

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2006

TITLE OF PAPER : A STUDY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT  
COURSE CODE : T2P1/IDE T2P1  
DURATION : THREE HOURS  
INSTRUCTIONS : 1. Answer four questions in all.  
2. Write in clear grammatically correct sentences.

DO NOT OPEN THIS QUESTION PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR GIVES  
YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO.

**T2P1/IDET2P1 (M) 2006**

1. Identify the parts which are characteristic of Priestly and Yahwist source traditions in the two creation stories in Genesis 1:1-2:4a and 2:4b-25. [25]
2. Discuss with examples units of patriarchal material that reflect how they originally functioned prior to their harmonisation into an extended literary work contained in Genesis 12-50. [25]
3. Describe with illustrations the two types of law found in the book of Exodus. [25]
4. Demonstrate the interconnections among political actions, social ethics, economic system and religious beliefs in the book of Deuteronomy. [25]
5. Explain and analyse the co-existence of the pro- and anti- monarchy traditions (1Samuel 8 and 2Samuel 7) in the Hebrew Scriptures. [25]
6. Discuss the theological concepts that run through Deuteronomistic history. [25]
7. Choose any of the prophetic books and analyse it with respect to the mutual influence between social context and theological construction. [25]
8. How do the texts of Ezra and Nehemiah epitomise the struggle for Jewish national identity in the post-exile Judah? [25]
9. Discuss the compositional history of the psalms as proposed by Hermann Gunkel (1967). [25]
10. In what ways does the book of Job provide a critique to “contextless dogmatism” (Gottwald, 1985:455)?

*Establishment of the monarchy*

**8** WHEN Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons to be judges in Israel. <sup>2</sup>The eldest son was called Joel and the second Abiah; they acted as judges in Beersheba. <sup>3</sup>His sons did not follow their father's ways but were intent on their

1 SAMUEL 8, 9

own profit, taking bribes and perverting the course of justice. <sup>4</sup>So all the elders of Israel met, and came to Samuel at Ramah. <sup>5</sup>They said to him, 'You are now old and your sons do not follow your ways; appoint us a king to rule us, like all the other nations.' <sup>6</sup>But their request for a king displeased Samuel. He prayed to the LORD, <sup>7</sup>and the LORD told him, 'Listen to the people and all that they are saying; they have not rejected you, it is I whom they have rejected, I whom they will not have to be their king. <sup>8</sup>They are now doing to you just what they have done to me since I brought them up from Egypt: they have forsaken me and worshipped other gods. <sup>9</sup>Hear what they have to say now, but give them a solemn warning and tell them what sort of king will rule them.'

<sup>10</sup>Samuel reported to the people who were asking him for a king all that the LORD had said to him. <sup>11</sup>'This will be the sort of king who will bear rule over you,' he said. 'He will take your sons and make them serve in his chariots and with his cavalry, and they will run before his chariot. <sup>12</sup>Some he will appoint officers over units of a thousand and units of fifty. Others will plough his fields and reap his harvest; others again will make weapons of war and equipment for the chariots. <sup>13</sup>He will take your daughters for perfumers, cooks, and bakers. <sup>14</sup>He will seize the best of your fields, vineyards, and olive groves, and give them to his courtiers. <sup>15</sup>He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage to give to his eunuchs and courtiers. <sup>16</sup>Your slaves, both men and women, and the best of your cattle and your donkeys he will take for his own use. <sup>17</sup>He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. <sup>18</sup>There will come a day when you will cry out against the king whom you have chosen; but the LORD will not answer you on that day.'

<sup>19</sup>The people, however, refused to listen to Samuel. 'No,' they said, 'we must have a king over us; <sup>20</sup>then we shall be like other nations, with a king to rule us, to lead us out to war and fight our battles.'

<sup>21</sup>When Samuel heard what the people had decided, he told the LORD, <sup>22</sup>who said, 'Take them at their word and appoint

them a king.' Samuel then dismissed all the Israelites to their homes.

