

OT NARRATIVES STUDY QUESTIONS

TEST I (Joshua – Ruth)

1. Distinguish the “former prophets” from the “latter prophets” in the Jewish canon.
2. What are the traditional [early] dates for the Exodus and the Conquest of Canaan?
3. What are some internal hints from Joshua that the book was written fairly close to the time of the events recorded?
4. What is the main theme of the Book of Joshua that flows from the theme of victory by faith?
5. What did the nation do at Gilgal that signified its covenant renewal before entering the promised land?
6. Name two events in Joshua's life that paralleled events in the life of Moses.
7. What is the significance of the Amarna letters? What are these letters?
8. Give a couple reasons why the spoils of Jericho were *cherem*, placed under the "ban," while other cities were not under the ban.
9. Who led the two main archaeological digs of Jericho? What were their main conclusions?
10. What are the main interpretations of Joshua 10: “the sun stood still/was silent”?
11. Who was Adonizedek?
12. Draw a half page map of the tribal allotments in Palestine.
13. How many cities of refuge were there in the promised land?
14. Who built the altar called *ed*? Why?
15. Explain Israel's annihilation of the Canaanites.
16. Briefly define the office of an Israelite judge.
17. About how long was the period of the judges? What is an internal reference to this definite time span in the book of Judges?
18. What is the “Israel Stela”?
19. What is the refrain that depicts the theme of anarchy in the Book of Judges?
20. What is the refrain that introduces several cycles of apostasy?
21. What is the refrain that depicts the lack of central leadership, especially in the appendices?
22. When did the Philistines begin to enter Palestine en force? How could they exercise military superiority over the faithless Israelites?
23. How many cycles of apostasy are there in the Book of Judges?

24. Give one reason to suggest that the Book of Judges might have been written in the early stages of the monarchy just after Samuel.
25. Give two reasons why the tribes did not successfully come to possess the promised land.
26. In a sentence, why are the events of the appendices of Judges placed at the end of the book if they had occurred early in the period?
27. Who could sling their stones and not “sin?”
28. Who were the Kenites? Name a famous female Kenite?
29. Who was Jerubbaal?
30. From whom did the nettlesome Midianites descend?
31. During what Judge’s tenure did Ruth probably live?
32. What happened to Jephthah's daughter and why? (You may argue a position not developed in the notes.)
33. What does “shibboleth” mean? Who said it and when?
34. Was Samson early or later in the Judges period? What does his name mean?
35. How was Baal related to the god Dagon?
36. Name the key issue having to do with Ruth's content (not style) why the critics associate the Book of Ruth with the time of Ezra/Nehemiah. Name several arguments to place writing of the Book of Ruth in the days of Samuel or David.
37. What is a key theme of the Book of Ruth?
38. What constitutes the "Bethlehem Trilogy?" From the author's viewpoint, what did the trilogy have to do with Saul and David?
39. What is so theologically important about Obed’s ancestors and genealogy at the end of the Book of Ruth?
40. What is the theological import of “*chesed*/ lovingkindness” as illustrated in the Book of Ruth?
41. How does the story of Ruth fit into the chain of significant OT women and a theology of the role of women?
42. Explain the identity, role, and symbolism of the OT kinsman-redeemer.

TEST II (I Samuel – II Kings)

1. What literary form at the beginning of II Samuel provides a natural break for the two books?
2. In the LXX what is the book of IV Kings?
3. Who may have written the Book of Samuel?
4. How does the emphasis of Samuel differ from that of Chronicles? from that of Kings? (see p.1 of Kings notes)
5. Who are the three leading characters of I Samuel and what is the contribution of each in the development of the nation of Israel?
6. What is the probable identity of the Judge "Bedan" (MT) in I Samuel 12:11.
7. How many brothers did Goliath have?
8. What are the general dates of David's total reign?
9. What was a "pim?"
10. Give two reasons why David felt he could not remain in Hebron to rule all of Israel.
11. Explain the form and significance of anointing in consecrating God's representatives. How did anointing the king show his close relation to God the true King?
12. What happened with Saul and the witch of Endor, and explain why.
13. What chapter in Samuel relates the terms of the Davidic Covenant? What is the essence of this covenant?
14. How is David depicted as a King-Priest? Why is this significant? (Psalm 110:1,4)
15. What was the problem with David's numbing his people?
16. Why is Jeremiah a strong candidate as the author of Kings?
17. How many good kings of Judah were there?
18. What is the significance of the: a) Black Obelisk? b) Moabite Stone?
19. Who fought at the battles of Qarqar and of Carchemish? What came out of these battles?
20. How many administrative districts did Solomon set up?
21. Where did the Queen of Sheba come from geographically and in terms of ancestry?
22. Name two complications of ancient monarchial eras that make it difficult to reckon the chronology of the period.
23. Who is king of the North when Josiah the reforming king is predicted by name?
24. How is the prophet Elijah like Moses?

25. What canonical prophets flourished in the days of the northern kings? the southern kings?
26. Name two of the four Judean kings carried off by foreign powers.
27. How many dynasties were there in the Northern kingdom?
28. Which king was treated "like a bird in a cage?" Who was the oppressor in this case?
29. How many Babylonian invasions of Jerusalem were there, and what type of captives were carried off in each instance?

TEST III (Chronicles — Nehemiah)

1. Whom does tradition suggest as the author of Chronicles?
2. Why was Chronicles given to its original audience?
3. The 70 year Babylonian captivity may be reckoned to cover what two time periods? (give more than dates, i.e., the significant beginning and ending termini).
4. What veiled reference does Jesus make about Chronicles' place in the canon when He refers to all the blood of the martyrs from Abel to Zechariah?
5. What is the meaning of "Paralipomenon," and what is its identity?
6. In a couple words, what is the difference of perspective/thematic emphasis between Kings and Chronicles?
7. Date the following: a) Beginning of Second Captivity; b) Fall of Jerusalem; c) return to Jerusalem
8. Develop the theology of Chronicles.
9. Who was King "Pul?"
10. What happened to Jeremiah after the fall of Jerusalem?
11. Under what Emperor did Ezra and Nehemiah return to Palestine?
12. How many years of delays were there before temple construction resumed in 520 b.c.?
13. Esther probably was queen in the days of what battle with Greece?
14. Give a major theme of the Book of Esther.
15. Who is the traditional author of Ezra/Nehemiah? Why?
16. What is the primary historical activity recorded in Nehemiah?
17. Who was Sanballat? Who was Bigvai?
18. List in order the 20 monarchs of Judah.