

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
&
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

TRS 200 MAIN EXAM, DECEMBER 2011

TITLE OF PAPER : Studies in the Old Testament I
COURSE CODE : TRS 200
DURATION : 3 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS : 1. Choose and answer **four (4)** questions in all.
2. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.

All questions are worth 25 marks.

DOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR GRANTS YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO

Question 1

The Old Testament canon is not equivalent to the Jewish *Tanakh*. Discuss this observation raising points of significant difference between the Christian Old Testament canon and the Hebrew Jewish canon. [25]

Question 2

Define with illustrations where appropriate the following terminology:

- a. Apodictic law
- b. Amphictyony
- c. Covenant Community
- d. Anti-monarchy tradition
- e. Narrative Theology

[25]

Question 3

Conduct either sociological or rhetorical criticism of the Genesis 3 story. [25]

Genesis 3 (NRSV)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?'² The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;³ but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."'⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die;⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,⁶ knowing good and evil.'⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸ They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?'¹⁰ He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.'¹¹ He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?'¹² The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.'¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent,

*'Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.*

*¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.'*

*¹⁶ To the woman he said,
'I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.'*

¹⁷ And to the man he said,
'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
"You shall not eat of it",
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.*

*¹⁹ By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.'*

²⁰ The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all who live. ²¹ And the
LORD God made garments of skins for the man* and for his wife, and clothed them.*

*²² Then the LORD God said, 'See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and
evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat,
and live for ever' — ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to
till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man; and at the east of the*

garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

Question 4

Discuss evidence from the patriarchal narratives that points to the probability that the ancestors of Israel worshipped “other gods”. [25]

Question 5

“The Exodus event was a life-defining event for the ancient Hebrew community”. Explain this observation from a canonical reading of the Exodus narratives. [25]

Question 6

Read the following Old Testament religious instructions in the context of global or sub-regional migration in Southern Africa.

Leviticus 19:33-34

33 When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. ³⁴The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

And

Deuteronomy 24:17-22

17 You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow’s garment in pledge. ¹⁸Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

19 When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all your undertakings. ²⁰When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

21 When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. ²²Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this.

[25]

Question 7

Identify and explain at least five themes of the Deuteronomist History. [25]

Question 8

Identify and analyse strategies by which David rose to power and ascended the throne in ancient Israel. [25]

Question 9

Discuss the purposes of the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. [25]

Question 10

How do the books of Chronicles attempt to resolve some of the apparent inconsistencies in Deuteronomic history? [25]