7 Once the king was established in his palace and the LORD had given him security from his enemies on all sides, <sup>2</sup> he said to Nathan the prophet, 'Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the Ark of God is housed in a tent.' <sup>3</sup> Nathan answered, 'Do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you.' <sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup> 'Go and say to David my servant, This is the word of the LORD: Are you to build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup> Down to this day I have never dwelt in a house since I brought Israel up from Egypt; I lived in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup> Wherever I journeyed with Israel, did I ever ask any of the judges whom I appointed shepherds of my people Israel why they had not built me a cedar house?

<sup>8</sup> 'Then say this to my servant David: This is the word of the LORD of Hosts: I took you from the pastures and from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have destroyed all the enemies in your path. I shall bring you fame like the fame of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup> I shall assign a place for my people Israel; there I shall plant them to dwell in their own land. They will be disturbed no more; never again will the wicked oppress them as they did in the past, <sup>11</sup> from the day when I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I shall give you peace from all your enemies.

'The LORD has told you that he would build up your royal house. <sup>12</sup> When your life ends and you rest with your forefathers, I shall set up one of your family, one of your own children, to succeed you, and I shall establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> It is he who is to build a house in honour of my name, and I shall establish his royal throne for all time. <sup>14</sup> I shall be a father to him, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I shall punish him as any father might, and not spare the rod. <sup>15</sup> But my love will never be withdrawn from him as I withdrew it from Saul, whom I removed from

your path. <sup>16</sup> Your family and your kingdom will be established for ever in my sight; your throne will endure for all time.'

<sup>17</sup> Nathan recounted to David all that had been said to him and all that had been revealed. <sup>18</sup> Then King David went into the presence of the LORD and, taking his place there, said, 'Who am I, Lord God, and what is my family, that you have brought me thus far? <sup>19</sup> It was a small thing in your sight, Lord God, to have planned for your servant's house in days long past. <sup>20</sup> What more can I say? Lord God, you yourself know your servant David. <sup>21</sup> For the sake of your promise and in accordance with your purpose you have done all this great thing to reveal it to your servant.

<sup>22</sup> 'Lord God, you are great. There is none like you; there is no God but you, as everything we have heard bears witness. <sup>23</sup> And your people Israel, to whom can they be compared? Is there any other nation on earth whom you, God, have set out to redeem from slavery to be your people? You have won renown for yourself by great and awesome deeds, driving out other nations and their gods to make way for your people whom you redeemed from Egypt. <sup>24</sup> You have established your people Israel as your own for ever, and you, LORD, have become their God.

<sup>25</sup> 'Now, LORD God, perform for all time what you have promised for your servant and his house; make good what you have promised. <sup>26</sup> May your fame be great for evermore, and let people say, "The LORD of Hosts is God over Israel"; and may the house of your servant David be established before you. <sup>27</sup> LORD of Hosts, God of Israel, you have shown me your purpose, in saying to your servant, "I shall build up your house"; and therefore I have made bold to offer this prayer to you. <sup>28</sup> Now, Lord God, you are God and your promises will come true; you have made these noble promises to your servant. <sup>29</sup> Be pleased now to bless your servant's house so that it may continue always before you; you, Lord God, have promised, and may your blessing rest on your servant's house for ever.'

GENESIS

**17** When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, 'I am God Almighty. Live always in my presence and be blameless, <sup>2</sup>so that I may make my covenant with you and give you many descendants.' <sup>3</sup>Abram bowed low, and God went on, <sup>4</sup>'This is my covenant with you: you are to be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup>Your name will no longer be Abram, but Abraham; for I shall make you father of many nations. <sup>6</sup>I shall make you exceedingly fruitful; I shall make nations out of you, and kings shall spring from you. <sup>7</sup>I shall maintain my covenant with you and your descendants after you, generation after generation, an everlasting covenant: I shall be your God, yours and your descendants'. <sup>8</sup>As a possession for all time I shall give you and your descendants after you the land in which you now are aliens, the whole of Canaan, and I shall be their God.'

