

PH.D. IN BIBLICAL STUDIES
Field Essay Study Guide
School of Theology

Consult the enclosed field essay bibliographies and guidelines for Old Testament and New Testament majors. The field essay in Biblical Studies will be composed of two parts: 1) a general question on either testament; and, 2) translation of a prose passage from the Hebrew Masoretic text and translation of a passage from the Nestle Greek text of Mark.

Follow the enclosed Old Testament and New Testament guidelines for preparation for the general essay question. At the time of the field essay, you will be given a choice between a question pertaining to the Old Testament and one pertaining to the New Testament. You need answer only one. Also, follow the enclosed Old Testament and New Testament guidelines for Hebrew and Greek translation. You will also be given a passage to translate from the Old Testament and from the New Testament. You must translate both passages and answer any grammatical and syntactical questions. Since you will have two passage to translate, you will be given an extra hour beyond the time allotted to other field essays.

Total time of the Biblical Studies field essay: 3 hours

PH.D. IN OLD TESTAMENT
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The field essay in Old Testament will consist of two questions, each designed to take an hour of the applicant's 2-hour time allotment. Questions will be as follows:

1. Hebrew Translation. The applicant will be asked to translate a passage of approximately five to ten verses of Hebrew prose from the text of *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. The applicant will not need to bring a text but will be provided with a photocopy of the passage to be translated. The applicant will be asked to parse forms and explain syntax constructions from the selected passage. Moreover, applicants will be asked basic questions from Hebrew phonology and morphology. Dictionaries or other reference aids may not be used. The purpose of this translation exercise is to determine the extent of the applicant's expertise in Hebrew language.
2. General Question. For the second hour of the field essay, the applicant will be asked to write an essay on a Old Testament topic. Two subjects will be listed, and the student will be asked to choose one of the two. For this portion of the exam, the applicant should follow the suggested bibliography attached to this sheet.

PH.D. IN OLD TESTAMENT
Field Essay Reading List
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Instructions:

In preparing for the general question in Old Testament, students are advised to study at least two of the three works listed in each of the two categories listed below. The exam will consist of two questions from which one is to be selected. Questions are generally fairly broad, involving some major period or method of Old Testament research or asking for a discussion of scholarship in a particular book of the Old Testament. Usually the two questions will involve two distinct areas of Old Testament study, such as one from the Pentateuch and one from the Prophets.

I. Introduction to the Old Testament

Childs, B. S. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.

Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.

Rendtorff, Rolf *The Old Testament. An Introduction*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1991.

II. Interpretation of the Old Testament

Barton, John, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Biblical Interpretation*. Cambridge: University Press, 1998.

Knight, Douglas A., and Gene M. Tucker, eds. *The Hebrew Bible and Its Modern Interpreters*. The Bible and Its Modern Interpreters Series. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1985.

VanGemeren, Willem A, ed. *A Guide to the Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

PH.D. IN NEW TESTAMENT
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The field essay in New Testament will consist of two questions, each designed to take an hour of the applicant's 2-hour time allotment. Questions will be as follows:

- I. Greek Translation. The applicant will be asked to translate a passage of approximately ten to twelve lines from the Nestle text of the Gospel of Mark. The applicant will not need to bring a text but will be provided with a photocopy of the passage to be translated and a page of vocabulary covering the passage from Sakae Kubo, *A Reader's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. (Applicants will be expected to know the "special vocabulary" listed by Kubo at the beginning of the Gospel of Mark as well as the vocabulary of common New Testament words in Appendix I of Kubo. These words will not be provided in the Kubo entry for the passage to be translated.)
2. General Question. For the second hour of the field essay, the applicant will be asked to write an essay on a New Testament topic. Two subjects will be listed, and the applicant will be asked to choose one of the two. For this portion of the exam, the applicant should follow the suggested bibliography attached to this sheet.

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Instructions: In preparing for the general question in New Testament, students are advised to study at least two of the three works listed in each of the two categories listed below. The exam will consist of two questions from which one is to be selected. Questions are generally fairly broad, involving some major period or method of New Testament research or asking for a discussion of scholarship in a particular book of the New Testament. Usually the two questions will involve two distinct areas of New Testament study, such as one from the Gospels and one from Pauline studies.

I. Histories of New Testament Research:

Riches, John K. *A Century of New Testament Study*. Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1993.

Neill, Stephen and Tom Wright. *The Interpretation of the New Testament, 1861-1986* Oxford: At the University Press, 1988.

Kümmel, Werner George. *The New Testament: The History of the Investigation of its Problems* Trans. S. M. Gilmore and H. C. Kee. Nashville: Abingdon, 1970.

II. New Testament Introductions:

Carson, D. A., D. J. Moo and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*. Revised edition. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1990.

Kümmel, Werner George. *Introduction to the New Testament*. Revised edition, trans. H C. Kee. Nashville: Abingdon, 1975.