

**Old Testament Literature
Study Questions**

Note: The purpose of these study questions is to help you get an idea of the kinds of information I expect you to be picking up from class. However, don't think that you can just study this sheet and be fully prepared for the test. This is an *aid* to study, not a replacement of your notes.

When it comes to studying for class here is my best advice:

Necessary (in my opinion)	Optional (depending upon your learning style)
1) Review PowerPoints, preferably on the S: drive and run the presentation like I do in class and pretend you're talking someone else through the lecture. That is, try to explain it out loud just like I've done it in class. This is the best trick and necessary. IF you get stuck on a slide and can't explain it, then go back to the mp3 file and listen to my explanation.	1) Just straight up listen to the lecture again. Works for some people.
2) Answer the study questions by yourself (correctly) and then if you aren't sure of some of the answers, ask a couple of friends	2) If you're really hard core you can read the written notes, again provided online, but I would only use these for reference... I don't think I'd just read them through
3) Start early and plan to take two hours each night for the four nights leading up to the exam. The idea is that when you space your learning out you retain more of it. Not my idea.... statistically proven... 8 hours spread out over 4 days is much more effective than trying to cram it all in the night before. If this sounds like a lot of studying then 1) it isn't a freshmen course and much of the grade/learning is based on mastering this content and that is determined through the celebrations and 2) once you get 100% on the first celebration you can choose to study less for the others ☺	.
4) Do the OT Geography section on the OT Homepage and answer the included quiz questions	

Genesis

- 1 Why do we think that Moses was the author? What scripture is the most important in helping us out with OT dates? Hint: Try 1 Kings 6:1. Can you reproduce the chart in your mind which belongs with 1 Kings 6:1?
- 2 What phrase occurs 11 times in Genesis and what is its purpose? Hint: to divide the book up into sections.

- 3 What is the big idea (*message statement* in the notes) of Genesis and how about the key verse?
- 4 What is the emphasis in 1:1--2:3? Hint, the action of God's word and its power. For what does this lay the foundation?
- 5 What does 2:4-25 teach about who is responsible for Adam's sin? In other words was God negligent in providing for Adam? What did God do for Adam in this section?
- 6 Be able to reproduce in your mind and explain the Gen 3:15 seed chart?
- 7 Satan's attack was directed primarily toward whom? Man or God? Hint: try God and his *rule*. So the promise of 3:15 involves primarily a seed who will come who will 1) regain the lost *relationship* and 2) rule.
- 8 What did Eve think in 4:1 when she had a baby boy? Who did she think the baby boy might be at first?
- 9 How would you describe Lamech in relation to his father Cain? How would you describe him in relation to Enoch?
- 10 What is the problem with the men in the genealogy of chapter 5? What things do the men of chapter 4 generally have in common? How would you compare or contrast the two genealogies?
- 11 What is the problem in 6:1-8? Were these guys angels or evil men? Does it really matter? What really matters? Hint, what really matters is that Satan was behind whatever was going on to destroy God's working, so, to prevent the godly seed from being overcome by evil God had to send the flood.
- 12 How does the command of 9:1-2 compare with 1:28? What's different? What does the incident in 9:18-29 teach us about Noah and the possibility of him being the final seed?
- 13 What was the goal of the people at Babel? Is that a bad goal? Why? When will Satan come closest to achieving this goal? How did God thwart the plans of these people? How does Acts 2 (the miracle at Pentecost) relate to Genesis 11?
- 14 What kind of promise does Abraham get from God in Gen 12? How does God *first* show that he will keep his promise of chapter 12?
- 15 What is the point of the smoking pot in 15?
- 16 Explain the meaning of the name *Isaac* (17:9; 18:10-12)
- 17 What does the story of Abe and Abimelech teach about God in chapter 20? Hint, your answer ought to include something from Gen 12 and 15.
- 18 Can you explain all the symbolism and teaching of Gen 22 to a friend? What is the point of the test? Obedience? How many people in scripture are called "only begotten"?
- 19 What does 23:1-20 and Abraham's dealing with the Hittites teach about his relationship to the promises of Gen 12? What verse in Hebrews 11 best summarizes this concept? Did the locals give Abraham a good deal on land?
- 20 What does "Jacob" mean both literally and figuratively?
- 21 What two things does Jacob deceitfully steal from his brother in chapters 25-27?
- 22 What is God doing to Jacob (by means of Laban) in 29?

