

Old Testament (OT) Survey Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. Why might changes be introduced to the text of Scriptures?**
 - A. For academic clarity.**
 - B. For aesthetic reasons.**
 - C. Because of theological reasons.**
 - D. To simplify the language.**
- 2. How many censuses are recorded in the book of Numbers?**
 - A. 1**
 - B. 2**
 - C. 3**
 - D. 4**
- 3. What was Moses told to reply when the children of Israel asked what was the name of God?**
 - A. I Am**
 - B. Yahweh**
 - C. Adonai**
 - D. The God of Abraham**
- 4. True or False: It is suggested in the Old Testament that anyone can be saved by keeping the law.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only for certain individuals**
 - D. True in some texts**
- 5. Joel uses the imagery of what to depict impending invasion?**
 - A. A storm**
 - B. A locust plague**
 - C. An army**
 - D. A drought**

- 6. What is the primary focus of the book of Zechariah in relation to Haggai's message?**
- A. The rebirth of Israel's identity**
 - B. The rebuilding of the temple**
 - C. The return of the peacemakers**
 - D. The restoration of the kingship**
- 7. Which leader constructed two golden calves for worship in the North apart from Jerusalem?**
- A. Rehoboam**
 - B. Jeroboam**
 - C. Solomon**
 - D. Ahab**
- 8. Decalogue is another name for what?**
- A. Ten Commandments**
 - B. Five Books of Moses**
 - C. Book of Proverbs**
 - D. Book of the Covenant**
- 9. Which category does the Old Testament law belong to?**
- A. Moral law**
 - B. Cultic law**
 - C. Ethical law**
 - D. All of the above**
- 10. In which context does Ezekiel's theodicy operate?**
- A. Addressing suffering among the exiles**
 - B. Proclaiming judgment against foreign nations**
 - C. Emphasizing the role of sacrifices**
 - D. Explaining moral law**

Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. A
4. B
5. B
6. B
7. B
8. A
9. D
10. A

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Explanations

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1. Why might changes be introduced to the text of Scriptures?

- A. For academic clarity.
- B. For aesthetic reasons.
- C. Because of theological reasons.**
- D. To simplify the language.

Introducing changes to the text of Scriptures for theological reasons is significant because such modifications often reflect evolving understandings of doctrine and belief systems that seek to align the text more closely with contemporary interpretations or to clarify theological concepts that may have been ambiguous over time. As scholars and religious communities engage with the text, they may encounter new insights or challenges in understanding key doctrines. This can lead to adjustments that aim to emphasize core theological points or address misconceptions within the faith community. While other factors such as academic clarity, aesthetic choices, or simplified language might also prompt alterations in biblical texts, they do not encompass the weighty implications that theological reasons carry. Theological updates are often rooted in the desire for the Scripture to resonate with current understandings of faith, ensuring that the text remains relevant and authoritative in guiding believers in their spiritual journey.

2. How many censuses are recorded in the book of Numbers?

- A. 1
- B. 2**
- C. 3
- D. 4

The book of Numbers includes two distinct censuses of the Israelite population. The first census occurs in the early chapters, specifically in chapter 1, where the males eligible for military service are counted as the Israelites prepare to enter the Promised Land. This census serves to establish the size of the army and organization of the tribes. The second census takes place in chapter 26, after a period of wilderness wandering, highlighting those who remain from the previous generation and the changes that have occurred in population and tribal structure. This census is significant as it indicates the transition to a new generation ready to enter the land, reflecting both continuity and change among the Israelites. This two-census structure serves to frame the Israelites' journey and God's faithfulness, emphasizing themes of judgment, renewal, and preparation for conquest in the Promised Land.

