

TITLE OF PAPER : Introduction to Biblical Studies
COURSE CODE : TRS 100
DURATION : 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Choose and answer three (3) questions in all.
2. Choose at least one question from each section.
3. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.
4. The paper consists of five (5) printed pages including the cover page.
5. All questions carry equal marks.

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

“For millions of people around the world today, Jews and Christians, and to a lesser extent Moslems, the Bible is a treasure chest of the wisdom and inspiration that guided generations before us, contains some of the most profound insights into the meaning of human life, the source of our culture and it has had the most profound influence on modern religious thought” (Boadt 1984:11). Comment on the truth of this statement supporting your thinking with excellent examples. [20]

Question 2

Scholars describe the Genesis passage reproduced below as a myth. With reference to this passage, describe what a myth is and what's its role in such primeval traditions as depicted in this passage. [20]

³ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!

¹⁶ To the woman he said,
"I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;
with painful labor you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you."

¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I
commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return."

²⁰ Adam^[c] named his wife Eve,^[d] because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the
LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not
be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."

²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he
had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side^[e] of the Garden of Eden
cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life (NIV).

Question 3

Illustrate ways in which Hosea's marriage to Gomer the daughter of Dibla'im is a summary of
God's undying love for sinful Israel? [20]

that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath be ended
that we may market wheat?"—
skimping on the measure,
boosting the price
and cheating with dishonest scales,
⁶ buying the poor with silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
selling even the sweepings with the wheat (NIV).

SECTION B

Question 5

What cues in the Gospel of Matthew suggest that the unknown author was most likely a Jewish Christian? [20]

Question 6

Illustrates ways in which Paul argues that salvation to Gentiles comes by faith in Christ alone and not by keeping the Jewish Law. In your view, is James contradicting Paul on emphasising the efficacy of the Law? What is your justification for your position? [20]

Question 7

Why was the early church persecuted? Discuss strategies used by New Testament writers to comfort and reassure suffering Christian communities. Use at least two writings to support your thinking. [20]

sinner. But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety” (1 Timothy 2: 11 -15).