

Theo 101, Session #03:
The Old Testament II (ANSWER KEY)
The University of St. Francis

Short Answer

1. In one sentence, summarize the Old Testament, according to Fr. Lawrence Boadt.

Infidelity to the covenant, as given through Moses, will lead to disaster and destruction.

2. Memorize article #140 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

The unity of the two Testaments proceeds from the unity of God's plan and his Revelation. The Old Testament prepares for the New and the New Testament fulfills the Old; the two shed light on each other; both are true Word of God.

3. What is a THEOPHANY?

Meaning literally an "appearance of God, " a Theophany is an overwhelming personal experience of God's presence that affects the entire direction and quality of a person's life.

4. In the context of Literary Criticism of the Bible, what is an ETIOLOGY?

The nonliterary dictionary definition is "assignment of a cause or origin" to something. As a literary term, etiology is sometimes used in the broad sense as synonymous with story of origins, but more precisely it is a story that tells how a person or place received its name

5. In the context of Literary Criticism of the Bible, what is a **LEGEND**?

Half-historical, half-entertaining stories of the past. Because "legend" in English often comes to mean simply fictitious, many scholars today have come to use the term "saga" borrowed from Icelandic family stories of the Middle Ages.

6. In the context of Literary Criticism of the Bible, what is a **SAGA**?

Sagas are heroic tales about the ancestors of a well-known family. They give luster to the family or clan today by telling of the adventures of one or more of its great-great-grandfathers or grandmothers long ago.

7. In reference to the Bible, what is a **CANON**?

***CANON OF SCRIPTURE:** The Church's complete list of sacred books (authentic & God-inspired) of the Bible (120).*

8. In the context of biblical criticism, what does the term **PROTO-CANONICAL** mean?

"Proto-canonical" means "first canon." This term refers to the thirty-nine books in the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament that all Christian traditions view as the authentic canon of Scripture inspired by the Holy Spirit.

9. In the context of biblical criticism, what does the term **DEUTERO-CANONICAL** mean?

"Deutero-canonical" means "second canon." This term refers to the seven additional books in the Old Testament (and the additions to two others) that only Catholic tradition views as the authentic canon of Scripture inspired by the Holy Spirit.

10. In the context of biblical criticism, what does the term **APOCRYPHA** mean?

The "Apocrypha" (or "hidden") refers to books for which divine authorship is falsely claimed. Protestant faith traditions claim that the deuterio-canonical texts which Catholic scholarship claims to be part of the authentic canon of Scripture are, in fact, not.

11. The Catholic Church states that the Old Testament consists of 46 canonical books, based on the texts provided by a group of seventy men who arranged these books together (these men are called the *Septuagint* in Greek. Most non-Catholic Christian groups argue that there are only 39 canonical books in the Old Testament and that the texts of the Old Testament which Catholics claim are deuterio-canonical are, in fact, apocryphal. Explain the main reason why Protestant groups make this claim.

The seven deuterio-canonical books of the Old Testament were not originally written in Hebrew but in Greek, thus casting doubt among non-Catholic scholars to their Old Testament authenticity.

12. Non-Catholics call these seven books of the bible the *apocrypha*; the Catholic Church calls them *deuterio-canonical*. Name these seven books.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. <u><i>Judith</i></u> | e. <u><i>Wisdom</i></u> |
| b. <u><i>Tobit</i></u> | f. <u><i>Sirach</i></u> |
| c. <u><i>1 Maccabees</i></u> | g. <u><i>Baruch</i></u> |
| d. <u><i>2 Maccabees</i></u> | |

13. What is the longest Book in the Old Testament? What is the shortest Book?

- | |
|---|
| a. <u><i>Longest Book: The Book of Psalms</i></u> |
| b. <u><i>Shortest Book: The Book of Obadiah (21 Verses)</i></u> |

14. Exodus 24 and Deuteronomy 31 (among the examples) cite Moses as the author of the Torah. Based on modern scholarship (most notably the 19th Century theologian, Julius Wellhausen), who was, most likely, the author(s) of these five books?

