

## **OT302 Old Testament Prophets and Writings – Day Class**

### **Semester 2 2018**

FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE DIPLOMA OF THEOLOGY OR DIPLOMA OF MINISTRY OR  
BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY OR BACHELOR OF MINISTRY OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY

**Time allowed: 90 minutes**, plus 10 minutes perusal time.

An unmarked English Bible is allowed.

This examination counts for 60% of the total marks for this semester unit.

**You must answer: SIX questions from Section A**

**ONE question from Section B**

**Note:** All references to 'Longman and Dillard' are to the set textbook by Tremper Longman III and Raymond B Dillard, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*.

**Spend one hour on Section A.**

**Spend half an hour on Section B.**

**Section A:** (worth 66.6% of the marks on the exam paper)

Spend **one hour** on Section A.

Students must answer **SIX** questions.

Write about **250** words for each question – about **10** minutes per question.

All questions in Section A are weighted equally.

**Note:** All references to 'Longman and Dillard' are to the set textbook by Tremper Longman III and Raymond B Dillard, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*.

1. With reference to one 'major' prophetic book, describe the key descriptors of (a) God and (b) God's people.
2. In what ways is the book of Jonah different from and/or similar to the other 'minor' prophets?
3. Longman and Dillard propose that the psalms can be differentiated into seven basic genres. Identify these genres and briefly summarise their characteristics.
4. In his essay on Proverbs in *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament*, Willem Van Gemeren writes, 'The greatest virtue set forth in the book of Proverbs is the fear of the Lord'. What evidence supports this statement? How does Proverbs define the fear of the Lord?
5. Outline the role the theme of repentance plays in the book of Daniel.
6. What is the theological significance of the fact that Mordecai is descended from 'Kish, a Benjaminite' (Esther 2:5) and Haman is an 'Agagite' (Esther 3:1, 10; 8:3, 5; 9:24)?
7. In Ezra 9:8, Ezra thanks the LORD for granting to his people 'a little reviving in our slavery'. How does this statement summarise Ezra-Nehemiah's interpretation of the restoration from exile?
8. According to Longman and Dillard, the writer of Kings lived during the time of the Babylonian exile, and was addressing questions like, 'Has God failed?', 'How could this [i.e., exile] have happened to us?' and 'Is Marduk of Babylon really more powerful than Yahweh?' In the opinion of Longman and Dillard, when were 1 and 2 Chronicles written and what crucial questions were these books addressing?
9. Summarise three ways the Song of Songs has been interpreted.
10. What is the meaning of the word 'hebel' and why does it matter in Ecclesiastes?

**Section B:** (worth 33.3% of the marks on the exam paper)

Spend **half an hour** on Section B.

Students must answer **ONE** question in about **750** words.

All questions in Section B are weighted equally.

1. What evidence would you appeal to in order to demonstrate that the canonical form of the Book of Psalms is the result of intentional editing? How convincing do you find this argument?
  2. Discussing the book of Job, Daniel Estes writes,  
... the book reveals that as the sovereign ruler of the universe, Yahweh is free beyond human comprehension. Although the practical wisdom theology of retribution accurately summarizes in general terms how God orders the world, the book of Job demonstrates that God's ways may at times transcend his normal pattern of operation (*Handbook on the Wisdom Books and Psalms*).  
How well does this statement explain the *purpose* of the book of Job? Defend your answer.
  3. In his book, *A Sweet and Bitter Providence*, John Piper writes that '... the most prominent purpose of the book of Ruth is to bring the calamities and sorrows of life under the sway of God's providence and show us that God's purposes are good'. Do you agree with this statement? Why, or why not?
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