



**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES**

**AND EDUCATION**

**INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**NTBS103 INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT**

**END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

**NOVEMBER 2021**

**LECTURER: REV. D. CHITSIKU**

**DURATION: 5 HOURS**

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***INSTRUCTIONS***

1. Do **NOT** write your name on the answer sheet
2. Answer **ONE** Question
3. Credit will be given for neat, well-written and lucid work.

*DBM*

1. During the pre-critical period of the Bible, Old Testament scholars have given several views on the authority of the Bible, which determined interpretation, particularly of the Old Testament.
  - a) Give a critical summary of the main arguments given in support of the holiness/sacredness of the Bible (Old Testament) and the special place the Bible occupied during the pre-critical period in the study of the Bible. **[40]**
  - b) Analyze the contribution of any three pre- scientific factors to the rise of the scientific criticism of the Old Testament. **[60]**
2. Any valid approach to biblical interpretation must seek to bridge the gap between the ancient worlds of the authors of the biblical text and the world of the reader of the biblical text today.
  - a) Examine how any two of the following gaps between the world of the author and the interpreter of the Old Testament act as barriers to accessing the message of the Old Testament.
    - i. Distance of time (time gap)
    - ii. Geographical Distance (spatial gap)
    - iii. Cultural Distance (cultural gap)
    - iv. Distance of Language (language gap) **[50]**
  - b) 'Christians today are unnecessarily divided among themselves because they do not have a uniform view of the inspiration or authority of the Bible and subsequently, uniform approach to biblical interpretation.' Assess the validity of this statement. **[50]**
3. The Exodus was the foundational event for the faith of ancient Israel and the experience of liberation from bondage in Egypt that marked the birth of a distinctive Israelite community.
  - a) In your own judgement, what is the importance of the Exodus experience to the history and faith of Israel? **[50]**
  - b) Compare the exodus with any one religious historical or political event in your country that has a similar significance to the exodus. **[50]**

**END OF PAPER**