Advanced Standing Exam Study Guide
Dallas Theological Seminary Advanced Standing Program
(Updated 7.18.14)

Introduction

By applying for advanced standing you believe you can demonstrate competency in Bible and theology. The advanced standing exam is part of what the Advanced Standing Committee (the Committee) uses to assess your competency. You may discover through this process that you desire to address weaknesses of which you become aware. Do not be discouraged if that becomes apparent to you. Seminary education is a process of becoming better equipped to serve our Savior. To that end may we all aspire to subject ourselves to Him, and others, as we strive to be godly servant-leaders; to teach truth, and love well.

Overview of the Exam

This study guide is designed to prepare you for an objective exam, the questions of which have been divided into parts and drawn from the following DTS courses:

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Exam Preparation

Bible Exposition (BE) study guides used in DTS courses have been provided for your review (see attached). Please note that the advanced standing exam will reference a limited number of topics contained in these study guides.

Students should be also be familiar with central Bible passages relevant to each course and other key areas, including (but not limited to):
• Divine attributes
• Early church creeds and heresies
• Major controversies in church history (e.g., views of salvation, sacraments, Mary, Hell, etc.)
• Major issues in salvation
• Major theologians and church figures
• Views of creation, sin, and humanity
• Models and nature of church

In addition to the above material, students taking the ThM exam should also be familiar with:
• Spiritual life (e.g., Christian living, issues of faith, spiritual disciplines, etc.)
• Approaches to evangelism
• Key missionaries and missionary movements in history
• Philosophy of missions
• Key missional concepts
• Key concepts of Christian education (e.g., learning styles, assessment approaches, etc.)
• Best practices for Christian education in the church
• Sound research practices (e.g., academic paper elements, issues in plagiarism, Turabian form, etc.)
BIBLICAL LITERACY AREAS (BE102)

1. People

2. Places
Shechem, Bethel, Hebron, Sodom/Gomorrah, Beersheba, Peniel, Marah, Desert of Sin, Mt. Sinai, Kadesh, Edom, Moab, Peor, Mt. Nebo, Jericho, Ai, Gibeon, Hazor, Dan

3. Events/Ideas

4. Dates
C. 2000 (Abraham), 1446 (Exodus; Judges 11:26; 1 Kings 6:1), c. 1400 (Conquest of Canaan), 1350-1050 (Period of the Judges)

5. Background
Enuma Elish, Gilgamesh Epic, JEDP theory, Dating of the Exodus, Use of treaty language in Deuteronomy
BIBLICAL LITERACY AREAS (BE103)

1. People

2. Places/Nations
   Philistia, Aphek, Ramah, Gilgal, Mount Gilboa, Jerusalem, Samaria, Bethel, Dan, Mount Carmel, Jezreel, Syria (Damascus), Egypt, Assyria (Nineveh), Babylon

3. Events/Ideas
   Philistine wars under Saul/David, Journeys of the Ark: Shiloh to Jerusalem, Davidic Covenant, Building of the first Temple, Split of the Kingdom, Elijah’s confrontation with Baal, Elijah’s pilgrimage to Sinai, Sennacherib’s invasion of Judah, Reforms of Hezekiah and Josiah, Captivity of the Northern Kingdom, Destruction of Jerusalem/Temple, Exiles of the Southern Kingdom, Methodology of the Chronicler, Cyrus’ decree, Return under Zerubbabel, Rebuilding under Ezra, Rebuilding under Nehemiah, Feast of Purim, Message of Job, Message of Ecclesiastes, Message of Song of Songs, Interpretations of Song of Songs, definition of a proverb, where the Proverbs of Solomon occur, the difference between instruction and maxim

4. Dates (all dates B.C.)
   1051-1011 (Saul’s reign), 1011-971 (David’s reign), 971-931 (Solomon’s reign), 931 (split of Kingdom), 722 (Assyria takes Northern Kingdom), 701 (Sennacherib’s invasion of the Southern Kingdom), Three exiles of the Southern Kingdom (605, 597, 586), the three returns from exile (led by Zerubbabel in 537, led by Ezra in 457, and Nehemiah in 444)

5. Bible Texts
   The student will be expected to be able to identify significant biblical statements or phrases. In some cases the student will be required to identify the person who made the statement (“Who said it?”). In other cases, the student will be required to identify the Bible book in which a particular statement or phrase occurs (only the book will have to be identified, not the chapter or verse).
1. People
   Isaiah, Shear-Jashub, Immanuel, Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz, Hezekiah, Sennacherib, Jeremiah, Baruch, Hananiah, Shemaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Belshazzar, Darius, Hosea, Gomer, Jezreel, Lo-Ruhamah, Lo-Ammi, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Joshua the High Priest, Zerubbabel, Zechariah, Malachi, Elijah, last four Kings of Judah, Josiah, Ahaz, Uzziah, Antiochus, Alexander the Great, the Little Horn, King of Tyre

2. Places/Nations
   Assyria/Nineveh, Babylon, Persia, Edom, Thebes, Tyre, Israel, Judah, Samaria, Greece, Medo-Persia, Rome

3. Events/Ideas
   Day of the Lord, Righteous Branch, worthless vineyard, Isaiah’s commission, Servant Songs prediction concerning Cyrus, Jeremiah’s call, Potter, Pot, 70 years of captivity prediction and fulfillment, New Covenant, Ezekiel’s call, valley of dry bones, battle of Gog and Magog, Daniel’s dreams, Nebuchadnezzar’s dreams, fiery furnace, lion’s den, Hosea’s marriage, locust plague, visions of Amos, night visions of Zechariah, two shepherds, Ezekiel’s temple and worship, writing on the wall, the prophetic role, the messianic kingdom, application to ministry, prophetic genre, apocalyptic

