

Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary
Review for Bible Content Exam
Revised December, 2000

The following are suggested areas of review for the Bible Content Exam which all M.A. and M.Div. students are required to pass for graduation. It is suggested that the student make a thorough review of the content, literature, history, geography, and theology of the Bible before he or she takes the exam. It is recommended that each student read as much of the Bible as possible before the exam. ~~Also, students should review notes from the class.~~
~~Introduction to the Old Testament and New Testament.~~ If you can confidently describe the items on this reviewer, you should be able to pass the exam.

Examine the following review topics. *Place a check mark ✓ next to the item when you can tell about it without any aid. Work on those areas that are difficult.*

I. The Story of the Bible

Know the basic framework of the story of God's interaction with His creation. You should be able to fill in the details in this story.

- ___ A. **Creation:** God created the world, plants, animals, and lastly humans and pronounced it all good.
- ___ B. **Fall:** Adam and Eve sinned in disobedience and sin entered the world; the divine-human relationship was broken.
- ___ C. **Exodus and Covenant:** God offered new opportunities for relationship through covenant (Noah, Abraham, Sinai) with a chosen people called Israel (see Genesis and Exodus).
- ___ D. **Problems: Historical Period;** The power of sin is seen in Israel's inability to keep the terms of the covenant (law). In spite of God's reminders (the prophets), humanity on its own could not keep the law (see the story of Israel in the OT).
- ___ E. **New Covenant Prophesied:** God offered a new covenant by which He would change the human heart and give His Spirit to enable humanity to keep relationship (see the prophets in the OT).
- ___ F. **New Covenant Fulfilled:** The new covenant was fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ (see the Gospels).
- ___ G. **New Covenant Community:** The church is the new covenant community by which God is carrying out His plan of redemption of the world (see Acts and the Epistles).
- ___ H. **Completion of the Story:** Someday, Jesus will return, and sin and death will be no more (see Revelation).

II. Old Testament

A. Major Events

Know the major events related to the story of the Old Testament, where these events are described, and their dates (if known, especially those after the united monarchy).

- | | |
|--|---|
| ___ Adam and Eve: creation and fall | ___ Period of the Judges |
| ___ Pre-flood generations | ___ United Monarchy: Saul, David, Solomon |
| ___ Noah and the Flood | ___ Divided Monarchy: Significant Kings |
| ___ Tower of Babel | ___ Ministry of the Prophets |
| ___ Abraham and Sarah: call, covenant, migration, family | ___ Fall of Israel and the Assyrian Empire |
| ___ Isaac, Jacob, Joseph | ___ Fall of Judah and the Babylonia Empire |
| ___ Slavery in Egypt, Exodus | ___ Exile |
| ___ Conquest of Promise land and Settlement | ___ Restoration: rebuilding of the Temple and Jerusalem |
| | ___ Fall of Babylon, the Persian Period, close of the OT record |

B. Significant People

Know the dates of the major people of the OT, their activities, and where they are mentioned in the Bible. Note especially those involved in the rise and fall of key OT nations:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adam and Eve | <input type="checkbox"/> The Judges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cain, Abel | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noah | <input type="checkbox"/> Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeroboam, Rehoboam |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abraham, Sarah, Hagar | <input type="checkbox"/> Omri, Abah, Jezebel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaac | <input type="checkbox"/> Elijah, Elisha |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jacob and wives | <input type="checkbox"/> Hezekiah, Sennacherib, Mannaseh, Josiah, Johoiachin, Jehoikim, and Zedekiah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joseph and brothers | <input type="checkbox"/> Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Cyrus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moses, Aaron | <input type="checkbox"/> Each of the major and minor prophets, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jethro | <input type="checkbox"/> Zerubabel, Joshua |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua | <input type="checkbox"/> Others |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caleb | |

C. Important Geographical Locations

Know the major geographical features and localities, where they are mentioned in the OT, and where to find them on a map. Places include:

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sea of Galilee | <input type="checkbox"/> Moab | <input type="checkbox"/> Bethel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Sea | <input type="checkbox"/> Edom | <input type="checkbox"/> Dan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Euphrates river | <input type="checkbox"/> Assyria | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tigris river | <input type="checkbox"/> Chaldea | <input type="checkbox"/> Samaria |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nile river | <input type="checkbox"/> Jericho | <input type="checkbox"/> Nazareth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Negev | <input type="checkbox"/> Shechem | <input type="checkbox"/> Nineveh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon | <input type="checkbox"/> Jerusalem | <input type="checkbox"/> Thebes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dead Sea | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebron | <input type="checkbox"/> Tyre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Babylon | <input type="checkbox"/> Shiloh | <input type="checkbox"/> Damascus, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Sea | <input type="checkbox"/> Bethel | |

