

New Testament Final Exam Study Questions

Know the parts of a Pauline Epistle: their names (and how to spell them) and their purpose.

Be prepared for some simple fill-in-the-blank about the Book of Revelation and the Fuentes reading that is an overview of the Pauline epistles (*Guide to the Bible*, 200-227, syllabus day 22).

While there will not be a Biblical ID section, all essay questions benefit from knowing particular passages of Scripture either by accurately recalling what they say or by citing book and chapter.

Essay Questions:

Some pointers follow in brackets. These pointers will not be provided on the exam. They are there to help you study. Remember all the PowerPoint slides and readings on Class Pages too!

1. The sacrifice offered by Christ during the events of Holy Thursday and Good Friday has been called the comprehensive fulfillment of pre-Christian salvation history. Explain how the words and actions of Jesus fulfill the archetypes of Old Testament worship. Provide at least seven distinct illustrations from the OT and explain how Christ fulfills each.

[In this essay, **the focus is strictly on OT worship** as fulfilled in Christ. The OT worship can include both the rituals of the Law of Moses and earlier or later Jewish worship, whether of the nation (e.g., Passover, Temple liturgy), or of individuals (e.g., Abraham's Binding of Isaac, Melchizedek). **Do not** include an event of Jewish history if it's not a form of worship.]

2. How do the Gospels portray the mission of Jesus as a New Exodus? In making your comparisons, you may refer to an event, a saying, a person or a place in the OT Exodus. You may also mention material from the prophets if relevant. Be sure to explain the relationship between the NT example and its OT counterpart. Provide at least seven distinct examples and explain how in each case something from the Exodus is amplified to explain Christ's mission.

[In this essay, **the focus is strictly on the Exodus narrative**, from the Jews' slavery in Egypt to their entrance into the Promised Land – from the Book of Exodus through the Book of Joshua. The previous question is exclusively about worship, but here you can talk about any Exodus event, including forms of OT worship *if* it is performed **during the Exodus**. Throughout the class I've mentioned that there are many instances of this theme throughout the Gospels. You might be surprised how many there are once you start to gather them.]

3. What do the Gospels teach us about the ministry of Peter, and consequently, the role of the Papacy in the Church? Be sure to discuss all three major Petrine passages in the Gospels.

[Be sure to explain what each passage tells us. How is St. Peter "the Rock" and the Royal steward with the keys to the kingdom? Explain the power of binding & loosing, Peter's mission to "confirm thy brethren" in the faith which Christ prays "will not fail," and Christ's charge to Peter to "feed my lambs and sheep." For each concept, relate it to an aspect of the papal office which endures today.]

4. Summarize Paul's arguments against the Judaizers in the *probatio* of Galatians. Explain what justification means for Paul. Present his arguments against the Judaizers' claims that works of the law justify. If the law does not justify, why then did God give the law? How does a correct reading of St. Paul help to engage the Lutheran theology of "justification by faith alone"?

[You may include reference to events in Acts (e.g., Baptism of Cornelius, Council of Jerusalem) as part of your answer, as background to Galatians, or in discussing its *narratio*. Ultimately your goal is to demonstrate that St. Paul teaches justification by “faith working through love”(Gal 5:6). Against the Judaizers, there are Paul’s four arguments in the Probatio Gal 3:1-18 and then his three arguments for “why then the Law” in Gal 3:19-29.

Next describe how St. Paul’s theology of faith includes works, which are the fruit of new life in Christ through faith and baptism. Be sure to adequately address the primacy of grace, without which we can do nothing to justify ourselves. For the last part, contrast St. Paul’s notion of faith to the Lutheran notion of faith and the Lutheran notion of a “work.” You may include Scholastic / Tridentine terms in your answer if you wish (e.g., prevenient grace, operative grace) but you are not required to know and employ them to answer this question.]