

Advanced Hebrew
Open Book Quiz on Brotzman's Introduction

True or False?

1. The Old Testament is supported by fewer, but generally better, manuscripts than the NT.
2. It seems obvious that none of our current Hebrew manuscripts are identical to the original autographs.
3. There is approximately one variant reading for every 90 words in the Hebrew Bible

1. What was the nick-name of the short-lived KJV edition that mistakenly printed, "Thou shalt commit adultery"?

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Open Book Quiz on Brotzman's Chapter I: Writing in Ancient NE

True or False?

1. Writing in the ancient NearEast seems to have begun with the Sumerians, a non-Semitic people.
2. Akkadian is the earliest attested Semitic language.
3. Coptic writing is the Egyptian language written with the Ethiopian alphabet.
4. Mesopotamian languages occasionally wrote vowel sounds, but Egyptian writings never did.
5. The Phoenicians borrowed the first alphabet from the Greeks in the 14th century b.c.
6. A major reason for Christians to study the evolution of writing is to show that Moses did know how to read and write by his era in 1450 b.c.

Short Answer

1. Distinguish pictographic from ideographic writing. Give an example of a modern ideogram.
2. The Sumerians developed "determinatives." What is a determinative and what problem precipitated it?
3. What major improvement over Sumerian writing did the Akkadians introduce?
4. What is the principle that uses a symbol that represents a word to identify the sound of the first consonant of that word?
5. The Greeks practiced "boustrophedon" without shame. What was it?

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Open Book Quiz on Brotzman's Chapter II: Transmission of the OT in Hebrew

1. Name a pragmatic reason why Samuel in Hebrew could be written on one scroll, while its Greek translation was written as two scrolls, I and II Samuel.
2. On how many scrolls was the Pentateuch in Hebrew written?
3. What are *matres lectionis*? When did transcribers begin to insert them into the biblical texts?
4. Which OT book is not represented in the collection of the DSS?
5. What is the significance of the Qumran mss following several different texts traditions (like those behind the MT and behind the LXX and Samaritan Pentateuch), whereas the later Wadi Murabbaat scrolls solely favor the text behind the MT?
6. Scholars believe that the OT text was preserved in Babylonian and in Palestinian text families. Which family is behind what portion of the modern MT OT?
7. In what period was the OT probably divided into verses?
8. Why was "Ishbaal" changed to "Ishbosheth"?
9. What historical development allowed Jewish scribes to congregate around the Sea of Galilee to do work on the mss?
10. How do we know that the Massoretic tradition of vocalization of the text (with vowel points) is based on an early tradition and is reliable?
11. Give two reasons why the Massorettes set up a "Kere-kethib" method of reading the text.

True or False?

1. Ancient scrolls of 30 feet were long enough to hold all of the book of Isaiah.
2. Ancient alphabetic writers were not accustomed to separating words in the flow of the text, as indicated by Ugaritic examples and DSS manuscripts showing run-on text.
3. The earliest books of the OT must have undergone grammar revision by the scribes since OT grammar is fairly standardized throughout.
4. The biblical manuscripts from Qumran all appear to have followed the text behind our Massoretic text, LXX.
5. The Masorah *finalis* contains special information about the number of words in a book, etc.
The ben Ashur Massoretic tradition is closest to the modern editions of the Hebrew Bible.

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Open Book Quiz on Brotzman's Chapter III: *Ancient Versions of the OT*

Short Answer

1. Give two of the four reasons why the Samaritan Pentateuch is no longer believed to be a text superior to the MT.
2. What is a targum? Which is the official targum of 1) the torah? 2) of the prophets?
3. Give three of the four reasons for the importance of the LXX in text criticism.
4. What is the Peshitta?
5. The Old Latin translation(s) are most helpful for establishing the text behind which one?
 - a. The Hebrew OT
 - b. The LXX
 - c. The Massoretic Text

True or False?

1. The Samaritan Pentateuch was preserved in the paleo-Hebrew script, as opposed to Aramaic block script of the MT.
2. The Samaritan Pentateuch agrees very closely with the text of the MT Pentateuch.
3. Of the three a.d. Jewish rivals to the LXX, Aquila's Greek translation was the most popular for its flowing style.
4. In his search for the original text behind the LXX, Origen unwittingly added to the confusion with his Hexapla since scribes copied his suggested readings into the LXX manuscripts.
5. LXX translators of the dispersion had a less adequate understanding of the vowel tradition of the Hebrew text than what was typical within mainstream Judaism.

A major problem with the Old Latin and with the Vulgate is that they were translated from the Greek OT rather than from the original Hebrew.

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Open Book Quiz on Brotzman's Chapter IV: *DSS*

Short Answer

1. Which book of the OT in the DSS writes Jehovah in the paleo-Hebrew script?
2. What methods were used in dating the DSS?
3. Name three areas of OT study that the discovery of the DSS has influenced.

True or False?

1. About 600 different books were found among the DSS, one fourth of them being Scripture mss.
2. The DSS contain fragments of all OT books except Esther and Ezra.
3. A majority of the biblical texts among the DSS support the MT tradition.
4. The DSS mss are at least 1000 years older than the previously oldest Hebrew ms.

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Open Book Quiz on Brotzman's Chapter V: Intro to BHS

1. In the Masoretic side margin, what does the letter פ̣ with a dot over it signify?
2. In the Masoretic side margin, what does the letter ל̣ with a dot over it signify?
3. What is the difference between the masorah parva and the masorah magna?
4. What do these symbols in the critical apparatus represent: G ? L ?

Open Book Quiz on Brotzman's Chapter VI: Scribal Errors

1. What are the three general causes of digressions from the original autograph in ms copies?
2. "You can see for miles" as opposed to "You can see four miles" is an example of a *seeing* or of a *hearing* mistake?
3. Why might early Hebrew scribes have emended a reading?

Open Book Quiz on Brotzman's Chapter VII: Text Criticism Principles and Practice

True or False?

1. NT text criticism focuses more on variant readings while OT criticism focuses more on difficult readings.
2. Except when it is garbage, difficult readings generally are considered closer to the original than easier/smoothed readings.
3. Generally, text critics favor shorter readings over longer readings.

SHORT ANSWER: 1. Distinguish external evidence from internal evidence in textual criticism.