D. Major Themes

- Know the major theme of each book of the OT.
- Know the significant themes, characteristics, and chapters, for example, Promise to Abraham in Gen 12, new covenant in Jer 31, 10 commandments, holiness code, events of the Exodus and Conquest, etc.
- Assign the literary prophets to their appropriate centuries and briefly describe the political situation that each of them faced.
- Know the major feasts and sacrifices in the OT.
- Know the dreams about and fulfillment of building the temple.

E. Types of Literature

Be able to distinguish the characteristics and give examples of the following types of literature in the Bible:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> poetry | <input type="checkbox"/> hymns | <input type="checkbox"/> epistles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> prose | <input type="checkbox"/> laments | <input type="checkbox"/> apocalyptic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> prophecy | <input type="checkbox"/> parables sayings | <input type="checkbox"/> history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> narrative | <input type="checkbox"/> discourse | <input type="checkbox"/> proverbs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> biography | <input type="checkbox"/> gospels | <input type="checkbox"/> wisdom literature, etc. |

F. Significant Theological Topics in the OT

Be able to discuss the following topics in the OT:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Various covenants in the OT | <input type="checkbox"/> The function of the high priest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The position of the king | <input type="checkbox"/> The means for atonement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The ministry of the prophets | <input type="checkbox"/> The descriptions and names for God |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The place of the Exodus in the story of the OT | <input type="checkbox"/> The suffering Servant of Isaiah, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The place of the sacrificial system in the religion of the OT | |

II. New Testament

A. Major Events

Know the major events related to the story of the New Testament and where these events are described:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birth of Christ | <input type="checkbox"/> Dispersion of the Jerusalem church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry of Christ | <input type="checkbox"/> Jerusalem Church council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Death and resurrection of Christ | <input type="checkbox"/> Paul's missionary journeys |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pentecost | <input type="checkbox"/> The growth of the early church. |

Outline the major events in the history of the early church as recorded in the book of Acts, including Paul's missionary journeys.

B. Significant People

Know the dates of the major people of the NT, their activities, and where they are mentioned in the NT:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herod the Great | <input type="checkbox"/> Anas | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herod Antipas | <input type="checkbox"/> Each of the twelve disciples | <input type="checkbox"/> Barnabas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Herod Agrippa | <input type="checkbox"/> Festus | <input type="checkbox"/> Silas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caesar Augustus | <input type="checkbox"/> James | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pontius Pilate | <input type="checkbox"/> John | <input type="checkbox"/> Titus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John the Baptist | <input type="checkbox"/> Stephen | <input type="checkbox"/> Timothy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus of Nazareth | <input type="checkbox"/> Cornelius | <input type="checkbox"/> Philemon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caiaphas | <input type="checkbox"/> Saul, Paul | <input type="checkbox"/> Apollos, etc. |

C. Important Geographical Locations

Know the major geographical features and localities and where they are mentioned in the NT. In addition to the places in the OT, be able to find these locations on a map:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Important places in Jesus' life | <input type="checkbox"/> Corinth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Places in Paul's journeys | <input type="checkbox"/> Rome |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethiopia | <input type="checkbox"/> Asia Minor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Galatia | <input type="checkbox"/> Antioch, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seven churches of Revelation | |

D. Major Themes

Know the major theme and content of each book of the NT.

Know significant themes, characteristics, and chapters, for example,

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Logos in John 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> The main characteristics and central purpose of each of the gospels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The topics of Jesus' teaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Sermon on the Mount |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus' parables | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasion and purpose of Revelation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heroes of the faith in Heb 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> The seven churches pictured in Rev 2-3, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Works and faith in James | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The love chapter | |

E. Significant Theological Themes in the NT

Be able to discuss the major theological themes in the NT and know where to find them. Examples include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> spiritual gifts | <input type="checkbox"/> new covenant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> baptism | <input type="checkbox"/> atonement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> resurrection | <input type="checkbox"/> ecclesiology, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> holiness | |

Know the major theme of specific sections of the NT such as

- Acts
 - the Prison Epistles
 - General epistles
 - Pastoral Epistles, etc.
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ASIA-PACIFIC NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR BIBLE CONTENT EXAM

In preparation for the Bible Content Examination, students may focus their attention on the following objectives.