There were four sources which were involved with the makeup of the Torah: the Jahwist source (J), the Elohist source (E), the Priestly source (P), and the Deuteronomic source (D), often referred to as JEPD.

15. How many creation stories can be found in the Book of Genesis?

Two: Genesis One (from the Priestly Writer) and Genesis Two (from the Jahwist Writer)

16. Some people argue that the story of Adam & Eve is literal (that the story actually took place as it was described). Some people argue that it is made up. How does the Church reconcile this dilemma?

Historically, we use methods that may or may not prove the veracity of the text. However, the Bible was never meant to be written as a history, but rather as a story of God's relationship with humanity. The key for divine interpretation is to understand the message behind the story rather than to prove the story itself.

17. What people group is the Old Testament about?

The Hebrews, who became the nation of Israel. They were descendants of Abraham through Isaac.

18. What was the moral of the story from Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-10)? What does the rainbow symbolize?

- a. *God provided a covenant with Noah and his heirs, promising never to inflict such destruction upon his people in the future.*
- b. *The rainbow becomes a symbol of that covenant between heaven and earth.*

19. The Book of Exodus deals with the deliverance of the Hebrew (Jewish) people from slavery, in Egypt, by the miraculous hand of God. The key text of the entire Old Testament is found in Exodus 12-14. These chapters focus on what two events?

a. *The Passover (Exodus 12)*

b. *The Exodus from Egypt (Exodus 13 ff.)*

20. Also in the Book of Exodus is the listing of the 10 Commandments, the most important laws of the Old Testament. This text can be found in Exodus 20: 1-17 .

21. To whom did God give the 10 Commandments? (Exodus 20)

Moses. (Exodus 20)

22. If you know where the 10 Commandments are listed in Exodus, what is an easy way to find where else this passage is found?

If you look at the footnotes of a biblical text in a bible, you can find the other places in the Bible where this text is also located. In this case, the footnote for Ex 20: 1-17 takes us to Dt 5: 1-21.

23. How many Jewish laws are provided in the Torah?

613 (the Ten Commandments plus 603 laws from Leviticus & Numbers)

24. The bulk of the 40-year journey through the wilderness takes place in the Book of Numbers. In the Book of Deuteronomy, how much time transpires through its 40 chapters?

For the bulk of Deuteronomy, it appears that Moses offers his last speech to the people on the day that he dies.

25. What was the test of a prophet, to know that he was truly from God? (Deuteronomy 18: 20-22)

He had to be 100% accurate in his prophecies. The penalty for a false prophet was death by stoning. (Deuteronomy 18: 20-22)

26. Concerning Old Testament history, explain the significance of the five dates provided below:

1010 BC	<i>David Unites the Northern & Southern Kingdom</i>
722 BC	<i>Assyrians take Northern Kingdom</i>
622 BC	<i>Josiah finds "D" Scroll</i>
586 BC	<i>South sacked by Babylonians - temple destroyed</i>
536 BC	<i>Return from exile</i>

27. Where were the two nations of God's people taken into captivity? (2 Kings 17: 23 and 2 Chronicles 36: 20)

a. *Israel was taken into Assyria*

b. *Judah into Babylon*

28. Who are the major prophets?

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

29. Where did Satan and the demons come from? (Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28)

Satan was originally the best and the brightest angel, but he sinned in his pride, wanting to be God. Some of the angels followed him, and these "fallen angels" were cast out of heaven.

30. Which chapter of an Old Testament prophet's book gives a detailed prophecy of the Messiah's death by crucifixion?

Isaiah 53

True or False

1. True Male circumcision is the physical mark identifying Jews as members of God's covenant community.
2. True Various New Testament authors express differing attitudes over the issue of whether Christians were bound to observe the Jewish Law.
3. False After the death of Alexander the Great, his successors did all they could to reverse his policy of spreading Greek forms of culture throughout southwestern Asia.
4. True Many modern scholars believe that the hostility shown toward the Pharisees in the New Testament Gospels reflects deep tension that existed between Christians and Jewish religious leaders in the decades when the Gospels were written.
5. True Christians include the Hebrew Bible as part of their Scriptures because they see their story as pointing toward Jesus Christ.