- 23 What happens to Jacob's herds in chapter 30? Do they increase because of Jacob's manipulation or in spite of Jacob's manipulation?
- 24 What does 31:19 teach about Jacob's influence on his family?
- 25 Can you explain Jacob's wrestling with God? Should we want to "wrestle with God"? Why the name change? Is "wrestling with God" something that believers or unbelievers do?
- 26 What do we learn about Jacob in 35:1-5?
- 27 Which of the sons were leaders to their brothers?
- 28 What is the lesson of chapters 38 and 39?
- 29 Why are the butler and baker and candlestick maker included in chapter 40?
- 30 How does Joseph picture the ultimate seed in 41:41, 46, and 57?
- 31 Why does Joseph give his brothers such a hard time in 42-44? What is the turning point?
- 32 How do the sons' blessings (chapter 49) relate to their character?

Exodus

- 33 Be able to explain both aspects of the name YHWH, and what part it plays in God introducing himself to Egypt and to the nation of Israel.
- 34 How do the plagues make God known? That is, what do they teach the people of Israel and Egypt about YHWH?
- 35 What significance does Passover have for the nation of Israel and exactly what spiritual lesson did they learn from it?
- 36 What kind of covenant is the Mosaic covenant? How does it relate to the Abrahamic covenant (Gen 12)?
- 37 In what three ways was the covenant ratified? (Hint: Exod 24).
- 38 What does the Golden Calf incident demonstrate about the future of the Mosaic covenant?
- 39 What is going on when Moses throws the Ten Commandments down on the ground? Was he given to throwing things when he was mad?
- 40 Why did Moses take a pair of stone tablets back up the mountain?

Leviticus

- 41 What is the occasion of Leviticus? Or to put it another way, What is the problem of Exodus 40 which makes Leviticus necessary?
- 42 What were the three offerings for those in fellowship? What do they symbolize?
- 43 What offerings were offered by those whose fellowship was broken? It's sometimes hard to tell a difference but if there is a difference between these two offerings what would it be?
- 44 What was the difference between intentional and unintentional sin? Remember the quote in your notes! What was a better word for the second class of sins "intentional?" What sacrifices were available for someone who committed a deliberate or intentional sin? (like David)?
- 45 For whom was the sin offering more costly? A High Priest or a commoner? Why?

- 46 In 6:8--7:38 the same five offerings are described again. Why?
- 47 The tragedy of Leviticus 10 proves that:
- A God was wrong in instituting this kind of system
 - B Men don't make very good mediators
 - C If the system is to work what we really need is a sinless High Priest
 - D **B & C** but especially C (note: this is the correct answer).
- 48 Why did God initiate the clean and unclean thing?
- 49 What two goats were used on the Day of Atonement? What did they symbolize?
- 50 How does Leviticus 17 relate to 16? What is the function of 17?
- 51 Blood symbolizes what primarily?_____
- 52 Why is an animal symbolizing the final sacrifice of Christ better than a human sacrifice?