3. What was Moses told to reply when the children of Israel asked what was the name of God?

A. I Am

B. Yahweh

C. Adonai

D. The God of Abraham

The answer "I Am" refers to a significant moment in the book of Exodus, where God reveals Himself to Moses at the burning bush. In Exodus 3:13-14, Moses asks God what he should say to the Israelites when they inquire about God's name. God responds by saying, "I AM WHO I AM." This phrase signifies God's eternal and self-existent nature, indicating that He is the ultimate source of being and reality. The name "I AM" expresses a profound theological truth about God's identity, emphasizing His unchanging essence and His presence in all situations, which serves as a foundational understanding of who God is. This response reassures the Israelites of God's sufficiency and authority in leading them out of Egypt. Other choices represent names or titles used for God in various contexts. "Yahweh" is a personal name for God that is commonly used in the Hebrew Bible, especially in covenantal contexts, while "Adonai" translates to "Lord" and emphasizes God's lordship. "The God of Abraham" describes God in relationship to the patriarchs but does not capture the self-revelatory significance that "I Am" does in this context. Each of those names carries meaning, but they do not

4. True or False: It is suggested in the Old Testament that anyone can be saved by keeping the law.

A. True

B. False

C. Only for certain individuals

D. True in some texts

The assertion that anyone can be saved by keeping the law in the Old Testament is not supported by the text. The Old Testament emphasizes that salvation cannot be achieved merely through adherence to the law. While the law was given to guide the people in their covenant relationship with God, it also highlights the need for faith, repentance, and God's grace. For instance, texts such as Deuteronomy illustrate the importance of a heart inclined towards God rather than a mere checklist of legal adherence. Additionally, the concept of salvation in the Old Testament is more about obedience as a response to God's grace rather than a means to earn it. The prophets often emphasized that true worship involves justice, mercy, and faithfulness rather than mere ritual compliance to the law. This understanding establishes that while the law has a significant role, it does not serve as a direct path to salvation for anyone who tries to keep it. Thus, the correct answer reflects the message of the Old Testament concerning the limits of the law and the necessity of a relationship with God for true salvation.

5. Joel uses the imagery of what to depict impending invasion?

A. A storm

B. A locust plague

C. An army

D. A drought

The correct choice is the depiction of a locust plague. Joel utilizes the image of locusts throughout his book to symbolize an impending invasion, highlighting the devastation and destruction they bring, which serves as a powerful metaphor for the futility of human efforts against divine judgment. This imagery reflects the agricultural context of the time, where locusts could devastate crops and lead to famine, vividly illustrating the consequences of sin and disobedience among the people of Judah. In the Book of Joel, the description of the locust plague serves as both a warning and a call to repentance, as Joel urges the people to turn back to God in the face of impending disaster. This vivid and relatable imagery resonates with the audience, making the impending threat more immediate and personal. The other options, while relevant to the themes of the Old Testament, do not specifically encapsulate the central imagery that Joel uses to describe the invasion. For instance, a storm can symbolize chaos and divine intervention, an army usually represents human military strength, and drought refers to a lack of water and fertility, but these do not carry the same weight and specificity in the context of impending invasion as the locust plague does in Joel's prophecies.

6. What is the primary focus of the book of Zechariah in relation to Haggai's message?

A. The rebirth of Israel's identity

B. The rebuilding of the temple

C. The return of the peacemakers

D. The restoration of the kingship

The book of Zechariah complements the message of Haggai by emphasizing the importance of the rebuilding of the temple. Both prophets spoke to the Jewish exiles who returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity, urging them to take action in restoring their identity as God's people. Haggai specifically called for the reconstruction of the temple, highlighting its significance in reestablishing worship and community life in Jerusalem. Zechariah builds upon this theme, providing a series of visions and prophecies that encourage and inspire the people to continue the work of rebuilding. Zechariah's emphasis on the temple includes not only the physical structure but also the spiritual renewal associated with it. The temple serves as a central symbol of God's presence among His people, and its restoration signifies a renewal of covenant relationship. The messages in Zechariah are designed to instill hope and motivate the people to persevere in their efforts under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua, addressing both practical and prophetic dimensions of their mission. The other options may touch on themes present in the prophetic literature but do not encapsulate the primary focus of Zechariah in relation to Haggai. The rebirth of Israel's identity is certainly a broader theme, as is the restoration