Know dates of major events related to the Bible and where these events are mentioned in the Bible, including:

Abraham's migration	Fall of Nineveh	Pentecost
Exodus	Fall of Jerusalem	Dispersion of Jerusalem Church
Conquest	Temple Rebuilt	Jerusalem Church Council
Settlement	Persian Empire	Paul's missionary journeys
United Monarchy	Fall of Babylon	Peter's death
Divided Monarchy	Maccabean Revolt	Paul's Death
Assyrian Empire	Birth of Christ	Destruction of Jerusalem by
Fall of Samaria	Ministry of Christ	Romans
Babylonian Empire	Death of Christ	Bar Kachaba wars

Know dates of major people related to the Bible, their activities, and where they are mentioned in the Bible, including:

Adam	Ahab	Herod Agrippa
Eve	Jezebel	Caesar Augustus
Cain	Elijah	Pontius Pilate
Abel	Hezekiah	John the Baptist
Noah	Sennacherib	Jesus of Nazareth
Job	Mannaseh	Caiphas
Abraham	Josiah	Anas
Sarah	Jehoiachin	each of the twelve disciples
Isaac	Jehoikim	Festus
Jacob	Zedekiah	James
Joseph	Nebuchadnezzar	Stephen
Moses	Belshazzar	Cornelius
Jethro	Cyrus	Saul
Joshua	each of the major Prophets and	Paul
Caleb	Minor Prophets	Luke
the Judges	Ezra	Barnabas
Ruth	Nehemiah	Silas
Samuel	Esther	Mark
Saul	Zerubabel	Titus
David	Alexander the Great	Timothy
Solomon	Antiochus Epiphanies	Philemon
Jeroboam	the Maccabees	Philo
Rehoboam	Herod the Great	Josephus
Omri	Herod Antipas	

Know major geographical features and localities and where these are mentioned in the Bible, including:

Sea of Galilee	Moab	Joppa
Great Sea	Edom	Ashod
Euphrates	Ammon	Bethel
Tigris	Gilead	Dan
Nile	Midian	Hazor
Mt. Hermon	Sinai	Tirzah
Mt. Sinai	Egypt	Samaria
Mt. Horeb	Aram	Dothan
Mt. Ebal	Babylon	Megiddo
Mt. Gerizim	Assyria	Jezreel
Mt. Carmel	Chaldea	Nazareth
Mt. Gilboa	Jericho	Nineveh
Mt. Nebo	Ai	Thebes
Trans-Jordan	Shechem	Tyre
Philistine Plain	Jerusalem	Damascus
Shephelah	Hebron	Places in Jesus' life
Hill country	Shiloh	Places in Paul's journeys
Arabah	Gilgal	Ethiopia
Negeb	Bethel	Galatia
Lebanon	Beersheba	
Phoenicia	Ziklag	

Know main themes, characteristics, chapters, and passages in each book of the Bible, for example:

Promise to patriarchs in Genesis 12	Logos in John 1
New Covenant in Jeremiah 31	Heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11
Judgment of Nineveh in Nahum	Salvation by works in James

Know major characteristics and types of literature in the Bible, including:

Poetry	Laments	Apocalyptic
Prose	Parables	History
Prophecy	Sayings	Proverbs
Narrative	Discourse	Wisdom literature
Biography	Gospels	
Hymns	Epistles	

Know about matters related to the history of the biblical text, including:

Theories of when books written	Synoptic Problem	Hebrew
Theories of how books were written	Jewish canon	Aramaic
Theories of who wrote various books	Christian canon	Greek
Theories of the circumstances and audiences addressed in books	Protestant canon	Dead Sea Scrolls
JEDP	Masoretic Text	Qumran
Deutero-Isaiah	Septuagint	Ugaritic Texts
Deuteronomistic history	Apocrypha	Nag Hammadi Library
Source	Deuterocanonical Books	Gnosticism
	Targum	Talmud
	Samaritan Pentateuch	Mishnah
	Peshitta	Rabbinic Literature
	Vulgate	Pastoral Epistles

