

University of Swaziland  
Faculty of Humanities &  
Institute of Distance Education  
Department of Theology & Religious Studies  
First Semester Examination, December 2015

**Course code** : TRS 200  
**Course Title** : Studies in the Old Testament I  
**Duration** : Two (2) hrs

**Instructions**

- a. Choose and answer three (3) questions.
- b. Your answer to each question should not exceed.
- c. Your answer should demonstrate knowledge of the primary text
- d. Use relevant disciplinary terminology where applicable.
- e. Write in clear and grammatically correct sentences.

\*NB: All questions are worth 20 marks.  
This question paper comes with three (3) appendices.

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

**TRS 200 Studies in the Old Testament I (M) December 2015****Question 1**

Explain why there are three Old Testament canons in Christianity.

**Question 2**

Identify and discuss at least five socio-cultural values that were typical of Ancient Near Eastern communities including the covenant community.

**Question 3**

Apply sociological criticism in analysis Genesis 4 (See Appendix 1)

**Question 4**

Discuss the likely purposes served by the story of the near-sacrifice of Isaac in Genesis 22.

**Question 5**

Compare and contrast the Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 19) and the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7). (See Appendix 2)

**Question 6**

Define the central view of Deuteronomistic thinking and demonstrate how this view is reflected in the books of Joshua and Judges.

**Question 7**

Analyse the socio-political function of Hebrew religion as made evident in narratives of the rejection of Saul as king (1 Samuel 13 and 15) and his subsequent replacement by David.

**Question 8**

Conduct a comparative analysis of the pro-monarchy (2 Samuel 7) and anti-monarchy (1 Samuel 8) traditions in the Old Testament canon. (See Appendix 3)

**Question 9**

Define the notion of a Jewish Identity Movement and point out how this notion is captured in the historical narratives of Ezra-Nehemiah.

**Question 10**

Identify and discuss the ideological agenda behind the editorial changes made by the Chronicler on the Deuteronomistic sources in writing his version of the historical narrative on David's and Solomon's reigns.

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### Appendix 1: for Question 3

1 Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have produced a man with the help of the LORD." 2 Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. 3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it."

8 Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" 10 And the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! 11 And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." 13 Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! 14 Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me." 15 Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. 16 Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

17 Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch; and he built a city, and named it Enoch after his son Enoch. 18 To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael the father of Methushael, and Methushael the father of Lamech. 19 Lamech took two wives; the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. 20 Adah bore Jabal; he was the ancestor of those who live in tents and have livestock. 21 His brother's name was Jubal; he was the ancestor of all those who play the lyre and pipe. 22 Zillah bore Tubal-cain, who made all kinds of bronze and iron tools. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

23 Lamech said to his wives:

"Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;  
you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say:  
I have killed a man for wounding me,  
a young man for striking me.

24 If Cain is avenged sevenfold,  
truly Lamech seventy-sevenfold."

25 Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another child instead of Abel, because Cain killed him." 26 To Seth also a son was born, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to invoke the name of the LORD.

## Appendix 2: for Question 5

Exodus 19	2 Samuel 7
<p>1 On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. 3 Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: 4 You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, 6 but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."</p> <p>7 So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. 8 The people all answered as one: "Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do." Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. 9 Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after."</p> <p>When Moses had told the words of the people to the LORD, 10 the LORD said to Moses: "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes 11 and prepare for the third day, because on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. 12 You shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Be careful not to go up the mountain or to touch the edge of it. Any who touch the mountain shall be put to death. 13 No hand shall touch them, but they shall be stoned or shot with arrows; whether animal or human being,</p>	<p>1 Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2 the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." 3 Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."</p> <p>4 But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: 5 Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. 7 Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 8 Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; 9 and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with</p>

'not live.' When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they  
to the mountain." 14 So Moses went down from the  
to the people. He consecrated the people, and they  
washed their clothes. 15 And he said to the people, "Prepare for the  
third day; do not go near a woman."