7. Which leader constructed two golden calves for worship in the North apart from Jerusalem?

- A. Rehoboam**
- B. Jeroboam**
- C. Solomon**
- D. Ahab**

The leader who constructed two golden calves for worship in the North, separate from Jerusalem, is indeed Jeroboam. After the division of the kingdom following Solomon's reign, Jeroboam became the first king of the northern kingdom of Israel. To prevent his subjects from traveling to Jerusalem (the capital of Judah) for worship, Jeroboam strategically created two golden calves, establishing them in the cities of Bethel and Dan. This was a significant act as it not only reflected a deviation from the centralized worship prescribed in the Law of Moses but also indicated the beginning of a distinct religious identity for the northern kingdom. This decision was intended to consolidate his power and ensure fidelity among the people, but it ultimately led to idolatry and set a precedent for future kings in Israel to adopt similar practices. This act is critical in the narrative of the Old Testament as it symbolizes a turning point in the history of Israel, highlighting the ongoing struggles with faithfulness to Yahweh and the consequences of diverging from His commands.

8. Decalogue is another name for what?

- A. Ten Commandments**
- B. Five Books of Moses**
- C. Book of Proverbs**
- D. Book of the Covenant**

The term "Decalogue" specifically refers to the "Ten Commandments," which are a set of ethical guidelines found in the biblical texts of Exodus and Deuteronomy. The name itself comes from the Greek words "deca," meaning "ten," and "logos," meaning "word." These commandments serve as foundational principles in both Jewish and Christian traditions, addressing aspects of moral conduct and the relationship between humanity and God. The other choices represent different significant components of the Old Testament but do not pertain to the Decalogue. The Five Books of Moses, commonly known as the Torah, encompass the first five books of the Bible and contain a broader range of laws and narratives. The Book of Proverbs is a collection of wisdom sayings and teachings attributed primarily to Solomon, while the Book of the Covenant includes specific legal codes and ordinances that were given to the Israelites. Thus, the association of the term "Decalogue" exclusively with the Ten Commandments highlights its crucial theological and moral significance in the scriptures.

9. Which category does the Old Testament law belong to?

- A. Moral law
- B. Cultic law
- C. Ethical law
- D. All of the above**

The Old Testament law encompasses various aspects of life and worship, which can indeed be classified into multiple categories. The law is foundational to the social, religious, and moral fabric of the Israelite community. Moral law refers to the standards of right and wrong that govern relationships among individuals and with God. This category includes principles that are timeless and universally applicable, such as those found in the Ten Commandments. These laws reflect God's character and intentions for righteous living. Cultic law pertains specifically to religious practices, rituals, and ceremonies required in worship. This includes guidelines for sacrifices, festivals, and the roles of priests, all intended to ensure proper worship and a right relationship with God. Ethical law overlaps with moral considerations but often emphasizes justice, societal norms, and responsibilities toward others within the community. It encompasses laws that regulate interpersonal behavior, ensuring a fair and just society. Since the Old Testament law features moral, ethical, and cultic components, it is accurate to categorize it under all these headings. Each aspect serves the purpose of guiding Israel in holiness, community living, and their covenant relationship with God. Thus, recognizing the law as belonging to all these categories captures the comprehensive nature of its teachings and purposes.

10. In which context does Ezekiel's theodicy operate?

- A. Addressing suffering among the exiles**
- B. Proclaiming judgment against foreign nations
- C. Emphasizing the role of sacrifices
- D. Explaining moral law

Ezekiel's theodicy primarily operates in the context of addressing the suffering among the exiles. This prophetic book was written during the Babylonian exile, a time when the Israelites were grappling with their identity, faith, and understanding of God's justice while suffering as captives in a foreign land. Ezekiel seeks to explain why the people are experiencing such hardship, emphasizing that their current predicament is a result of their disobedience and the failure to uphold their covenant with God. The book showcases God's sovereignty and justice, arguing that the exile serves a purpose in God's plan—namely, to discipline His people and to ultimately restore them. By focusing on the reasons behind their suffering, Ezekiel provides a framework within which the exiles can understand their situation in light of their history and relationship with God, thus reinforcing their hope for future restoration. In contrast, the other options represent themes that are present in Ezekiel but do not directly encapsulate the overarching context of theodicy as it relates to the suffering experienced by the exiled community. Proclaiming judgment against foreign nations speaks to God's justice toward those outside Israel, while the role of sacrifices and explaining moral law pertain to aspects of Israel's religious practices and ethical conduct rather than