

## **OT ARCHAEOLOGY M.A. COMPREHENSIVE EXAM**

### **WHAT TO EXPECT**

To help you prepare for the upcoming comprehensive exam in OT archaeology, I've compiled a study sheet that indicates the format and overall content of the exam. It will be divided into three sections: 1) The first section contains 50-60 short answer/identification. These focus on the Archaeology and ancient Near Eastern Studies as well as Historical Geography. For these identifications you will be asked to give a short answer, a brief phrase that states the main characteristics and significance of an item. Examples that may or may not appear on the exam are given below. 2) The second section contains essays. Below you have been given four essay options. On the exam you will be expected to write two essays. The essays will be account for 40% of the exam grade (20% each). 3) The final section will test your ability to work with the Hebrew Bible (in Hebrew). You will receive a passage (at the time of the exam) that you will be expected to translate and answer questions about. You will not need a Hebrew Bible, since the text will be provided for you.

### 1) Short Answers

The short answers will cover two areas of competency: 1) Archaeology and ancient Near Eastern Studies; 2) Historical geography. You should provide short answers of just a few sentences, but you should include salient information that satisfactorily identifies the term. For example, for the term Kukar, a good answer would be: "Kukar is the sandstone of the coast, often forming cliffs and in places blocking water exit to the coast, which in turn creates brown-red soils inland. Kukar was used in building many coastal cities."

#### **Biblical Geography** (10-20 questions)

Redzina

Loess

Makhtesh

Gibeon

Nahal Ammud

Arbel pass

#### **Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies** (40-50 questions)

Ketef hinnom

Tell Rehov

Tell el Yehudia ware

Glacis

Alalakh

Lmlk

minimalist

stepped stone structure

Taanach cult stand

Ebla

benchmark

Amurrites

Megiddo 5A/4B

bichrome

Mycenean IIIC

## 2) Essay Questions

You will be asked to answer two of the following questions in essay format. You should prepare answers for all of them, since you will not be told which questions will appear on the Comprehensive Exam. The essay portion of the exam encourages you to draw upon your competencies in 1) Archaeology and ancient Near Eastern Studies; 2) Historical geography; 3) Biblical and Theological studies; 4) Biblical and Near Eastern Languages. Your essay should be well organized and should incorporate *relevant* and *specific* evidence.

- 1) The role of archaeology in biblical interpretation. Draw upon the history of the discipline; discuss the prospects in the future as you see them; briefly offer three case studies to illustrate your points.
- 2) Write a thorough archaeological and historical narrative of the Middle Bronze Age. Briefly discuss how the period is divided (1 paragraph). Delineate the characteristic features of the material culture, the key excavated sites and their importance, and the written sources for reconstructing the period of the MB. Give a one or two paragraph summary of the MB in comparison with either the Early Bronze Age or Late Bronze Age. And lastly consider the role of Middle Bronze Age history and archaeology for understanding the Biblical text.
- 3) Write a social and archaeological commentary on the late Bronze Age. Delineate the characteristic features of the material culture, the key excavated sites and their importance, and the written sources for reconstructing the period of the MB. Being as specific as possible, discuss a few important points of comparison between the social, cultural, and/or political context of the LB and the book of Judges.
- 4) Write a thorough archaeological and historical narrative of the Iron Age IIA. Briefly discuss how the period is defined (cf. Iron Age IB and Iron Age IIB). Delineate the characteristic features of the material culture, key excavated sites and their importance, and the written sources for reconstructing the period. Finally, consider the role of Iron Age IIA history and archaeology for understanding the Biblical text.