16 On the morning of the third day there was thunder and  
lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain, and a blast of a  
trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled.  
17 Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God. They  
took their stand at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai  
was wrapped in smoke, because the LORD had descended upon it  
in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole  
mountain shook violently. 19 As the blast of the trumpet grew  
louder and louder, Moses would speak and God would answer him  
in thunder. 20 When the LORD descended upon Mount Sinai, to the  
top of the mountain, the LORD summoned Moses to the top of the  
mountain, and Moses went up. 21 Then the LORD said to Moses,  
"Go down and warn the people not to break through to the LORD to  
look; otherwise many of them will perish. 22 Even the priests who  
approach the LORD must consecrate themselves or the LORD will  
break out against them." 23 Moses said to the LORD, "The people  
are not permitted to come up to Mount Sinai; for you yourself  
warned us, saying, 'Set limits around the mountain and keep it  
holy.'" 24 The LORD said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing  
Aaron with you; but do not let either the priests or the people  
break through to come up to the LORD; otherwise he will break out  
against them." 25 So Moses went down to the people and told  
them.

blows inflicted by human beings. 15 But I will not take my steadfast  
love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before  
you. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever  
before me; your throne shall be established forever. 17 In  
accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan  
spoke to David.

18 Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and said,  
"Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have  
brought me thus far? 19 And yet this was a small thing in your  
eyes, O Lord GOD; you have spoken also of your servant's house  
for a great while to come. May this be instruction for the people, O  
Lord GOD! 20 And what more can David say to you? For you know  
your servant, O Lord GOD! 21 Because of your promise, and  
according to your own heart, you have wrought all this greatness,  
so that your servant may know it. 22 Therefore you are great, O  
LORD God; for there is no one like you, and there is no God besides  
you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 Who is  
like your people, like Israel? Is there another nation on earth whose  
God went to redeem it as a people, and to make a name for  
himself, doing great and awesome things for them, by driving out  
before his people nations and their gods? 24 And you established  
your people Israel for yourself to be your people forever; and you,  
O LORD, became their God. 25 And now, O LORD God, as for the  
word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning  
his house, confirm it forever; do as you have promised. 26 Thus  
your name will be magnified forever in the saying, 'The LORD of  
hosts is God over Israel'; and the house of your servant David will  
be established before you. 27 For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of  
Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, 'I will  
build you a house'; therefore your servant has found courage to  
pray this prayer to you. 28 And now, O Lord GOD, you are God,  
and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to  
your servant; 29 now therefore may it please you to bless the  
house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you;  
for you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the  
house of your servant be blessed forever."

## Appendix 3: for Question 8

1 Samuel 8	2 Samuel 7
<p>1 When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beer-sheba. 3 Yet his sons did not follow in his ways, but turned aside after gain; they took bribes and perverted justice.</p> <p>4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, 5 and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." 6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the LORD, 7 and the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. 8 Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. 9 Now then, listen to their voice; only — you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."</p> <p>10 So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. 11 He said,</p> <p>"These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; 12 and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. 13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. 14 He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. 15 He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. 16 He will take your male and female slaves, and the best</p>	<p>1 Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2 the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." 3 Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."</p> <p>4 But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: 5 Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. 7 Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 8 Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; 9 and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. 15 But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away</p>

of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. 17 He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. 18 And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day."

19 But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, "No! but we are determined to have a king over us, 20 so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles." 21 When Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. 22 The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to their voice and set a king over them." Samuel then said to the people of Israel, "Each of you return home."

from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. 17 In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

18 Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and said, "Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? 19 And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord GOD; you have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come. May this be instruction for the people, O Lord GOD! 20 And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord GOD! 21 Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have wrought all this greatness, so that your servant may know it. 22 Therefore you are great, O LORD God; for there is no one like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 Who is like your people, like Israel? Is there another nation on earth whose God went to redeem it as a people, and to make a name for himself, doing great and awesome things for them, by driving out before his people nations and their gods? 24 And you established your people Israel for yourself to be your people forever; and you, O LORD, became their God. 25 And now, O LORD God, as for the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, confirm it forever; do as you have promised. 26 Thus your name will be magnified forever in the saying, 'The LORD of hosts is God over Israel'; and the house of your servant David will be established before you. 27 For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house'; therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. 28 And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant; 29 now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you; for you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever."