

SCRIP 501
Introduction to Scripture: Wisdom and Psalms
Mid-term exam study guide

The mid-term exam consists of three sections that cover all course material since the start of the course, plus an extra-credit section on the books of the Bible. The exam includes approximately 20 multiple-choice and true/false questions, and a single essay prompt, which is to be answered with an essay-length response in the blue book provided to you at the time of the exam. There are two possible essay prompts, only one of which will be on the exam itself; you should prepare responses to both prompts, attending to the suggestions identified beneath each prompt.

1. The LORD's anointed in the Psalms: Describe and explain Psalms' perspective on the Lord's anointed (i.e., the Davidic messiah king) and his manifold importance, as this has been treated in course readings, lectures, and discussions.

A successful response will incorporate consideration of the following elements:

- *where* the LORD's anointed is treated in key, strategically placed royal/messianic psalms (e.g., Ps. 2, 45, 72, 89, 110, and 132), and *how* the LORD's anointed is depicted therein
- how Psalms' present- or future-oriented expectations about the LORD's anointed are tied to the divine *covenant with David* (i.e., its past establishment, as recounted in 2 Sam. 7; its promises/characteristics; etc.)

2. The Law of the LORD in the Psalms: Describe and explain Psalms' perspective on the Law (Torah) of the LORD, as this has been treated in course readings, lectures, and discussions.

A successful response will incorporate consideration of the following elements:

- how esteem for the value and utility of the Law of the LORD—including its statutes, precepts, commandments, etc.—is shown and elaborated in key, strategically placed wisdom or Torah psalms (e.g., Ps. 1, 19, 37, and 119)
- how Psalms' sapiential construal of the Law of the LORD (i.e., as wisdom expressed and discernable within the created order) is complementary to, rather than competitive with, a covenant-historical emphasis on the narratives and commandments of the Mosaic Law

You may use a Bible for the essay portion of the exam (but *only* for this portion), which means that your preparation for this portion of the exam need not be focused on memorizing which psalms say what, but rather on crafting an in-depth identification, elaboration, and elucidation of the pertinent material. There is no minimum amount that you must write, but it is anticipated that an adequate response will be in the range of at least 5–6 blue-book pages, requiring at least 45 minutes of the period to be devoted to its composition.