

# Old Testament and New Testament Competency Exam Study Guides

## Old Testament:

This examination consists of fifty multiple-choice questions. Each question has only one correct answer. Examples:

1. Which of the following lists is not in chronological order?
  - A. Noah, Shem, Terah, Abraham, Rachel, Joseph
  - B. Cain, Abel, Methusaleh, Sarah, Isaac, Ephraim
  - C. Noah, Terah, Rebekah, Rachel, Joshua, Gideon
  - D. Joshua, Samson, Eli, Samuel, David, Solomon
  - E. Saul, David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Jeremiah, Isaiah
  - F. Aaron, Deborah, Solomon, Hezekiah, Josiah, Nehemiah

Answer: E

2. Which of the prophets envisioned a promised Ruler from Bethlehem with these words: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."
  - A. Isaiah
  - B. Jeremiah
  - C. Micah
  - D. Habakkuk
  - E. Zephaniah

Answer: C

The exam is largely Old Testament content, though some questions will test your knowledge of historical-cultural background information for Israel and her neighbors; basic biblical and ancient Near Eastern chronology; and issues of literary and higher criticism for certain books of the Old Testament. The emphasis, however, is on basic biblical content. It should be obvious, therefore, that the first and best course of preparation is simply to study the Old Testament.

In addition to reading the Old Testament, several textbooks can be recommended as helpful introductions to the history, chronology and narrative flow of the Old Testament. One or more of the following surveys should be a part of your preparations for this exam:

1. A. Hill and J. Walton, A Survey of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.
2. P. House, Old Testament Survey. Nashville: Broadman, 1992.
3. C. Pfeiffer, Old Testament History. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1973.

In addition to these excellent surveys of the entire Old Testament, to other volumes may be recommended as good introductions to the history and literature of the Old Testament with limited discussion of theological themes:

1. R. Dillard and T. Longman, An Introduction to the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
2. W.J. Dumbrell, The Faith of Israel. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988.

A number of questions will focus on the Old Testament prophets. You should be familiar with the dating, historical background and basic themes of these writings. It will be helpful for the student to read the entries for each of the prophets in the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979-1988).

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## New Testament:

The first and best course of preparation is simply to study the New Testament. In addition to this reading, Donald Guthrie's New Testament Introduction is recommended as a helpful introduction to the history and chronology of the New Testament.