Numbers

- 53 In a word, what is the purpose of 1A (Chapters 1-10)?
- 54 Are the first 10 chapters a happy situation? Are the people obedient or disobedient? Is there progress or not?
- 55 Where does the complaining begin under 2A 1B?
- 56 What verses in chapter 14 teach that ALL were involved? What verses in chapter 14 teach that the people were WELL INFORMED about their decision?
- 57 What was the poor fellow's problem in 15:30? His sin or his attitude? That is How wicked is it really to pick up sticks?
- 58 Balak's request for Balaam to curse Israel was a direct challenge of what promise of God? Where is that found? What verse in Numbers 22 best describes this?
- 59 What verse in 24 summarizes and climaxes Balaam's blessing of Israel? Hint: Try 24:9

Deuteronomy

- 60 What was the occasion of Deuteronomy?
- 61 Why did God reduce the rules of his relationship with the nation into the treaty form?
- 62 What is the summary form of the covenant?
- 63 What was the strength of Israel? What also was her tendency?
- 64 The most important area of specific legislation (3B) for the nation involved what?
- 65 What was the most important area of national worship (1C).
- 66 What basic area did the blessings and cursings involve, that is, if they were cursed what would the people not enjoy and if they were blessed what would they enjoy?
- 67 What was the ultimate, the final and last part of the curse?

Joshua

- 68 How does 1:3 relate to the overall theme of Joshua? Hint: It shows that what we have in the book is not just a group of people looking for a homeland, but God fulfilling his promises made generations ago!
- 69 Who gets top billing in chapter 2? Spies or Rahab? What kind of conditions for obedience were given to her? There are at least two of 'em.
- 70 To what great miracle in the past would you compare the crossing of the Jordan? What verse in chapter 4 teaches this comparison?
- 71 Why does 4C say "The people's faithful observance of the covenant?" How did they observe the covenant and how did it require faith?
- 72 Under 2B, 1C to what miracle in the life of Moses can you compare this event? What does it say about the message of the book?
- 73 How would you compare Achan and Rahab? From what tribe did Achan come? How about Rahab? How do their stories relate to the theme of the book?
- 74 What makes 6C on this page (the story of Caleb getting Hebron) bittersweet?
- 75 Why 15:13-19? What's the big deal about Caleb's little girl? And while we're at it, Would anyone like to add chapters 13-19 to a Scripture memory list? Why so much material on one bland topic? In four words or less what's the point?
- 76 Can you explain Joshua's pleading with the folks about getting rid of foreign gods in 3C?
- 77 How would you evaluate YHWH's progress in the fulfillment of his promises to Abraham at this point?

Judges

- 78 In what verses is the divine evaluation or interpretation of chapter 1 found? In a word, How does God describe the people's "failure" of chapter 1?
- 79 What is the cycle found in the Judges? Actually, the cycle is better described as a . . . because of 2:19.
- 80 What two issues does Gideon positively represent?
- 81 How many times does Samson kill Philistines under 2C?
- 82 Why did the Philistines bring Samson back to Gaza?
- 83 What phrase is prominent in the last 5 chapters of the book. What other phrase is attached to the first phrase two times? Confused? Try 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25.
- 84 The story of 1C is deliberately written in terms which remind the reader of what event?
- 85 Can you quickly retell the story of 2C and 3C? What feeling do you get? Judges is a _____ kind of time.

Ruth

- 86 What is the key verse of Ruth? (Try 2:20, it is the exact middle of the book in Hebrew. Pretty nifty turning point).
- 87 How does Boaz compare with Samson?
- 88 Which lady is the main focus of the story? Is the book entitled accurately?

- 89 How does 3:17 relate to 1:21?
- 90 How many different levels of teaching are found in Ruth? What are they? Actually, IN Ruth, there are only two levels, but when we combine it with the rest of scripture we can see a third level....

Wisdom

- 91 What is wisdom?
- 92 Know the different emphases of each book?

