

## **OT502 Old Testament Prophets and Writings – Day Class**

### **Semester 2 2018**

FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE MASTER OF DIVINITY OR GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF DIVINITY  
OR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE OF DIVINITY OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF DIVINITY

**Time allowed: 2 hours**, 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: THREE questions from Section A**  
**TWO questions 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 40 minutes on Section A.**

**Spend one hour and 20 minutes on Section B.**

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

Spend **40 minutes** on Section A.

Students must answer **THREE** questions.

Write for about **13** minutes for each question – about 330 words 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. Is it helpful to speak of the 'message' of prophetic books? Answer with special reference to either Isaiah, Jeremiah or Ezekiel.
2. Is the 'Book of the Twelve' a book? Give reasons for your answer.
3. What are the different approaches that scholars have taken with respect to the authenticity of the Psalm titles (or superscripts)? What position do Longman and Dillard take on this issue?
4. Longman and Dillard cite the critical scholar, Crawford Toy, who argued that 'nothing in Proverbs may be directly attributed to Solomon ... and that his role in the book is the result of his legendary wisdom'. How do Longman and Dillard respond to this view of the authorship of Proverbs?
5. What explanation do Job's three friends give for his suffering? How does the *author* of the book of Job explain his suffering? Cite any relevant texts.
6. Ezra 1 records that when the Jews who returned to Judah from their exile in Babylon, they took with them 'silver and gold' (Ezra 1:4, 6, 10-11). Is the author of Ezra-Nehemiah making a theological point by including this information. If so, what might be that point?
7. Who is Qoheleth? Give reasons for your answer.

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

Spend **one hour and 20 minutes** on Section B.

Students must answer **TWO** questions.

Write for about **40** minutes for each question – about 1000 words per question.

All questions in Section B are weighted equally.

1. 'The major prophets give three perspectives on the Exile – before, during and after'. Is this a helpful statement? Why?
  2. The Book of Daniel contains a similar vision of the climax of history to that found in Psalm 2. Discuss this statement.
  3. In his 1950 article, 'The Place of the Book of Esther in the Christian Bible', Old Testament scholar, Bernhard Anderson wrote, 'The story unveils the dark passions of the human heart: envy, hatred, fear, anger, vindictiveness, pride' and therefore, 'if a Christian minister is faithful to the context, he will not take his text from Esther; and, if the leader of a church-school class shows any Christian discernment, he will not waste time trying to show that the heroes of the book are models of character, integrity, and piety'. What elements in the book of Esther would lead Anderson to arrive at this conclusion? How would you respond to his evaluation and advice?
  4. The book of Ruth is a prophetic parable that looks forward to both the end of exile and the coming of the messianic kingdom. Discuss this statement.
  5. 2 Chronicles 33 presents a very different picture of Manasseh when compared to 2 Kings 21. Why has the Chronicler shaped his story of this king in the way he has?
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