

HEBREW/ARAMAIC EXAM FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS IN HEBREW BIBLE

Memorandum of Consensus

General

Three hours will be allowed for the examination, and it will consist of two parts. In the first part, the student will translate three narrative passages from the Bible, two in Hebrew and one in Aramaic, without the aid of a lexicon. In the second part, the student will translate two or more selections of poetry, at least one from the Latter Prophets and at least one from elsewhere in the Hebrew Bible, with the aid of a lexicon. Computers or other electronic aids may not be used in any portion of the exam.

In preparation, the student should know all Hebrew vocabulary words occurring 10 or more times in the Bible—as well as all Aramaic vocabulary—as these are listed in George Landes, *Building Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary: Learning Words by Frequency and Cognate* (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature: 2001), and in Franz Rosenthal, *A Grammar of Biblical Aramaic* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1983). The student should also be familiar with the primary syntactical elements of Biblical Hebrew, as they are listed and explained in Bill T. Arnold and John H. Choi, *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

If the first language of the student is not English, a dictionary of the student's first language may be used.

Part I

- A. The student will translate—without the aid of a lexicon—two narrative passages in Hebrew selected from any portion of the Bible. These will be chosen by the examiner and will not be known to the student in advance. In addition, the student will identify a few specified constructions and forms in the passages.
- B. The student will translate—without the aid of a lexicon—one passage in Aramaic selected from the relevant portions of the Bible (Ezra 4:8–6:18; 7:12-26; Daniel 2:4–7:28). The passage will be chosen by the examiner and will not be known to the student in advance.

Part II

- A. The student will translate—*with* the aid of a lexicon—one or two poetic passages from the Latter Prophets. The particular selection(s) will be made by the examiner and will not be known to the student in advance.
- B. The student will translate—*with* the aid of a lexicon—one or two poetic passages from the Hebrew Bible occurring *outside* the Latter Prophets. The particular selection(s) will be made by the examiner and will not be known to the student in advance.

For this part, the student will be allowed the use of one appropriate printed lexicon—

- Francis Brown, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs, eds., *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*;
- Ludwig Koehler, Walter Baumgartner, M. E. J. Richardson. *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Unabridged 2-Volume Study Edition).

Evaluation

In assessing the examination, the various passages will be given about equal weight. A numerical grade will be turned in to the GPRS office, but the student's permanent record will show nothing other than “Pass” when that has been achieved. (In GPRS, 80 is the minimum passing grade.)

Approved: November 13, 2017

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