Job

- 93 Remember the difference between when the **events** of Job occurred and when the **writing down** of the book occurred.
- 94 What does the fact that the name YHWH does not occur in chapters 3-37 tell us about when the events of the book occurred?
- 95 Who wrote the book of Job?
- 96 Do you remember the "EJ, BJ, ZJ" pattern that describes the dialogue between the three friends and Job?
- 97 Know what retribution theology is, and who held to it. Remember, that besides his friends, Job, as well basically held to it. Also keep in mind the conclusions which both sides drew from Job's situation, based upon retribution theology. Sounds complicated, doesn't it, but it isn't. The three friends simply believed that because he was suffering he must have sinned. Job's conclusion, however, was that since he was suffering and he hadn't sinned, that God must have made a serious bookkeeping error.
- 98 What was the key that changed Job's attitude in the book? His trials? His wife? (she was a trial) His friends? The revelation of God which came in chapters 38-42?
- 99 Remember that the benefits which believers enjoy may be the **results of** their relationship but not the **reason for** their relationship with the Lord. If we serve him because of the good which it returns to us, then we simply have a business contract, not a relationship.

Psalms

- 100 When were most of the psalms written?
- 101 Who wrote 'em?
- 102 How were they collected into 5 books?
- 103 Know the Technical words in the Psalms (5A, 1B-4B). E.g. maskil, mikhtam etc.
- 104 What purpose does Psalm 1 serve in relation to the rest of the book?
- 105 What is the purpose of the metaphor of a tree (1:3)?
- 106 Know the discussion about Psalm 110.
- 107 What is the key to the Messianic psalms?
- 108 What are wrong reasons or explanations for Imprecatory psalms? Is it ever right to pray one of these prayers today? Can they be used against an RA? a Prof?

Proverbs

- 109 When were the proverbs written? When were they collected in to their present format?
- 110 What's the purpose of the book? To whom were they written? (Remember 1:8, 10; 2:1; 3:1; 4:1; 5:1).
- 111 Can you summarize the teaching of chapter 1?
- 112 According to Proverbs, what is the most stupid thing a person can do or be? Or to put it another way, what is the ultimate example of foolishness or folly?
- 113 What is an acrostic? Where in Psalms and Proverbs can you find acrostics?
- 114 How would you compare the concept of Wisdom and the virtuous woman of Prov. 31?

Ecclesiastes

- 115 When in his life did Solomon write Ecclesiastes?
- 116 What does vanity mean in the context of Ecclesiastes?
- 117 Does the “vanity” of life apply to unbelievers? believers? (Hint: to everyone affected by the curse, which is pretty much everyone, even Jesus since he was born under, lived under and ultimately died as a result of the curse).
- 118 What is Solomon's point in 2A-1B-2C, 3C, 4C?
- 119 How does 6:12a,b relate to its context?
- 120 What two things specifically does man NOT know from 6:10--11:6? Hint: check out the C points.
- 121 What is the **vanity** which *is to come* in 11:8? (In NIV the last part of the verse reads “Everything to come is **meaningless**”) What is he talking about? How does this relate to 12:1-7?
- 122 Does Solomon counsel people to live without restraint and to enjoy themselves in any way they see fit? How does the conclusion (12:9-14) relate to your answer?

Song of Solomon

- 123 Who are the participants in the drama?
- 124 Who is the main narrator?
- 125 If the wife were to summarize her basic point, which verses would she use?
- 126 Can you summarize the point of 1A-6B?
- 127 What does 2A teach? That people who love each other won't have arguments ? ?
- 128 What is the point of 8:5-7?
- 129 You need to be able to explain 8:8-9 as well. What is the difference between a “door” and a “wall”? Which do you want your “younger sister” to be?

Prophets

- 130 Know the differences between the various religious classifications in Israel.
- 131 Be able to describe the assignment of the prophet. What did he do? When did he show up? What was his favorite sermon text?

- 132 What two prophets went to Nineveh? Israel? Babylon?
- 133 What are the three Major Prophets? If you were to name 4 what would they be?
- 134 Why didn't Jesus quote **all** of Isa 61:1-2 when he stood up in the Synagogue (Luke 4:18)?