<sup>9</sup>God said to Abraham, 'For your part, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you, generation by generation. <sup>10</sup>This is how you are to keep this covenant between myself and you and your descendants after you: circumcise yourselves, every male among you. <sup>11</sup>You must circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and it will be the sign of the covenant between us. <sup>12</sup>Every male among you in every generation must be circumcised on the eighth day, both those

born in your house and any foreigner, not a member of your family but purchased. <sup>13</sup>Circumcise both those born in your house and those you buy; thus your flesh will be marked with the sign of my everlasting covenant. <sup>14</sup>Every uncircumcised male, everyone who has not had the flesh of his foreskin circumcised, will be cut off from the kin of his father; he has broken my covenant.'

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you are to call her not Sarai, but Sarah. <sup>16</sup>I shall bless her and give you a son by her. I shall bless her and she will be the mother of nations; from her kings of peoples will spring.' <sup>17</sup>Abraham bowed low, and laughing said to himself, 'Can a son be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah bear a child at ninety?' <sup>18</sup>He said to God, 'If only Ishmael might enjoy your special favour!' <sup>19</sup>But God replied, 'No; your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you are to call him Isaac. With him I shall maintain my covenant as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. <sup>20</sup>But I have heard your request about Ishmael; I have blessed him and I shall make him fruitful. I shall give him many descendants; he will be father of twelve princes, and I shall raise a great nation from him. <sup>21</sup>But my covenant I shall fulfil with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this time next year.' <sup>22</sup>When he had finished talking with Abraham, God left him.

<sup>23</sup>Then Abraham took Ishmael his son, everyone who had been born in his household and everyone he had bought, every male in his household, and that same day he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins as God had commanded him. <sup>24</sup>Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised. <sup>25</sup>Ishmael was thirteen years old when he was circumcised. <sup>26</sup>Both Abraham and Ishmael were circumcised on the same day. <sup>27</sup>All the men of Abraham's household, born in the house or bought from foreigners, were circumcised with him.

*The Lord's covenant with Abram*

**15** AFTER this the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision. He said, 'Do not be afraid, Abram; I am your shield. Your reward will be very great.'<sup>2</sup> Abram replied, 'Lord GOD, what can you give me, seeing that I am childless? The heir to my household is Eliezer of Damascus.'<sup>3</sup> You have given me no children, and so my heir must be a slave born in my house.'<sup>4</sup> The word of the LORD came to him: 'This man will not be your heir; your heir will be a child of your own body.'<sup>5</sup> He brought Abram outside and said, 'Look up at the sky, and count the stars, if you can. So many will your descendants be.'

<sup>6</sup>Abram put his faith in the LORD, who reckoned it to him as righteousness,<sup>7</sup> and said, 'I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldees to give you this land as your possession.'<sup>8</sup> Abram asked, 'Lord GOD, how can I be sure that I shall occupy it?'<sup>9</sup> The LORD answered, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a she-goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.'<sup>10</sup> Abram brought him all these, cut the animals in two, and set the pieces opposite each other, but he did not cut the birds in half.<sup>11</sup> Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but he scared them away.<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, Abram fell into a trance and great and fearful darkness came over him.<sup>13</sup> The LORD said to Abram, 'Know this for certain: your descendants will be aliens living in a land that is not their own; they will be enslaved and held in oppression for four hundred years.<sup>14</sup> But I shall punish the

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nation whose slaves they are, and afterwards they will depart with great possessions.<sup>15</sup> You yourself will join your forefathers in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.<sup>16</sup> But it will be the fourth generation who will return here, for till then the Amorites will not be ripe for punishment.'<sup>17</sup> The sun went down and it was dusk, and there appeared a smoking brazier and a flaming torch which passed between the divided pieces.<sup>18</sup> That day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, and said, 'I give to your descendants this land from the river of Egypt to the Great River, the river Euphrates,<sup>19</sup> the territory of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites,<sup>20</sup> Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaim,<sup>21</sup> Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites.'