

TRAD 104

Write a brief essay (800 words = **NOT MORE THAN** 3 typed pages) on ONE of the topics below. Write your essay at home and turn it in--**TYPED**, please--when you take the first part of the exam.

Your essay should be **coherent**, clearly developed, and well **supported** by specific **evidence** from the text of the Bible. Your essay should have a clear **introduction**, defining the subject and stating a **thesis**, and a **conclusion** that follows plausibly from the **development** of your argument. You don't have to be "right," and I don't have to agree with you, but you must make a good case--and in reasonably literate English.

A. Discuss the **interrelation** of J and P in the Creation stories (Genesis 1 and 2). The word "interrelation" asks you to look at the way the two stories are fitted together into a more or less coherent whole; do NOT simply list differences between versions.

B. Discuss Abraham's dilemma in Genesis 22 (the Binding of Isaac). That is: As a matter of morality, Abraham should not kill Isaac, but he must do what God tells him. But if he does, the promise that God made to him (a large posterity) will apparently be broke. In dealing with this question, be sure to consider the issues from Abraham's point of view, not God's.

C. Discuss the significance of YaHWeH's name, I AM that I AM, as revealed to Moses in Exodus 3:14-15, in relation to the commandment against idolatry in 20:4-6. The following passage from Deuteronomy may help you make some connections:

The LORD [YaHWeH] spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice. ... Since you saw no form when the LORD [YaHWeH] spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire, take care and watch yourselves closely, so that you do not act corruptly by making an idol for yourselves, in the form of any figure--the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth ... (4:12, 15-17)

D. What were the causes and consequences of Absalom's rebellion against David? (Remember: Your essay should be analytical rather than merely descriptive; do not simply retell the story.)