Jonah

- 135 What is the point of the book of Jonah? *God loves sinners, or God's will can't be resisted or Don't try to run away from God or you may be someone's lunch?*
- 136 Know the chart about structure in Jonah. Why is chapter 4 so important to the message of the book?
- 137 Be able to chart Jonah's "spiritual journey" from direct disobedience to anger and the step in between.
- 138 Know the geography of Tarshish and Nineveh.
- 139 What are we supposed to notice about the pagan sailors in Jonah?
- 140 Jonah was a bad guy who turned out good. T/F

1-2 Samuel

- 141 How does Hannah's prayer relate to the theme of 1 & 2 Samuel?
- 142 What does David mean when he talks about a **house** for God (e.g. 2 Sam 7:5) and what does God mean when he talks about a **house** for David (e.g. 2 Sam 7:11)?
- 143 To whom does 2 Sam 7:12-14 apply? Have you got at least two names? How does it relate to both?
- 144 How did David pay fourfold for his murder of Uriah?
- 145 How do the stories in 1-2 Samuel relate to the illustration of a cartoon picture and caption?

Amos

- 146 In Amos' day the nation was **spiritually** sick and **economically** healthy.
- 147 Why does Amos mention Tyre, Edom, Ammon, Moab and Judah in chapter 1? How do these nations fit into Amos' strategy of preaching to Israel? The point is that Amos wasn't speaking for the benefit of these nations but for the benefit of Israel. The first chapter is really a "literary ambush" to get Israel to agree with the principle that "Sinners deserve judgment" After the reader is in the habit of agreeing, then Amos springs on them the truth that Israelites too are sinners and therefore deserve judgment and even more so precisely because they are God's people.
- 148 In which person (**2nd** or **3rd**) is chapter 1 spoken in? Chapter 2? What's the significance?
- 149 What is the "booth of David" (9:11)? From 586 B.C. until now, no Son of David has reigned on a throne of Israel, but God promises to restore it one day in Israel's future.
- 150 Be able to explain the plowman/reaper stuff in 9:13.

Hosea

- 151 Know all about the three kids and the positive and negative meanings to their names.

- 152 Know the chart which related the **five stages** of Hosea and Gomer's relationship and how it parallels God's relation with Israel. And know how Hosea 3:1-5 relates to that chart.
- 153 What does 2:14 speak about? What's the reference to "wilderness"?
- 154 How does the new covenant affect beasts? (2:18)
- 155 Explain the play on the children's names in 2:23.

Isaiah

- 156 Know the background to Isaiah
- 157 Know the structure, namely the two parts to servanthood and how the two major sections of the book relate to them.
- 158 Did Ahaz answer the question put to him correctly? Did Isaiah answer the questions put to him?
- 159 How does Isaiah's vision of chapter 6 relate to the two major sections of the book?

Micah

- 160 How does Micah fill out the picture of Messiah as it is painted in the Old Testament?
- 161 What verses would you turn to in Micah to demonstrate this?

Nahum

- 162 What does Nahum's name mean? How does this book comfort Israel?
- 163 Did Nahum hope that Assyria would repent?
- 164 What happened in the years 722 and 701 B.C. that caused Jewish people to hate Assyria?
- 165 Is this vengeance out of character for the God of Israel? What should our attitudes be toward those who would insult, laugh or mock us?

Zephaniah

- 166 To what kind of practical situation is Zephaniah directed? Which king is important in the historical background of Zephaniah?
- 167 What is **syncretism**? How does it relate to integration?
- 168 Why did God pick the nations for judgment found under 3B?

Joel

- 169 What is the occasion of Joel? What kind of army is spoken of in 1:1-20? What kind of army is spoken of in 2:1-17. Which refers to insects? What two specific verses did Joel use as his sermon text when he preached to Israel?

Habakkuk

- 170 What two questions caused Habakkuk concern in his book?
- 171 What New Testament passage teaches the same thing as Habakkuk?
- 172 What is it in chapter 3 that encourages Habakkuk?

