REL 1310 – Christian Scriptures

Hello and welcome to the weekly resources for REL-1310!

These resources are structured a bit differently from other online study guides on the Baylor Tutoring website because the content in these courses are organized largely around biblical histories and narratives. Please take a look at other weekly resources listed on our website for additional topics from Christian Scriptures throughout the semester. Your professor might be discussing these topics in a different order than presented here.

We also invite you to take a look at the group tutoring chart on our website to see if this course has a group tutoring session offered this semester.

If you have any questions about these study guides, group tutoring sessions, private 30-minute tutoring appointments, the Baylor Tutoring YouTube channel or any tutoring services we offer, please visit our website www.baylor.edu/tutoring or call our drop-in center during open business hours, M-Th 9am-8pm on class days, at 254-710-4135.

Exodus

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Terms

- **Hebrews**: The name of the Israelite people. These are the descendants of the prominent characters from Genesis (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph).
- **Theophany**: The appearance of God to a human.
- **Mount Horeb/Sinai**: A holy mountain where Moses received instructions to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt. This is also where he received the 10 Commandments and the earliest portions of Torah’s law.
- **Decalogue**: The formal name for the 10 Commandments.
- **Apodictic law**: A law that is given that applies at all times.
- **Casuistic law**: A law that applies to a case-to-case basis.
- **Tabernacle**: A mobile sanctuary where religious practice would be carried out.

Notable Characters
- **Moses**: A Hebrew born to Jochebed, a Hebrew woman. He was raised Egyptian, and after fleeing Egypt, was called by the Lord to lead Israel out of captivity.
- **Pharaoh**: The unnamed leader of Egypt.
- **Aaron**: Brother of Moses and spokesperson for Moses when talking to Pharaoh.
- **Miriam**: Sister of Moses & Aaron.
- **Shiphrah & Puah**: Brave Hebrew midwives who disobeyed Pharaoh’s orders and did not kill the newborn Hebrew boys.

**Background**
- In the end of Genesis, **Joseph’s** family moved to Egypt.
- A Semitic group named the Hyksos ruled in Egypt from 1700-1550 BCE.
- Eventually **Joseph’s** descendants, the Hebrews, were enslaved by Egyptians.
- The Hebrews had been fruitful and multiplied, filling Egypt.

**Exodus 1**
- The Hebrews reproduce rapidly.
- The King of Egypt feared that their number would grow enough to cause a revolt.
- Because of this, he ordered that every boy who is born should be thrown into the Nile River.
- **Shiphrah and Puah** showed bravery in the face of danger and refused to kill the boys as they were told.

**Exodus 2**
- **Moses** is born to a Hebrew woman.
- His mother laid him in a basket and sent him down the Nile.
- She sent his sister **Miriam** to watch him.
- The daughter of **Pharaoh** discovered **Moses** and took him in as her own child.
- After **Moses** grew up, he found an Egyptian beating Hebrew slave.
- **Moses** killed the Egyptian.
- Fearing for his life, **Moses** fled from Egypt to a land called Midian.
- There, **Moses** married a woman named Zipporah.

**Exodus 3**
- Moses went to Mount Horeb.
- There, the Lord appeared to Moses in a burning bush (theophany).
- The Lord called Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt.
- The Lord told Moses that His name is YHWH (“I AM WHO I AM”).
- Moses’ brother Aaron is selected as his mouthpiece.

Exodus 7-12

- The Lord sends the ten plagues.
- Most of the plagues have a symbolic connection to an Egyptian deity. By sending the plagues, the Lord is proving that he is stronger than the Egyptian gods.
- Passover, the event where the Angel of the Lord passed over and spared the Hebrews, is instituted.

Exodus 14-15

- Moses leads the Hebrews out of Egypt to the Red Sea/Sea of Reeds.
- The sea splits, allowing the Hebrews to pass through.
- Moses and his sister Miriam sing songs of praise after they cross.

Exodus 16-17

- The Lord provides manna, meat, and water for the Hebrews to consume in the wilderness.

Exodus 19-40

- Moses on Mount Sinai.
- Moses’ Covenant: if Israel obeys, the Covenant will be kept.
- Moses received the Decalogue (10 Commandments).
- The 10 Commandments are apodictic (clearly established and always held).
- The laws are concerned with equal treatment of all.
- Instructions are given for the construction of the tabernacle.
- Aaron’s family are ordained Israel’s priests.

Golden Calf (Exodus 32-34)

- Israel immediately breaks the commandment of the Lord being their one and only God.
- God and Moses are angry.
- Moses broke the tablets of the 10 Commandments and returned to Sinai to get a new copy.

Order of the 10 Plagues
1) Water in the Nile turned to blood
2) Frog covering the land
3) Gnats/mosquitoes covering the land
4) Flies swarming everywhere
5) Death of cattle
6) Boils cover humans and animals
7) Destruction from hail
8) Locusts destroy crops
9) Darkness covers the land
10) Death of the firstborn of the Egyptians

Test your knowledge!
Answers are at the bottom of the document.

1) What are the names of the brave midwives who refused to kill Hebrew boys?
   a. Miriam & Zipporah
   b. Miriam & Sarah
   c. Pharaoh’s daughter & Zipporah
   d. Shiphrah & Puah

2) Why did Moses break the tablets that held the 10 commandments?
   a. He thought they weren’t strict enough and God needed to be clearer.
   b. He was angry at the Hebrews for building a golden calf to be an idol.
   c. He thought the rules were too strict and set an unfair expectation for the Hebrews.
   d. He was hungry.

3) Which festival, celebrated through the rest of the biblical text, originated from the 10 plagues?
   a. Rosh Hashanah
   b. Passover
   c. Yom Kippur
   d. Purim

4) What signs did YHWH give to Moses to display His power?
   a. Moses’ rod would turn into a serpent.
   b. Moses’ hand became leprous.
   c. a & b
   d. None of the above

5) What did YHWH provide for the Hebrews in the wilderness?
   a. Manna
b. Quail

c. Water

d. All the above

Answers: 1) d) 2) b) 3) b) 4) c) 5) d).