



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

Ph.D. in New Testament Entrance Exam Study Guide

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

Parts 1 & 2 (morning/afternoon of day one) will assess readiness for advanced work in the Area of New Testament. You may have some choice concerning which questions to answer.

Part 3 (the second day) will assess readiness for advanced work in Biblical Languages. New Testament applicants will be given a Greek passage to translate.

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.

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Be familiar with the following works:

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

Alexander, T. Desmond. *From Eden to the New Jerusalem: An Introduction to Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2009.

Beale, G. K. *Handbook on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament: Exegesis and Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012.

Köstenberger, Andreas and Richard Patterson, *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2011.

Neill, Stephen and Tom Wright. *The Interpretation of the New Testament: 1861–1986*. Oxford University Press, 1988.

Black, David Alan and David S. Dockery, *Interpreting the New Testament*. Nashville: B&H, 2001.

Hill, Charles E. *Who Chose the Gospels?* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Wegner, Paul D. *A Student's Guide to Textual Criticism of the Bible: Its History, Methods and Results*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2006.

For grammar the applicant should be acquainted with:

Wallace, Daniel. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*. Grand Rapid: Zondervan, 1996.

Questions:

1. Discuss the formation of the New Testament canon using insights from Köstenberger, Kellum, and Quarles and Hill. 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.

2. Discuss the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament. Include relevant biblical examples with reference to Beale's *Handbook*.
3. Discuss the importance of proper procedure in identifying word meanings and identify at least three major exegetical fallacies, including specific examples from Scripture, using insights from Köstenberger and Patterson.
4. Discuss tasks and challenges unique to interpreting the Gospels genre. Illustrate your discussion with specific examples from Scripture and reference the relevant scholarly literature as appropriate.
5. What are some of the major methods in biblical studies that have been developed in the course of the twentieth century? Name major figures, works, and methods and give scriptural examples where relevant.
6. Trace the history of historical Jesus research with reference to major scholarly contributions and assess the value of the respective contributions from your own vantage point.
7. Discuss the ways that the Old and New Testaments have been understood, and can be understood, as related to one another theologically. Use specific insights from Beale.
8. Describe the storyline of the Bible. Be able to discuss how the promises of the OT ultimately are fulfilled in the Messiah, integrating the entire Scripture, with reference to Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem*.
9. Describe the purpose of the Gospel of John. Be able to show how the outline of the book unveils its theological purpose.
10. Discuss the theory, development, and practice of New Testament Textual Criticism. Include major figures and works in the historical development of textual criticism.
11. Define and discuss the "Synoptic Problem". Identify the various understandings of Synoptic relationships that have been offered, identifying major scholarly figures and works.