Obadiah

- 173 What was the probable historical incident behind the book of Obadiah?
- 174 *To whom* was the book of Obadiah written? *About whom* was the book of Obadiah written?

Jeremiah

- 175 What question does Jeremiah answer?
- 176 What passage in Jeremiah talks about his divorce of Israel?
- 177 What happens to the relationship between God and Jeremiah in 15:10-21?
- 178 Is Jeremiah 31:31-34 written in poetic or prosaic form?
- 179 What does Jeremiah say about the New covenant?
- 180 What is the “prose” message of consolation? (2B, 2C, 2D)?
- 181 Under 4A what was “plucked up” and what was “planted”?

Lamentations

- 182 Describe the lament pattern in Lamentations.
- 183 Describe the acrostic arrangement in Lamentations.
- 184 What is the reason for the acrostic arrangement?
- 185 What book is Lamentations dependent upon? To what book does it allude over and over?

Kings & Chronicles

- 186 How does Kings compare with Chronicles in: 1) material covered 2) the way in which it is covered and 3) the purposes of the authors. Have you looked in the Network tutorial for the lessons on Kings?
- 187 How do the two books differ in their treatment of Solomon? Of David? Who is Jeroboam and what is he known for?
- 188 What literary tool does the writer of Kings use to focus the attention on chapters 5-9? What is his focus in that section?
- 189 What is the overall goal of Kings and how does this compare with the book of Jeremiah?
- 190 How far (in both directions) do the genealogies in Chronicles 1-9 go? What is their purpose?

Daniel

- 191 What were the three reasons for Daniel's being taken from Judah in 605?
- 192 What was the occasion of the book of Daniel?
- 193 Why is Daniel written in Aramaic?
- 194 Whose testimony does Daniel use to proclaim the greatness of God in Daniel 2-7? Was Nebuchadnezzar saved? Does it matter to the point of the book?
- 195 Compare the people who are addressed under 1B, 2B and 3B
- 196 How was Daniel “Purposing not to defile himself?”

197 Know the prophetic portions which are discussed on the network tutorial.

Ezekiel

198 Where are the three prophets Daniel, Ezekiel and Jeremiah in 592 B.C.

199 How does Ezekiel's purpose compare with Jeremiah's? With Daniel's?

200 Do you believe that a millennial temple will actually be constructed? Why?

The Exile and After

201 Be able to compare the differences in the King, Temple, High Priest, and Holy of Holies before and after the exile.

202 When were the three returns, who led them and what was accomplished by them?

203 Get pretty familiar with the chart on chronology. Anything is fair game.

Haggai

204 When did Haggai prophesy?

205 Who was his partner in prophesying?

206 How does he compare with his partner?

Zechariah

207 Why is Joshua, the High Priest called a *Branch* in 3:8?

208 Why was a crown put temporarily on Joshua's head in 6:9-15?

209 What does Zechariah's name mean? Remember?

Esther

210 What are some of the distinctives about the book of Esther? What does her name mean?

211 Compare the behavior of Esther in 2:9-17 with Daniel.

212 Under 2A 1B how would you evaluate Esther's motives in approaching the king?

213 Explain how Mordecai and Haman illustrate Genesis 12.

214 How does the name of the festival express the message of the book?

215 Would the message of the book have been more powerful if the people had been godly or ungodly?

Ezra

216 Describe the historical background of Ezra. Why were the people reluctant to worship?

217 What is unusual about the opening words of Ezra and what is Ezra saying by his choice of words?

218 Why is it necessary that Zerubbabel build the temple? What Scripture passage teaches this?

219 Is God's work in Ezra miraculous or providential?

Nehemiah

220 What two rebuilding projects was Nehemiah involved in? (Try the A points).

Malachi

221 Be aware of the Messianic promises found in the book of Malachi and how they were **partially** fulfilled in Jesus' day.