

Session #03: The Old Testament II

St. Patrick's Church

Short Answer

1. In one sentence, summarize the Old Testament, according to Fr. Lawrence Boadt.

Infidelity to the covenant, as given through Moses, will lead to disaster and destruction.

2. Memorize article #140 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

The unity of the two Testaments proceeds from the unity of God's plan and his Revelation. The Old Testament prepares for the New and the New Testament fulfills the Old; the two shed light on each other; both are true Word of God.

3. What is a **THEOPHANY**?

4. In the context of Literary Criticism of the Bible, what is an **ETIOLOGY**?

5. In the context of Literary Criticism of the Bible, what is a **LEGEND**?

6. In the context of Literary Criticism of the Bible, what is a **SAGA**?

7. In reference to the Bible, what is a **CANON**?

8. In the context of biblical criticism, what does the term **PROTO-CANONICAL** mean?

9. In the context of biblical criticism, what does the term **DEUTERO-CANONICAL** mean?

10. In the context of biblical criticism, what does the term **APOCRYPHA** mean?

11. The Catholic Church states that the Old Testament consists of 46 canonical books, based on the texts provided by a group of seventy men who arranged these books together (these men are called the *Septuagint* in Greek. Most non-Catholic Christian groups argue that there are only 39 canonical books in the Old Testament and that the texts of the Old Testament which Catholics claim are deuteron-canonical are, in fact, apocryphal. Explain the main reason why Protestant groups make this claim.

12. Non-Catholics call these seven books of the bible the *apocrypha*; the Catholic Church calls them *deutero-canonical*. Name these seven books.

- | | | | |
|----|-------|----|-------|
| a. | _____ | e. | _____ |
| b. | _____ | f. | _____ |
| c. | _____ | g. | _____ |
| d. | _____ | | |

13. What is the longest Book in the Old Testament? What is the shortest Book?

- | | |
|----|-------|
| a. | _____ |
| b. | _____ |

14. Exodus 24 and Deuteronomy 31 (among the examples) cite Moses as the author of the Torah. Based on modern scholarship (most notably the 19th Century theologian, Julius Wellhausen), who was, most likely, the author(s) of these five books?

15. How many creation stories can be found in the Book of Genesis?

16. Some people argue that the story of Adam & Eve is literal (that the story actually took place as it was described). Some people argue that it is made up. How does the Church reconcile this dilemma?

17. What people group is the Old Testament about?

18. What was the moral of the story from Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-10)?
What does the rainbow symbolize?

a. _____

b. _____

19. The Book of Exodus deals with the deliverance of the Hebrew (Jewish) people from slavery, in Egypt, by the miraculous hand of God. The key text of the entire Old Testament is found in Exodus 12-14. These chapters focus on what two events?

a. _____

b. _____

20. Also in the Book of Exodus is the listing of the 10 Commandments, the most important laws of the Old Testament. This text can be found in Exodus _____ .

21. To whom did God give the 10 Commandments? (Exodus 20)

22. If you know where the 10 Commandments are listed in Exodus, what is an easy way to find where else this passage is found?

23. How many Jewish laws are provided in the Torah?

24. The bulk of the 40-year journey through the wilderness takes place in the Book of Numbers. In the Book of Deuteronomy, how much time transpires through its 40 chapters?

25. What was the test of a prophet, to know that he was truly from God?
(Deuteronomy 18: 20-22)

26. Concerning Old Testament history, explain the significance of the five dates provided below:

1010 BC

722 BC

622 BC

586 BC

536 BC

27. Where were the two nations of God's people taken into captivity?
(2 Kings 17: 23 and 2 Chronicles 36: 20)

a.

b.

28. Who are the major prophets?

29. Where did Satan and the demons come from? (Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28)

30. Which chapter of an Old Testament prophet's book gives a detailed prophecy of the Messiah's death by crucifixion?

True or False

1. _____ Male circumcision is the physical mark identifying Jews as members of God's covenant community.
2. _____ Various New Testament authors express differing attitudes over the issue of whether Christians were bound to observe the Jewish Law.
3. _____ After the death of Alexander the Great, his successors did all they could to reverse his policy of spreading Greek forms of culture throughout southwestern Asia.
4. _____ Many modern scholars believe that the hostility shown toward the Pharisees in the New Testament Gospels reflects deep tension that existed between Christians and Jewish religious leaders in the decades when the Gospels were written.
5. _____ Christians include the Hebrew Bible as part of their Scriptures because they see their story as pointing toward Jesus Christ.

Multiple Choice

1. In Jesus' time, many Jews lived in the what (a term that refers to the scattering of Jews to foreign regions outside Palestine)?
 - a. Torah
 - b. Sabbath
 - c. Mithras
 - d. Diaspora
2. Many devout Jews in Jesus' day made annual pilgrimages to the Jewish temple located where?
 - a. Jerusalem
 - b. Nazareth
 - c. Bethlehem
 - d. Rome

3. Ancient Jewish rabbis believed that the period of inspired prophecy ceased shortly after the time of the Jewish scribe _____ around 400 BC.
- a. Moses
 - b. Abraham
 - c. Elijah
 - d. Ezra
4. This period in Western history began with the conquests of Alexander the Great in 336 BC and stretched into the early centuries of the Christian era. It is identified by the mixing of classical Greek culture with a wide variety of Near Eastern cultural influences.
- a. The Roman Period
 - b. The Persian Period
 - c. The Maccabean Period
 - d. The Hellenistic Period
5. What was the cause of the Maccabean Revolt?
- a. The Romans' invasion of Palestine in 63 BC
 - b. The persecution of the Jews by Antiochus Epiphanes in the mid-second century BC
 - c. The birth of Jesus of Nazareth ca. 8-4 BC
 - d. The death of Herod the Great in 4 BC
6. Why was the Maccabean Revolt named as such?
- a. The name "Maccabean" means "cleansing."
 - b. The leader of the revolt was nicknamed "Maccabeus," which means "[God's] hammer."
 - c. The name "Maccabean" recalls the name of a Seleucid ruler famous for persecuting Jews
 - d. The name "Maccabean" means "persecution."

7. Why did Christians place the Book of Malachi at the end of their Old Testament Scriptures?
 - a. Christians believe that Malachi prophesied the appearance of John the Baptist in the New Testament.
 - b. Malachi was the last book written in the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - c. Malachi includes apocalyptic visions much like the Book of Revelation in the New Testament.
 - d. Malachi is the longest prophetic book in the Hebrew Bible.

Long Answer Essay

1. From 1962-1965, the bishops of the Catholic Church assembled for the 21st Ecumenical Council that has taken place in the history of the Church. At this council, called “The Second Vatican Council,” the bishops wrote the following about biblical interpretation. Explain the significance of these remarks:

However, since God speaks in Sacred Scripture through men in human fashion, the interpreter of Sacred Scripture, in order to see clearly what God wanted to communicate to us, should carefully investigate what meaning the sacred writers really intended, and what God wanted to manifest by means of their words. (#12)

2. What is “biblical criticism?”
3. Define the types of biblical criticism described below.

Historical Criticism _____
Literary Criticism _____
Source Criticism _____