

Review for Midterm Exam

Old Testament Historical Books

On exam day, you may use your Bibles and one page of handwritten notes while taking the exam.

For your information in reviewing this, the objective questions are ordered pretty much as they would be covered in the textbook or lectures, and then the essay questions are also so ordered. This means that you can review with this without hopping all over the textbook and notes. When you're uncertain of an answer, check the lecture notes and textbook reading to make sure you're on the right track.

1. **What is the meaning of the name *Joshua* (יהושוע/*Yeh šūa*)?**
 - A. The LORD my healer
 - B. The LORD is righteous
 - C. The LORD saves
 - D. The LORD heals
2. **What can we say about the authorship of the book of Joshua?**
 - A. Tradition says Moses wrote it.
 - B. Joshua wrote it.
 - C. Samuel probably wrote it.
 - D. It's anonymous, so we don't know who wrote it.
3. **What can we say about the archaeological evidence for the conquest as recorded in the book of Joshua?**
 - A. The archaeological data is ambiguous and won't settle the date or define the character of the Conquest.
 - B. Extensive burn layers and collapsed walls at Jericho, Ai, and Hazor prove the accuracy of Joshua's account.
 - C. Extensive fifteenth century burn layers throughout Canaan testify to Israel's devastating conquest of the land.
 - D. Extensive twelfth century burn layers throughout Canaan point to a later date for the canon than the biblical record dates it.
4. **How would you characterize Joshua's record of the conquest?**
 - A. It appears to suffer from inconsistent editing, so that we see contradictory accounts of total victory alongside accounts of incomplete and isolated victories.
 - B. It describes all-out victory as Israel attacked first in the central hill country, then in the south, and finally in the north.
 - C. It describes a nearly total failure of conquest because of Israel's disobedience and failure to destroy the Canaanites.
 - D. Some texts speak of a total victory resulting from a unified assault, but some speak of gradual conquest by individual tribes, which was never quite completed.
5. **Which of the follow represent Israel failing to observe the obligations of holy war?**
 - The first battle at Ai
 - The campaign against Jericho
 - The treaty with the Gibeonites
 - All of the above
6. **What can we say about the authorship of the book of Judges?**
 - A. Ezra wrote it in the postexilic period.
 - B. David wrote it after the rise of the monarchy.
 - C. Samuel wrote it on the eve of the monarchy.
 - D. It's anonymous and can't be positively dated.
7. **What does the book of Judges characterize the various figures who served as *judges* (שֹׁפְטִים/*š pētîm*) in Israel.**

- A. Isolated figures chosen to exercise a judicial role in tribal disputes
- B. Isolated charismatic leaders chosen to meet external military challenges
- C. A continuous succession of king-like dynastic figures
- D. All of the above

8. Which of the following are true about the purpose of the book of Judges?

- It intended to show the disastrous consequences of disobedience.
- It aimed to arouse hopes for a righteous king.
- It showed that God was the true "hero" for Israel.
- It undercut Saul's claims to the throne and elevated David's.

9. Which of the following is/are true of the period of the Judges?

- In the ANE this was the start of the transition from Bronze Age to Iron age.
- Independent city-states were being subjected to imperial powers, such as Egypt.
- Israel led the way in the transition to iron farming and military equipment.
- Israel was rising as a major imperial power in the western Mediterranean.
- Israel's enemies got access to iron before Israel did.

10. Which judge in Israel was a woman?

- A. Deborah
- B. Huldah
- C. Rebekah
- D. Ruth

11. Which judge in Israel was the son of a prostitute?

- A. Jephthah
- B. Othniel
- C. Samson
- D. Zachary

12. Which judge in Israel made a foolish vow that cost the life of a daughter?

- A. Deborah
- B. Jephthah
- C. Othniel
- D. Samson

13. Which of the following were ancestresses of Jesus Christ, the Son of David?

- Abigail, a widowed Jewish who married David after he scared to death Nabal, her first husband
- Bathsheba, a woman who slept with David while still married to Urriah, one of David's loyal military officers
- Gomer, the prostitute wife of the prophet Hosea, whose children were prophetic signs to Israel.
- Huldah, the prophetess wife of the prophet Isaiah, whose children were "signs and portents in Israel."
- Ruth, the widowed Moabitess who attached herself to an Israelite widow and went to Bethlehem
- Tamar, the widowed daughter-in-law of Judah who temporarily took up prostitution
- Rahab, the Jericho prostitute who attached herself to Israel's hopes during the Conquest

14. Draw lines to match up the people in the left column with characteristics in the right, as Dillard and Longman describe them.*

Deborah	Reluctant farmer
Ehud	Prophetess
Gideon	Left-handed assassin
Jephthah	Bastard bandit
Samson	Sex-addicted Nazirite

*Raymond B. Dillard and Tremper Longman, III, *An Introduction to the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1995), 127.

