

APOCALYPSE

ABOUT THE EXAM

PART I: SHORT ANSWER

50 Questions, each worth 2 points

SECTION A: THE LATTER PROPHETS

20 QUESTIONS – 40 points

Identify the prophetic books from which the following passages are taken: Amos (3), Hosea (3), 1st Isaiah (4), Jeremiah (3), Ezekiel (3), 2nd Isaiah (2), and Jonah (2).

1. All who make idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit; their witnesses neither see nor know. And so they will be put to shame.

**SECTION B: NARRATIVES FROM THE
WRITINGS**

DANIEL, RUTH, ESTHER, JUDITH

15 QUESTIONS – 30 points

Identify the speaker(s) and the person(s) spoken to in the following [10] passages:

2. It would be a disgrace if we let such a woman go without having intercourse with her. If we do not seduce her, she will laugh at us.

Answer the following [5] questions:

3. What is the name of Esther's cousin/guardian?

**SECTION C: MISCELLANEOUS TEXTS
JOB, ECCLESIASTES, SONG OF SONGS, PSALMS,
REVELATION**

15 QUESTIONS – 30 points

4. What does the word *apocryphal* mean? In most Protestant but not in Catholic Bibles, which books are known as the Apocrypha?

APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

PARTS OF DANIEL & REVELATION

The first six chapters of Daniel are stories set in the time of the Babylonian Exile/Captivity (6th-5th century BCE). The stories, based on legends about a Joseph-like sage/seer, Dan-el, were actually composed around the middle of the 2nd century (c. 160), during the persecution of the Jews in Jerusalem under Antiochus IV Epiphanes. They provide a background for the visions that Dan-el receives in the last six chapters. These visions point to the future—specifically to the 2nd century.

The word most commonly used to characterize such radically symbolic/allegorical revelations of the “end of days” is APOCALYPSE. The Greek word, *apokalypsis*, means ‘opening,’ or ‘revelation.’ That is the Greek title of the New Testament book known as Revelation. (NO S at the end!)

APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

VISIONARY poetry meant to reveal (make manifest, or as if visible) things invisible.

Preoccupied with **ESCHATOLOGY: THE END TIME.**

Either projected into a 'sealed' future (as in Daniel) or expected immediately (as in Revelation)

Produced in times of cultural and spiritual **crisis:**

involving persecution of the faithful (**martyrdom**), who will be **resurrected** if they persevere in the faith.

Universalism marked by **DUALISM**

Cosmic levels of existence – matter vs. spirit

Chronological – history vs. the end [of] time

Ethical & Ethnic – Evil vs. Good: Them & Us

Gentiles vs. Jews

Pagans (& Jews) vs. Christians

Predestination – history moving to inevitable climax

Sometimes manifested in cyclical recurrence

(E.g.: Rome repeats Babylon)

Limited theology – radically sectarian, ‘millennial’

Belief in a VIOLENT G*D, who

Gives life to his followers

Condemns his enemies to Hell forever

Use of (often bizarre) symbolism and codes words

E.g.: The Whore in Revelation stands for the Roman Empire (which recalls Babylon). This symbol was later used by Protestants to characterize the Roman Catholic Church.

E.g.: The Great Dragon (a.k.a. Leviathan, the Chaos Monster), equated with the Serpent in Genesis, is both the Devil and the Roman Empire.

E.g.: The strange, many-headed, many-horned beasts are borrowed from Daniel, where they represent Antiochus IV and his predecessors. In Revelation, the Beast may stand for Nero Caesar and/or the Emperor Domitian, both persecutors.

These images are ARCHETYPAL: that is they correspond to certain primal configurations of the human imagination. They represent violent (& sometimes very confusing) conflict.

Another crucial archetypal image in Revelation, the figure of the LAMB, is deeply paradoxical.

Archetypally, the Lamb of God is the ultimate figure of sacrifice, meekly obedient to the will of the shepherd, even to the point of giving up its life. In Revelation, and in other Christian literature, this metaphor for the Christ (*Messiah*—God's Anointed, who is also the Good Shepherd), becomes a figure of ultimate power and authority: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! . . . To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

(Revelation 5:12-13)