

BIB202 Midterm Exam Study Guide

The Midterm Exam will begin promptly at 8:00 and end promptly at 9:00

For the Midterm:

Please bring your own pen or pencil. I will provide the exam paper.

The exam will also be available on Populi. Bring your laptop if you choose this option.

You may (should) bring an *unmarked* Bible. This means a Bible without your own notations and without editors notes (i.e. no study Bibles). The exam will be open Bible.

Course Material:

- 1. The Midterm will cover all of the material from the Introduction on How to Read Biblical Narratives, Deuteronomy Themes, Joshua, Judges, Ruth and those parts of I Samuel covered before the Midterm.**
- 2. The Midterm may contain True/False, Multiple Choice, Matching, Fill in the blank, and Essay.**
- 3. The Midterm will concentrate mostly on the general ideas (big picture stuff) for each of the sections covered. However, there will be a few questions that delve into more detail (to separate the A's from the B's). Therefore, you should study from general to specific.**
- 4. The Midterm may include, but not be limited to the following topics:**
 - A. The nature of Biblical Narratives and how to read them.
 - B. Typical structural features of Narratives.
 - C. The unity of the Bible/Bible story and the place of the Historical Books in God's larger plan.
 - D. Themes from Deuteronomy and how they anticipate the Historical Books
 - E. The Background, Organization, Content, Themes and Application of Joshua, Judges, Ruth and I Samuel (partial).

Study Questions:

These are more specific items for your study. If you formulate a general answer to these questions, you will be well prepared for the midterm.

1. From Class Lectures:

How to Read the Bible

What is the Nature of the Bible and how does that impact the way we should read it?

What are the three aspects of the Old Testament that we should learn from in our reading?

In What senses is the Old Testament history? How do these apply to our lives?

Based on the Unity of the Bible, how should we read the Old Testament in light of Jesus?

Interpreting Narratives

Name and describe the three types of communication in the Bible

Describe the characteristics of Biblical narratives.

What do storytelling and movie tricks tell us about Biblical Narratives and how to read them?

What are the two things to notice when reading Biblical Narratives?

What are the Structural features of Biblical Narratives and how can they help us understand the point/theology of the story?

What are the typical parts of the plot of Biblical Narratives?

What feature of narratives is usually the key to the characterization and significance/point/theology of the story?

What is storyboarding? What things is it meant to highlight? How can it help to understand Biblical Narratives?

Define the term "normative". How do we know if something is normative in a Biblical Narrative?

Biblical History

Describe the place of the Historical books in Biblical history?

What implications does this have for the way we must read and apply the Historical Books?

Deuteronomy Themes

What is the place/significance of the book of Deuteronomy in the Biblical books/Biblical history?

What is the Deuteronomistic History? Why is it called that?

What are the themes in Deuteronomy that were highlighted? How have they been played out in the Historical Books so far?

Joshua

What is the overall organization of Joshua?

How does chapter 1 prepare Joshua for leadership? What is the issue highlighted in this chapter? How are these themes seen later in Joshua?

What role does Rahab play in the Joshua narrative? What does she exemplify?

The story of the spies spying out Jericho brings to mind what earlier story? How are these two stories contrasted?

What is the punch-line of the narrative of the crossing of the Jordan river?

What is the first thing that happens in the Jericho narrative? Why is this significant?

Define Cherem and give examples in the book of Joshua. Why is it significant?

What role does Achan play in the Joshua narrative? What does he exemplify?

What does the narrator tell is the main point of failure in the Gibeonite deception?

What do the military campaigns teach us about God's plan for His people?

How are the lands divided among the tribes? What is the main point of this whole section?

How is the conquest summarized in Joshua ch. 21?

What does Joshua command the people in his farewell speech? How does this foreshadow the realities of the Book of Judges?

How and Why does Joshua challenge the people in the way that he does in the Covenant renewal?

What are the themes of Joshua, how are they displayed in Joshua and how do they apply to our lives?

How is the theme of Holy War demonstrated in Joshua and how should it be applied in our own lives?

How does the Book of Joshua fit in God's overarching plan/history? How does it prepare for God's climactic revelation in Jesus?

Judges

Describe the ways the overall story/message of Judges is compared and contrasted with Joshua.

What is the overall organization of Judges?

What is the repeated cycle narrated in the narrative of individual judges? What is the significance of each part of the cycle?

How do you reconcile the apparent contradiction between the complete takeover of the Land in Joshua with the need/failure to complete the conquest in Judges? Why was Israel unable to complete the conquest in Judges?

How did God respond to Israel's unfaithfulness in following false gods?

What is the main issue discussed about the chronology of the Judges? How does this impact the dating of the Exodus and Conquest?

Describe the narrative of each of the major Judges. How does their narrative demonstrate the typical pattern? What things in their narrative are highlighted as peculiar to their particular story? How do they all fit together and show a larger trend? How does each narrative and all the narratives together teach us about God and His ways with Israel?

In what ways were each of the major Judges a positive example which should be followed in our own lives? In what ways were each of the major Judges a negative example which should be avoided in our own lives?

What do the Gideon and Abimelech narratives teach us about the monarchy?

How is the Samson story an example both of Israel failing to complete the conquest and of God working to complete the conquest?

How do the last two narratives in Judges demonstrate the spiritual state of Israel? What point does the author make from these narratives? What narrative techniques does the author use to make this point? Describe especially the uses of ironic contrast and allusion to similar previous narratives.

What are the themes of Judges, how are they displayed in Judges and how do they apply to our lives?

How does the Book of Judges fit in God's overarching plan/history? How does it prepare for God's climactic revelation in Jesus?

Ruth

Where is the Book of Ruth placed in the English Bible? In the Hebrew Bible? What is the significance of this placement in each case?

What is the overall organization of Ruth?

Describe the overall plot of Ruth? How does God fit into the plot line?

Describe the Narrative techniques used in Ruth? How are the characters developed?

What are the themes of Ruth, how are they displayed in Ruth and how do they apply to our lives?

How does the Book of Ruth fit in God's overarching plan/history? How does it prepare for God's climactic revelation in Jesus?

I Samuel (partial)

What is the overall organization of I Samuel?

How is Samuel's mother Hannah characterized? How is she an exemplar?

How is Samuel contrasted with Eli's sons?

What does the fate of Eli's house tell us about God? How is this message consistent with earlier Books?

What does the Ark narrative tell us about God and His relation to Israel? How is this message consistent with earlier Books?

2. From Howard Textbook:

Ch. 1

How do the definitions of the word “history” apply to reading the Historical Books?
Define “historicity and briefly tell why it is important.
What are the elements of narrative discussed by Howard?
How do we have access to the “facts” of God’s actions in history?

Ch. 2

What is the purpose for the book of Joshua?
What is the historical and cultural context of Joshua?
What are the main theological ideas in Joshua?

Ch. 3

What is the twofold purpose of Judges?
What is the historical and cultural context of Judges?
What are the problem issues of Judges and what solutions does Howard suggest?
What are the main theological ideas in Judges?

Ch. 4

What is the historical and cultural context of Ruth?
What are the main theological ideas in Ruth?

Ch. 5

What is the purpose of 1&2 Samuel?
What is the historical and cultural context of 1&2 Samuel?
Describe prophecy in the time of 1&2 Samuel?
What are the main theological ideas in 1&2 Samuel?