Test 2: Bible Section

Advance Information

Note: For this test, you may bring two 81/2 x 11 pages (four sides) of notes. You may not use any books or other notes.

Part A: Short answer

Questions in this section can be answered in a few words up to a couple of sentences. They will concern items of information focused on in the blue sheets of study questions. They will be like the following:

(a) When they ask for a king, the Israelites phrase their demand in a way that in itself condemns them. How do they phrase it? How does the phrasing condemn them?

(b) What reason does David give for not killing Saul when he has a chance at the cave?

(c) Which attribute of Solomon may be seen to be responsible both for significant achievement and significant harm?

(d) Who are the cows of Bashan?

(e) What was Amos by profession?

(f) The Elijah chapters contain colorful details. Give an example of one.

(g) When did Amos preach? Where -- the Northern Kingdom (Ephraim/Israel) or the Southern Kingdom (Judah)?

(h) Your instructor shrewdly called Amos the prophet of you’ve-got-another-thing-coming. That is, there are several points in Amos where he seems to want to disabuse the Israelites of certain misconceptions they seem to have been laboring under. What are two such misconceptions? Answer in a sentence that goes like this: “The Israelites, according to Amos, have been wrong in believing that ___________________________ and that ___________________________."

(i) When did Isaiah preach? Where?

(j) What was Isaiah’s advice to King Ahaz of Judah concerning the Syro-Ephraimitic alliance?

Over for Part B Essays Questions
Part B: Essay answers

Questions in this section will be selected from the actual questions below. The answers should be in the form of brief essays – approximately three hundred words. **Answers should address all parts of the question** – underline key words in the question before you start answering it, and consider using those words in your answer – and should be supported with several relevant specific references. **Read the question carefully two or three times before answering it!**

1. In our readings from 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings, the writers present YHWH as carrying forward his divine plan but doing so through human beings driven by recognizably human motives and qualities. How is this illustrated in the accounts of Saul and David?

2. Discuss actions or attributes of David that may be seen in both a positive and a negative light. As always, be sure to illustrate with examples.

3. Basing yourself on Elijah, Amos, and Isaiah, describe the job of a prophet in Israel-Judah in 700-600 BCE.

4. Where in our readings in the prophets do we see the prophets “fail” and (b) where is this portrayed as being part of YHWH’s intention?

5. What specific sins do Amos and Isaiah most focus on? Explain and illustrate.

6. Discuss the “day of the LORD” in Amos and in Isaiah. Are there differences between how each prophet presents it?

7. The great Hebrew prophets typically wrote about the events of their own time, even though their words may have been reinterpreted hundreds of years later as referring to events or people yet to come. What examples of this do we find in Isaiah?

8. Where in the prophets read so far have you found especially powerful poetry?

9. Discuss apocalyptic elements in Amos and Isaiah.

10. [Reserved for one more question to come out of class discussion Monday and Wednesday before the test. You’ll know what it is by the end of class on Wednesday.]