



**Southeastern**  
Baptist Theological Seminary

## **Ph.D. in Biblical Studies: Old Testament Entrance Exam Study Guide**

The Ph.D. Entrance Exam in Biblical Studies: Old Testament will consist of essay questions in two parts, each part approximately 3 hours in length.

**Part 1** (the morning session) will assess readiness for work in Biblical Studies generally. You may have some choice concerning which questions to answer. More specific instructions will be given the day of the exam.

**Part 2** (the afternoon session) will assess readiness for advanced work in your area of specialization. You may have some choice concerning which questions to answer.

**Part 3** (the second day) will assess readiness for advanced work in Hebrew.

The exam will be closed book, so you will not be allowed to use any resources other than the writing instruments you bring with you and the writing paper and instructional materials that will be provided in your exam folder.

Applicants are expected to be prepared to write for 90 minutes on any of the following questions. Essays will be assessed according to the following criteria:

### **Relevance and Argumentation**

- Students should give careful attention to the question and outline refined arguments. Student should incorporate & critically interact with relevant resources related to the field.

### **Writing Mechanics**

- Students' responses should be intelligent, and precise. Reasonable arrangement of paragraphs and ideas should enhance a reader's understanding. Responses should be focused, and vocabulary varied. Responses should contain very few grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

### **Awareness of Relevant Scholarship**

- Students should show awareness of seminal sources, major figures and pivotal events related to the field and incorporate and properly interact with resources related to the question.

## **Part 1: Biblical Studies (Area)**

Archer, Gleason L. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, revised edition. Chicago: Moody, 1996 revised and updated paper.

Carson, D.A., Douglas Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Köstenberger, Andreas J., L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles. *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Nashville: B&H, 2016.

Longman, Tremper III and Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Osborne, Grant. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*. 2d ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2006.

Köstenberger, Andreas and Richard Patterson, *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic and Professional, 2011).

## **Part 2: Old Testament (Specialization)**

Barton, John. *Reading the Old Testament*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1997 revised.

Harrison, R.K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969. (OP)

Hasel, Gerhard. F. *Old Testament Theology: Basic Issues in the Current Debate*, Fourth edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Waltke, Bruce, with Charles Yu. *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical and Thematic Approach*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007.

Wurthwein, E. *The Text of the Old Testament*. E.F. Rhodes, trans. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995 Second revised and enlarged edition, paper.

Particular Issues of Concern:

- Be able to discuss the major issues in the area of OT criticism.
- Be able to discuss matters of introduction to the books of the OT.
- Have knowledge of a historical time line for the OT and be able to identify and discuss key books, events, and people on any part of that time line.
- Be able to discuss the Messianic and eschatological developments in the OT with knowledge of specialized literature and systems of thought associated with these developments.

- Be able to discuss the attributes of God as seen in major books/periods of the OT.
- Be able to discuss how the OT relates to the NT.
- Be able to outline and discuss the important issues raised by the OT books of Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Judges, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and Hosea.

### Questions:

1. Explain the hermeneutical “spiral” using insights from Osborne’s text. Note how one moves from text, to interpretation, to proclamation.
2. Discuss the value of historical background, literary analysis, and theological meaning of the Old Testament, using insights from Dillard and Longman and Köstenberger and Patterson.
3. Discuss the way(s) the “histories” from Deuteronomy to 2 Kings have been understood as a whole, giving attention to critical theories of the history, coherence, and theology(ies) of these texts. Use insights from Harrison on this corpus.
4. What is the difference between “history” and “historiography” in Old Testament interpretation, and how does “historiography” relate to the conventions of Old Testament poetry and narrative. Use insights from Dillard and Longman, Köstenberger and Patterson, and Waltke’s Old Testament Theology.
5. Discuss the history of the documentary theory of the Pentateuch and its development into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century using the insights of Gleason Archer and/or R.K. Harrison.
6. Discuss the formation of the New Testament canon using insights from Carson/Moo and Kostenberger, Kellum, and Quarles. Include major figures, dates, events, and documents in the church’s canonical discussions, the criterion by which the church recognized canonicity, and modern views of the relevancy of the concept of canonicity.
7. Discuss the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament. Include relevant biblical examples and the insights from Osborne and Kostenberger, Kellum, and Quarles.
8. Identify the major movements in the history of Old Testament theology, using the insights of Hasel and Waltke.
9. Discuss the critical questions of the date and authorship of Isaiah. Evaluate the development of the multiple-authorship view(s) in terms of:
  - (1) the main presuppositions regarding multiple author views
  - (2) the key individuals who developed this approach, and

- (3) the major arguments against multiple authorship.
10. Does the Old Testament have a theological center? Discuss the issues in the debate. Make sure to include the viewpoints of several prominent OT theologians.
  11. Outline the book of Psalms and discuss the important critical issues raised in its study, namely:
    - (1) How is the Psalms to be understood as a *book* comprised of *books*?
    - (2) Is the Psalms to be understood as poetry, prophecy, or praise?
    - (3) Is the Psalms *messianic* in character, and if so, how so? Be specific with attention to specific texts and critical views of the Psalms.
  12. Discuss the dating of Daniel and the issues involved in the different views to the book's composition. Use insights from Harrison, Dillard and Longman