Multiple Choice

1. In Jesus' time, many Jews lived in the what (a term that refers to the scattering of Jews to foreign regions outside Palestine)?
 - a. Torah
 - b. Sabbath
 - c. Mithras
 - d. **Diaspora**
2. Many devout Jews in Jesus' day made annual pilgrimages to the Jewish temple located where?
 - a. **Jerusalem**
 - b. Nazareth
 - c. Bethlehem
 - d. Rome

3. Ancient Jewish rabbis believed that the period of inspired prophecy ceased shortly after the time of the Jewish scribe _____ around 400 BC.
 - a. Moses
 - b. Abraham
 - c. Elijah
 - d. Ezra**

4. This period in Western history began with the conquests of Alexander the Great in 336 BC and stretched into the early centuries of the Christian era. It is identified by the mixing of classical Greek culture with a wide variety of Near Eastern cultural influences.
 - a. The Roman Period
 - b. The Persian Period
 - c. The Maccabean Period
 - d. The Hellenistic Period**

5. What was the cause of the Maccabean Revolt?
 - a. The Romans' invasion of Palestine in 63 BC
 - b. The persecution of the Jews by Antiochus Epiphanes in the mid-second century BC**
 - c. The birth of Jesus of Nazareth ca. 8-4 BC
 - d. The death of Herod the Great in 4 BC

6. Why was the Maccabean Revolt named as such?
 - a. The name "Maccabean" means "cleansing."
 - b. The leader of the revolt was nicknamed "Maccabeus," which means "[God's] hammer."**
 - c. The name "Maccabean" recalls the name of a Seleucid ruler famous for persecuting Jews
 - d. The name "Maccabean" means "persecution."

7. Why did Christians place the Book of Malachi at the end of their Old Testament Scriptures?
- Christians believe that Malachi prophesied the appearance of John the Baptist in the New Testament.*
 - Malachi was the last book written in the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - Malachi includes apocalyptic visions much like the Book of Revelation in the New Testament.
 - Malachi is the longest prophetic book in the Hebrew Bible.

Long Answer Essay

1. From 1962-1965, the bishops of the Catholic Church assembled for the 21st Ecumenical Council that has taken place in the history of the Church. At this council, called “The Second Vatican Council,” the bishops wrote the following about biblical interpretation. Explain the significance of these remarks:

However, since God speaks in Sacred Scripture through men in human fashion, the interpreter of Sacred Scripture, in order to see clearly what God wanted to communicate to us, should carefully investigate what meaning the sacred writers really intended, and what God wanted to manifest by means of their words. (#12)

- Dei Verbum speaks of authors write in context of their environment to express God's Word reaffirming that human authors remain true authors*
- God's word in human form reflects the Mystery of the Incarnation – Jesus is both fully human & fully divine*
- Scripture is both human & divine*
- What God saying through authors is affirmed in Dei Verbum 11 to be without error to extent it involved salvation*
- Theory of Divine Assistance – human authors write with divine assistance; rejected as creates dual authority – what parts of Scripture are divine & what parts human!*
- Theory of Instrumental - Holy Spirit employs instruments and so moves them to assist authors and inspires them to write; theory recognizes Nature & Grace (Dei Verbum 11)*

2. What is “biblical criticism?”

- *Unlike our modern-day usage of the term, applying a “criticism” to the bible is not done in a pejorative sense. Rather, Biblical Criticism involves the rational analysis of the Bible in order to understand it better.*
- *In this light, there are many types of “criticism” we can use to analyze the Bible.*

3. Define the types of biblical criticism described below.

Historical Criticism

The Historical (or scientific) Interpretation (also called Diachronic Interpretation), which is defined as a two-colored type of scientific method that incorporates the historical development of texts or traditions across the passage of time. Also known as The Historical-Critical Method.

Literary Criticism

In biblical studies, this included the investigation of sources and problems of authorship.

Source Criticism

Source criticism is a specialized field of biblical studies that seeks to determine the sources used to develop the final form of the biblical text.