Prison Epistles
General Epistles
Torah

Former Prophets
Latter Prophets
Writings

Scribal errors
Amanuesis

In addition, the student should be able to:

- Discuss the various theories regarding the composition of the Pentateuch and defend your position on the matter.
- What steps would you follow in doing a careful exegesis on a passage from which you might preach or teach?
- Explain the Deuteronomic History and how such a concept helps you in understanding the O.T.
- Describe one of the higher critical methodologies (such as form criticism, tradition-history, etc) in detail and explain how this methodology might contribute toward the preacher's task.
- Describe the character of one of the prophetic books which has been particularly meaningful to your preaching and/or teaching ministry and explain. Why it has been so meaningful?
- Be able to discuss the biblical concept of COVENANT and relate the concept to the Christian doctrine of the church. Locate in Scripture and describe at least four covenants giving their significance for OT faith or religious life.
- On a time line or in outline give the dates for the crucial periods of Israel's history, the significant events, and at least ten persons of significance.
- Describe the function of each of the following offices:

EBED-YAHWEH	HAKAM	MELEK
NABI	SHOPHET	
KOHEN	SOPHER	
- Discuss the significance of the term "Exodus" for the OT and for the modern Jew.
- Discuss at least three major sacrifices in the OT religion.
- Discuss the function and duties of the High Priest in the OT and how the writer of Hebrew relates these functions and duties to Christ.
- Assign the literary prophets to their appropriate centuries and briefly describe the political situation that faced each of them.
- Discuss the various theories regarding the composition of the Pentateuch and defend your position on the matter.
- Describe one of the high critical methodologies (such as form criticism, tradition-history, etc.) in detail and explain how this methodology might contribute toward the preacher's task.
- Describe the character of one of prophetic books which has been particularly meaningful to your preaching and/or teaching ministry and explain why it has been so meaningful.
- List and discuss the main characteristics and central purpose of each of the gospels.
- Define and discuss the Synoptic Problem, i.e.. the similarities and differences in the first three gospels, and their relationship to the gospel of John.

- List and discuss the dominant themes and characteristics of the messages of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels (Synoptic and John).
- Outline the major events in the history of the early church and recorded in the book of Acts, including Paul's missionary journeys.
- Describe the instances of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit recorded in the Books of Acts and the significance of each.
- What is the occasion and purpose of Revelation, and how does this influence its interpretation?
- List and describe the seven churches pictured in Rev. 2 and 3.
- Be able to discuss the main events, persons and characteristics of the political and religious background of the New Testament, including the intertestamental period.
- Identify the different types of literature found in the Bible, and the major characteristics of each: poetry, prose, prophecy, narrative, wisdom literature, history, gospels, parables, sayings, discourse, epistles, apocalyptic, etc.
- Be able to discuss the points of continuity and discontinuity between the two testaments.
- Know the key chapters in the Bible and their themes, e.g., ten commandments, holiness code "Suffering Servant" Sermon on the Mount, Faith chapter, love chapter, spiritual gifts, Resurrection, Christ and the church, etc.
- Be able to discuss the major elements of the teaching on sanctification in the Old Testament and in each of the major blocks on NT writings, and be able to give specific references.
- Be able to explain how to develop a careful exegesis of a passage for preaching or teaching (step by step plan to follow, hermeneutical principles applicable).
- Explain why the Bible is trustworthy and authoritative (significance of the history of the canon and the transmission of the text, nature of the biblical revelation and inspiration).
- Know the major trends in scholarly study of the Bible including the main kinds of criticisms, (textual, historical, source, form, redaction, etc.). major people involved in these studies, and how these studies help a pastor/teacher.
- Be able to define Biblical theology and to distinguish it from systematic theology.
- If a non-Christian person approached you and asked what you believed about the Bible, what would you tell him? What reasons could you give to support your views?
- The Gospels (Synoptic) accounts were probably not written until 30-40 years after the death and resurrection of Christ. Explain what possible stages of development of the Gospel messages as proclaimed and taught by first century Christians when through before it reached the form given to us in the Synoptic.
- How would you answer a person who was bothered by the fact that there occasions in the Gospel accounts where reference is being made to the same saying of Jesus, but the wording is different – Sermon on the Mount, Lord's Prayer in Matt. and Luke. Or reference is made to the same event, but the event is placed in different contexts by the Gospel writers.
- How do you approach as biblical passage in preparation for preaching or teaching from that passage?