

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

TRS 100 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, MAY 2017

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. Answer at least one question from each section.
3. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.
4. All questions carry equal marks.

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

SECTION A**Question 1**

Attempt a comparative analysis of the two passages provided below. [20]

Genesis 12:10-20

Abram and Sarai in Egypt

¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to reside there as an alien, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹ When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know well that you are a woman beautiful in appearance; ¹² and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife'; then they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³ Say you are my sister, so that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared on your account."

¹⁴ When Abram entered Egypt the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵ When the officials of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶ And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female slaves, female donkeys, and camels.

¹⁷ But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.

¹⁸ So Pharaoh called Abram, and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her, and be gone." ²⁰ And Pharaoh gave his men orders concerning him; and they set him on the way, with his wife and all that he had.

Genesis 20:1-18

Abraham and Sarah at Gerar

²⁰ From there Abraham journeyed toward the region of the Negeb, and settled between Kadesh and Shur. While residing in Gerar as an alien, ² Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." And King Abimelech of Gerar sent and took Sarah. ³ But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "You are about to die because of the woman whom you have taken; for she is a married woman." ⁴ Now Abimelech had not approached her; so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent people? ⁵ Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' I did this in the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands." ⁶ Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart; furthermore it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. ⁷ Now then, return the man's wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all that are yours."

⁸ So Abimelech rose early in the morning, and called all his servants and told them all these things; and the men were very much afraid. ⁹ Then Abimelech called Abraham, and said to him, "What have you done to us? How have I sinned against you, that you have brought such great guilt on me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that ought not to be done." ¹⁰ And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What were you thinking of, that you did this thing?" ¹¹ Abraham said, "I did it because I thought, There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. ¹² Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife. ¹³ And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, He is my brother.'" ¹⁴ Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male and female slaves, and gave them to Abraham, and restored his wife Sarah to him. ¹⁵ Abimelech said, "My land is before you; settle where it pleases you." ¹⁶ To Sarah he said, "Look, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; it is your exoneration before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated." ¹⁷ Then Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children. ¹⁸ For the LORD had closed fast all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Question 2

Give reasons why it is of great importance to have a good knowledge of the original languages – Hebrew and/or Greek – when studying the Bible. [20]

Question 3

Define the following terms: (a) Day of Atonement; (b) Day of the Lord; (c) Ritual Decalogue; and Royal Ideology. Give specific examples in your answer. [20]

Question 4

Why are there so many translations of the Bible and, which one, in your view, is the best of these versions? [20]

SECTION B

Question 5

Identify and discuss distinctive aspects in Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. [20]

Question 6

From the extract provided below, explain early Christian beliefs about the person of Jesus Christ. [20]

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:5-1, NRSV).

Question 7

"Now a bishop^[a] must be above reproach, **married only once**,^[b] temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher" (1 Timothy 3:2). What does Paul mean here and, in your view, should the church ordain divorced clergy? [20]

Question 8

Discuss main theological ideas in the Apocalypse of John. Give relevant ideas to support your answer. [20]