



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

Ph.D. in Biblical Studies: New Testament Entrance Exam Study Guide

The Ph.D. Entrance Exam in Biblical Studies: New Testament will consist of essay questions in two parts, each part approximately 3 hours in length.

Part 1 (the morning session) will assess readiness for work in Biblical Studies generally. You may have some choice concerning which questions to answer. More specific instructions will be given the day of the exam.

Part 2 (the afternoon session) will assess readiness for advanced work in your area of specialization. You may have some choice concerning which questions to answer.

Part 3 (the second day) will assess readiness for advanced work in Greek.

The exam will be closed book, so you will not be allowed to use any resources other than the writing instruments you bring with you and the writing paper and instructional materials that will be provided in your exam folder.

Applicants are expected to be prepared to write for 90 minutes on any of the following questions. Essays will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Relevance and Argumentation

- Students should give careful attention to the question and outline refined arguments. Student should incorporate & critically interact with relevant resources related to the field.

Writing Mechanics

- Students' responses should be intelligent, and precise. Reasonable arrangement of paragraphs and ideas should enhance a reader's understanding. Responses should be focused, and vocabulary varied. Responses should contain very few grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

Awareness of Relevant Scholarship

- Students should show awareness of seminal sources, major figures and pivotal events related to the field and incorporate and properly interact with resources related to the question.

Part 1: Biblical Studies (Area):

Archer, Gleason L. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, revised edition. Chicago: Moody, 1996 revised and updated paper.

Carson, D.A., Douglas Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Köstenberger, Andreas J., L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles. *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2nd Ed. Nashville: B&H, 2016.

Köstenberger, Andreas and Richard Patterson, *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic and Professional, 2011.

David Baker, *Two Testaments, One Bible: The Theological Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010.

Longman, Tremper III and Raymond B. Dillard. *An Introduction to the Old Testament*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.

Osborne, Grant. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*. 2d ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2006.

Part 2: New Testament (Concentration)

Guthrie, Donald. *New Testament Introduction*, Revised edition. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1990.

Metzger, Bruce M. *The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration*, Third enlarged edition. New York: Oxford, 1992.

Neill, Stephen and Tom Wright. *The Interpretation of the New Testament: 1861-1986*. Oxford University Press, 1988.

Black, David Alan and David S. Dockery. *Interpreting the New Testament*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2001.

For grammar the applicant should be acquainted with:

Wallace, Daniel. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*. Grand Rapid: Zondervan, 1996.

For a more thorough discussion of grammar the applicant may want to be acquainted with one of the following:

Robertson, Archibald T. *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of*

Historical Research. Nashville: Broadman, 1934 Reprint edition.

Blass, F. and A. Debrunner. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1973.

Questions:

1. Explain the hermeneutical “spiral” using insights from Osborne’s text. Note how one moves from text, to interpretation, to proclamation.
2. Discuss the value of historical background, literary analysis, and theological meaning of the Old Testament, using insights from Dillard and Longman and Köstenberger and Patterson.
3. Discuss the history of the documentary theory of the Pentateuch and its development into the 20th Century using the insights of Gleason Archer.
4. Discuss the formation of the New Testament canon using insights from Carson/Moo and Köstenberger, Kellum, and Quarles. Include major figures, dates, events, and documents in the church’s canonical discussions, the criterion by which the church recognized canonicity, and modern views of the relevancy of the concept of canonicity.
5. Discuss the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament. Include relevant biblical examples and the insights from Osborne and Köstenberger, Kellum, and Quarles.
6. Discuss the importance of proper procedure in identifying word meanings and identify at least three major exegetical fallacies, including specific examples from Scripture, using insights from Köstenberger and Patterson.
7. Discuss tasks and challenges unique to interpreting the Gospels genre. Illustrate your discussion with specific examples from Scripture and reference the relevant scholarly literature as appropriate.
8. What are some of the major methods in biblical studies that have been developed in the course of the twentieth century? Name major figures, works, and methods and give scriptural examples where relevant.
9. Trace the history of historical Jesus research with reference to major scholarly contributions and assess the value of the respective contributions from your own vantage point.
10. Discuss the ways that the Old and New Testaments have been understood, and can be understood, as related to one another theologically. Use specific insights from Baker.

11. Identify how typology functions in the New Testament.

12. Discuss the theme of the Messiah as a motif integrating the entire Scripture.