep and a wind from God sweeping over the water—³ God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.

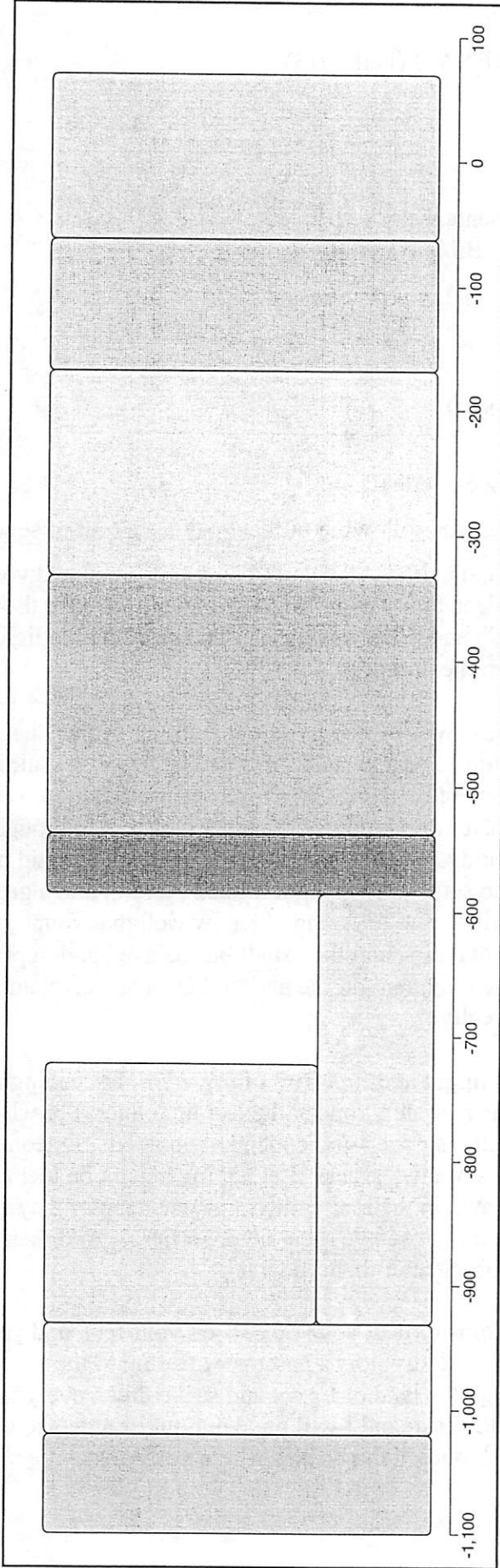
2. ⁷Then He said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to assign this land to you as a possession.” ⁸And he said, “O Lord GOD, how shall I know that I am to possess it?” ⁹He answered, “Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young bird.” ¹⁰He brought Him all these and cut them in two, placing each half opposite the other; but he did not cut up the bird... ¹²As the sun was about to set, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a great dark dread descended upon him. ¹³And He said to Abram, “Know well that your offspring shall be strangers in a land not theirs, and they shall be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years; ¹⁴but I will execute judgment on the nation they shall serve, and in the end they shall go free with great wealth.

3. ³Reuben, you are my first-born, My might and first fruit of my vigor, Exceeding in rank And exceeding in honor. ⁴Unstable as water, you shall excel no longer; For when you mounted your father's bed, You brought disgrace—my couch he mounted! ⁵Simeon and Levi are a pair; Their weapons are tools of lawlessness. ⁶Let not my person be included in their council, Let not my being be counted in their assembly. For when angry they slay men, And when pleased they maim oxen. ⁷Cursed be their anger so fierce, And their wrath so relentless. I will divide them in Jacob, Scatter them in Israel.

4. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly: it is a passover offering to the LORD. ¹²For that night I will go through the land of Egypt and strike down every first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and I will mete out punishments to all the gods of Egypt, I the LORD. ¹³And the blood on the houses where you are staying shall be

CB39: The Hebrew Bible: Overview Timeline: Eras and Precipitating Events

- Show Dates
- Show All
- Hide Labels



a sign for you: when I see the blood I will pass over you, so that no plague will destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

5. ²¹Then Moses held out his arm over the sea and the LORD drove back the sea with a strong east wind all that night, and turned the sea into dry ground. The waters were split, ²²and the Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians came in pursuit after them into the sea, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and horsemen. ²⁴At the morning watch, the LORD looked down upon the Egyptian army from a pillar of fire and cloud, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He locked the wheels of their chariots so that they moved forward with difficulty. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

6. ²I the LORD am your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage: ³You shall have no other gods besides Me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image, or any likeness of what is in the heavens above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I the LORD your God am an impassioned God, visiting the guilt of the parents upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generations of those who reject Me, ⁶but showing kindness to the thousandth generation of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

7. ¹When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, the people gathered against Aaron and said to him, "Come, make us a god who shall go before us, for that man Moses, who brought us from the land of Egypt—we do not know what has happened to him."²Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."³And all the people took off the gold rings that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. ⁴This he took from them and cast in a mold, and made it into a molten calf. And they exclaimed, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt!"⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron announced: "Tomorrow shall be a festival of the LORD!"⁶Early next day, the people offered up burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; they sat down to eat and drink, and then rose to dance.

5. Non-essay questions: choose one. Begin with a thesis statement, if appropriate; then write an outline or bullet points, and only enough prose so that your meaning is clear.

1. What are the major issues involved in assessing the historicity of the Exodus from Egypt? What evidence has been found apart from the Bible itself to confirm or contradict the biblical account?
2. What is the point of the *Aqedah* story (Genesis 22)?

Don't forget to write your name and the name of your TF on your exam booklet and the question sheets.