

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES
BED 1/BA HUMANITIES I/ IDE BA HUMANITIES I
FINAL EXAMINATION DECEMBER 2011

COURSE TITLE : INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL STUDIES

COURSE CODE : TRS 100

DURATION : THREE (3) HRS

INSTRUCTIONS :

- a. Answer TWO (2) questions from each section.
- b. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.
- c. All questions carry equal marks.

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PERMISSION TO DO SO**

Section A

1. Using examples of your choice, demonstrate how the Bible plays a part in and impacts on global culture. [25]
2. What is the evidence that the Pentateuch is a product of independent sources? Critically discuss. [25]
3. In your opinion, is it justifiable to label Amos as a prophet of doom? Support your answer with evidence from the book. [25]
4. How does Hosea exploit the marriage metaphor to show God's relationship with Israel? In your view, is this metaphor an authentic vision of God; or at best a 'cultural aberration' or at its worst the writings of a schizophrenic? [25]
5. What do you understand by the term aetiology? With reference to the Pentateuch, show the religious significance of aetiological narratives. [25]

Section B

6. Discuss critically the community concerns of either Matthew or Luke. [25]
7. What is the distinctive Christological focus of Hebrews and how does it relate to the dissuasion of the audience from apostasy? [25]
8. Read the following passages and show how they compare and differ. Do you think Paul is reporting on the same or different event? [25]

A (Acts 15:1-35)	B (Galatians 2:1-10)
<p>1 But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."</p> <p>2 And when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to</p>	<p>1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. 2 I went up by revelation; and I laid before them (but privately before those who were of repute) the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, lest somehow I should be running or had run in vain. 3 But even Titus, who was with me, was not compelled to be</p>

Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

3 So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, reporting the conversion of the Gentiles, and they gave great joy to all the brethren.

4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.

5 But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up, and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to charge them to keep the law of Moses."

6 The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.

7 And after there had been much debate, Peter rose and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.

8 And God who knows the heart bore witness to them, giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us;

9 and he made no distinction between us and them, but cleansed their hearts by faith.

10 Now therefore why do you make trial of God by putting a yoke upon the neck of the disciples which neither our

circumcised, though he was a Greek. **4** But because of false brethren secretly brought in, who slipped in to spy out our freedom which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage-- **5** to them we did not yield submission even for a moment, that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. **6** And from those who were reputed to be something (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality) -- those, I say, who were of repute added nothing to me; **7** but on the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised **8** (for he who worked through Peter for the mission to the circumcised worked through me also for the Gentiles), **9** and when they perceived the grace that was given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised; **10** only they would have us remember the poor, which very thing I was eager to do.

fathers nor we have been able to bear?

11 But we believe that we shall be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

12 And all the assembly kept silence; and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

13 After they finished speaking, James replied, "Brethren, listen to me.

14 Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, as it is written,

16 'After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up,

17 that the rest of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name,

18 says the Lord, who has made these things known from of old.'

19 Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God,

20 but should write to them to abstain from the pollutions of idols and from unchastity and from what is strangled and from blood.

21 For from early generations Moses has had in every city those who preach him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

22 Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsab'bas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren,

23 with the following letter: "The brethren, both the apostles and the elders, to the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cili'cia, greeting.

24 Since we have heard that some persons from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions,

25 it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26 men who have risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27 We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth.

28 For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:

29 that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from unchastity. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell."

30 So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch; and having

gathered the congregation together,
they delivered the letter.

31 And when they read it, they rejoiced
at the exhortation.

32 And Judas and Silas, who were
themselves prophets, exhorted the
brethren with many words and
strengthened them.

33 And after they had spent some time,
they were sent off in peace by the
brethren to those who had sent them.

34 * [No text]

35 But Paul and Barnabas remained in
Antioch, teaching and preaching the
word of the Lord, with many others
also.

9. Why did Paul write his first letter to the Corinthians? [25]
10. Explore the historical circumstances that prompted the writing of the book of Revelations. [25]

END OF PAPER