- 15. Ruth was a Moabitess, a people whose origins are explained how?**
- They descend from Cain, who murdered Abel
 - They descend from Esau, Jacob's brother.
 - They descend from Ishmael, Abraham's first child
 - They descend from Lot via incest with his one of his daughters
- 16. Boaz chooses to undertake what obligation for Naomi and Ruth when they come to Bethlehem from Moab after being widowed?**
- Kinsman-Redeemer for the family (Lev 25, *לִקְנֵי*/*gō'ēl*)
 - Levirate* marriage partner for Ruth (Deut 25)
 - Beena* marriage partner for Ruth (Gen 31:31; Exod 2:21; 4:18).
 - All of the above
- 17. The purpose of the book of Ruth is what?**
- To counter a harsh approach to foreigners that arose after the return from exile and the anti-intermarriage laws of the Moses' and Ezra's legislation.
 - To win popular acceptance of the Davidic dynasty, which was replacing the Saulide family as Israel's royal family.
 - To illustrate the importance of *Levirate* marriage for maintaining family lines in Israel during times of hardship.
 - All of the above
- 18. Who was Israel's last judge?**
- Eli
 - Jephthah
 - Samson
 - Samuel
- 19. Samuel–Kings shows that the dynastic promise to David and his family depended upon what?**
- The faithfulness of David, who first received the dynastic promise
 - The ongoing faithfulness of each individual heir to the Davidic dynasty
 - God's faithfulness to keep the eternal covenant made with David's line
 - All of the above
- 20. The events of First and Second Samuel spanned what period?**
- From the beginning of the period of the Judges to the end of the Monarchy.
 - The reigns of Saul and David
 - The reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon
 - From Samuel's birth to David's death
- 21. First Samuel ends with the death of whom?**
- Samuel
 - Saul
 - David
 - Solomon
- 22. Why can we date the events of Second Samuel and subsequent historical books significantly more accurately than we can the events in earlier times?**
- The Egyptians kept detailed annals, which we can align with events of Israel's Monarchy.
 - The Assyrians and Babylonians kept detailed annals, which we can align with the events of Israel's Monarchy.
 - Beginning with Second Samuel, the biblical writers frequently record the year and month for their narratives.
 - All of the above
- 23. Which nations posed the greatest military threat for Israel throughout the rise of the monarchy?**
- Ammonites
 - Edomites
 - Moabites

D. Philistines

24. What was the imperial situation that David and Israel faced throughout second Samuel?

- A. Assyria's resurgence was reaching a climax and threatening to impose itself on the whole region that we might now call the Middle East.
- B. The Egyptian Twenty-First Dynasty (ca. 1070–93) was on the rise and posing an increasing threat to neighboring countries.
- C. The Hittite empire to the north (e.g., Syria) was on the ascendancy and posing a fresh threat to her southern neighbor in Israel.
- D. None of the earlier or later empires were very strong, so this power vacuum left David with a pretty clear playing field for some imperial expansion of his own.

25. What was/were the problem(s) with Israel's request for a king?

- God himself was to be Israel's king; so, he opposed any effort to establish human kingship over his people.
- The people ask with improper motives, wanting a military deliverer and hero, which was a common ANE pattern.
- First Samuel foresees no problem with Israel having a king.
- First Samuel considers the problems of human kingship insurmountable.

26. Upon whom did God explicitly send an "evil spirit" (רַעַתָּה/רָעָה/ *rūah r'ā*) throughout the Old Testament?

- The illegitimate king Abimelech, Gideon's son
- The unsuitable king Saul
- The Pharaoh of Egypt
- All of the above

27. What was/were the problem(s) with Israel's request for a king?

- God himself was to be Israel's king; so, he opposed any effort to establish human kingship over his people.
- The people ask with improper motives, wanting a military deliverer and hero rather than relying on God for this.
- First Samuel foresees no problem with Israel having a king.
- First Samuel considers the problems of human kingship insurmountable.

28. Explain the canonical significance of this twofold assertion: *To write a history, the historian must select* what to recount and *interpret* its significance.

29. Explain the argument that the textbook and your professor used to argue for the date of the Exodus and Conquest

30. Explain the general historical progression in the book of Judges.

31. Describe the parallels and contrast between Israel's conquest and inheritance, as recorded in the book of Joshua, and the Church's as described in the book of Acts.

32. Characterize the wide ANE setting of the time period in which the book of Judges is set (i.e., imperial powers, technological status, and religious situations).

33. Describe the arguments for the three common identifications of the "angel of the LORD" (מַלְאָךְ יְהוָה/ *mal'ak YHWH*): *angel, christophany, or theophany.*

34. How does the book of Judges imply a case for kingship in Israel?

35. What is the historical period of the book of Ruth, and how does the book relate to that period?

36. Discuss the explanations that different people give for the purpose of the book of Ruth.

37. Contrast the canonical placement of the book of Ruth in the Hebrew canon and in the LXX and Christian canons.

38. What made David's capture of Jerusalem a significant unifying factor for "all Israel"?

39. How does Howard characterize the work of the Holy Spirit during the period of the Judges and Monarchy?[†]
40. Describe how Howard describes the Davidic covenant as “unconditional,” and what that meant for individual descendants of David.[‡]
41. How does Howard describe the “repentance” of God (1 Sam 15:11, 29, 35)?[§]
42. How would you characterize the reign of Saul as king, from start to how he finished?

[†]David M. Howard, Jr., *An Introduction to the Old Testament Historical Books* (Chicago: Moody, 1993), 154–56.

[‡]*Ibid.*, 160.

[§]*Ibid.*, 156.