

**DEPARTMENT OF BIBLICAL STUDIES: OLD TESTAMENT**

**GUIDELINES FOR M.TH. OT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION**

- 1. AIM:** The aim of the entrance examination is to essentially test the overall knowledge and perspectives of the candidates on the following areas of the Old Testament studies:
  - Proficiency and ability in handling the Biblical Hebrew Text (*BHS*), especially in translating the Hebrew text and the skills in using the text critical apparatus.
  - Sufficient knowledge in the Critical Introduction to the Old Testament, Old Testament Theology, and the other related subjects in the field.
  - Awareness to the recent trends and methodological developments in the field of Old Testament studies including the recent publication in the field.
  - Adequate cognizance in the current issues in the field of Old Testament especially the recent approaches in interpreting the Hebrew Bible.
  - Sufficient understanding in the contextual reading in the Old Testament texts.
  - Translation and Exegetical studies on the prescribed Hebrew Texts: Genesis 1-12 **or** Exodus 1-15; Isaiah 40-55 **or** Hosea 1-10; and Psalms 1, 2, 24, 51, 104, 119 (vv.1-8), 121, 122, 128, 150; **or** Job 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 26, 31, 38, 40, 42.
- 2. ENTRANCE EXAMINATION:** Examinations will be conducted in the following subjects: **Old Testament** and **English**. The following contents will be asked in the *Old Testament* paper: Translations of the Hebrew Texts, Syntax, Grammar, Exegesis, and questions on Critical Introduction to Old Testament, Prophetic Literature and Wisdom Literature, History of Ancient Israel, Theology of the Old Testament and Old Testament Hermeneutics. In the *English* paper, a comprehensive knowledge of the candidate in English language will be tested in order to assess his/her writing and reading skills.
- 3. DEPARTMENTAL AND GENERAL INTERVIEW:** Both departmental (*in the OT Dept.*) as well as general interview (*in front of the members of the faculty council*) will be conducted for each candidate in order to evaluate his/her overall competence for M.Th. studies.
- 4. BOOK REVIEW:** A book review on the following book should be done and submitted during the departmental interview: Kondasingu Jesurathnam. *Old Testament Theology: History, Issues and Perspectives*. New Delhi: Christian World Imprints, 2016.
- 5. A TENTATIVE:** A tentative “Thesis Proposal” on the intended area of research should be submitted during the departmental interview.
- 6. SUGGESTED BOOKS FOR READING:**

Baltzer, Klaus. *Deutero-Isaiah, A Commentary on Isaiah 40–55*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *The Anchor Bible Isaiah 40-55: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2002.

- Boice, James Montgomery. *Psalms: An Expositional Commentary*. Michigan: Baker Academic, 2005.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Spirituality of the Psalms*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002.
- Brueggemann, W. and Bellinger William H. *Psalms*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Dube, Musa. *Postcolonial Feminist Interpretation of the Bible*. St. Louis: Chalice, 2000.
- Durham, John I. *Word Biblical Commentary: Exodus*. Vol. 3. Texas: Word Books, 1987.
- Edayadiyil, G. *Exodus Event: Its Historical Kernel*. Bangalore: ATC, 2007.
- Gottwald, Norman K. *The Hebrew Bible: A Socio-literary Introduction*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985.
- Jesurathnam, K. "Towards a Dalit Liberative Hermeneutics: Re-reading the Psalms of the Lament," *BTF*, Vol. 32/1, 2002.
- Kizhakkeyil, Sebastian. *Isaiah: An Exegetical Commentary*. Bangalore: ATC, 2006.
- Oswalt, John N. *The Book of Isaiah Chapters 40–66*, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1998.
- Prabakar, Charles and Paul M. Raj eds. *Rights and Responsibilities of the Minorities*. Bangalore: Theological Book Trust, 1999.
- Rad, Gerhard von. *Old Testament Theology*, Vol. I, Introduced by Walter Brueggemann, Kentucky, Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Rad, Gerhard von. *Old Testament Theology*, Vol. II, Introduced by Walter Brueggemann, Kentucky, Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.
- Segovia, F. F. *Decolonizing Biblical Studies: A View from the Margins*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2000.
- Soares-Prabhu, George. *Theology of Liberation: An Indian Biblical Perspective*. Francis X D'sa (ed.). Pune: Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, 2001.
- Soggin, J. Alberto. *Introduction to the Old Testament*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Kentucky, Westminster John Knox Press, 1989.
- Sugirtharajah, R. S. *Asian Biblical Hermeneutics and Postcolonialism: Contesting the Interpretations*. Sheffield: SAP, 1998.
- Sweeney, Marvin A. "The Book of Isaiah in Recent Research," *Currents in Research: Biblical Studies 1* 1993: 141-162.
- Watts, John D.W. *Isaiah 34-66*, (Revised Edition), Word Biblical Commentary, Vol. 25, Nashville, Thomas Nelson, Inc. 2005.
- Whybray, R. N. *Introduction to the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

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