4. Dates
   Date of each prophet’s ministry, deportations and returns, decrees permitting return from captivity

5. Messianic Prophecies
   Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; 11:1; 40:3-5; 42; 49; 52:13-53:12; 61:1-2; Jeremiah 31:15, 31-34; Hosea 11:1; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 6; 9:9; 11:12; 14; Daniel 9:24-27; Malachi 3:1-2

6. Historical backgrounds, arguments, structure, distinctives, and major theological contributions of each book covered
BIBLICAL LITERACY AREAS (BE105)

1. People
Mary mother of Jesus, Joseph, Angel Gabriel, Magi, King Herod, Simeon, Anna, Elizabeth, Zechariah, John the Baptist, Nathanael, Pharisees, Sadducees, Disciples (Simon Peter, Andrew, James son of Zebedee, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas Iscariot), Nicodemus, Samaritan woman, Sanhedrin, Mary sister of Martha, Martha, Lazarus, Zacchaeus, Pontius Pilate, Herod Antipas, Barabbas, Simon of Cyrene, Joseph of Arimathea, Mary Magdalene, Herodians, Syrophoenician (Canaanite) woman.

2. Places
Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Bethany, Jerusalem, Sea of Galilee, Jordan River, Dead Sea

3. Events/Ideas
Purpose of each Gospel, Matthew’s genealogy, Luke’s genealogy, Birth of Jesus, Baptism of Jesus, Temptation of Jesus, Jesus and Nicodemus, Jesus and the Samaritan woman, Jesus’ teaching on divorce, Sabbath Controversy, Jesus and Beelzebub (Mt 12:22-37), Sign of Jonah, Faith of the Canaanite woman (Mt 15:21-28), Peter’s confession of Christ, Transfiguration, Rich man and Lazarus, Beheading of John the Baptist, Raising of Lazarus, Triumphal entry, Temple cleansings, Cursing of the fig tree, Last Supper, Conflict in Gethsemane, Judas’ betrayal, Peter’s denial, Trials of Jesus, Death of Judas, Crucifixion of Jesus, Burial of Jesus, Resurrection of Jesus, Post-resurrection appearances of Jesus, Great Commission, Ascension of Jesus, Ending of the Gospel of Mark, Jesus as the Word (Jn 1:1-18), Testimonies concerning Christ (Jn 5:31-47), Seven “signs” in John, Seven “I am” statements in John

4. Discourses
Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7), Sending of the Twelve (Mt 10), Teaching on the Mysteries of the Kingdom (Mt 13), Discipleship Discourse (Mt 18), Woe Pronouncements (Mt 23), Olivet Discourse (Mt 24-25), “Lost” parables (Lk 15), Upper Room Discourse (Jn 13-17)

5. Parables (not recorded in discourses listed above)
Parable of the Tenants, Parable of the Wedding Banquet, Parable of the Good Samaritan, Parable of the Shrewd Manager, Parable of the Persistant Widow, Parable of the Minas, Parable of the Talents

6. OT quotations
BIBLICAL LITERACY AREAS (BE106)

1. People
For each of these people, (1) identify them uniquely, (2) identify what book and chapter they are most notable in, and (3) identify why they are significant (i.e., what purpose do they play in their book?).

- Theophilus: Luke
- Peter: Peter
- Matthias: Acts
- Ananias & Sapphira: Acts
- Herod Agrippa I: Acts
- Gamaliel: Acts
- Stephen: Acts
- Saul: Acts
- Philip: Acts
- Simon the Sorcerer: Acts
- Ethiopian Eunuch: Acts
- Aeneas: Acts
- Dorcas: Acts
- Barnabas: Acts
- John Mark: Acts
- Bar-Jesus: Acts
- Sergius Paulus: Acts
- Silas: Acts
- Jason: Acts
- Lydia: Acts
- Philip: Acts
- Philippian jailer: Acts
- Agabus: Acts
- Aquila & Priscilla: Acts
- Felix: Acts

2. Events and Ideas in Acts
For each of these, know where they are found, their background, and what is significant. For the purpose/message statement, be able to state in a sentence the subject and the purpose of the book.

- Purpose/Message of Acts
- Ascension of Jesus: 1st Missionary Journey: descent of John Mark at Perge in Pamphylia
- Selection of Matthias: 1st Missionary Journey: sermon at Antioch of Pisidia
- Coming of the H.S. on Pentecost: 1st Missionary Journey: stoning at Lystra
- Peter’s sermon in Acts 2: Council at Jerusalem
- Healing of the lame man: 2nd Missionary Journey: feud between Barnabas and Paul
- Peter’s sermon in Acts 3: 2nd Missionary Journey: Paul’s vision of the Macedonian man
- Death of James: 2nd Missionary Journey: events at Philippi
- Stephen’s speech to the Sanhedrin: 2nd Missionary Journey: riot in Thessalonica
- Stoning of Stephen: 2nd Missionary Journey: events at Athens
- Saul’s conversion: 2nd Missionary Journey: events at Corinth
- Peter’s vision of a sheet: 3rd Missionary Journey: events at Ephesus
- Church in Antioch: 3rd Missionary Journey: events at Miletus
- Saul’s travels before Antioch: 3rd Missionary Journey: events at Caesarea
- Peter’s escape from prison: Paul’s arrest in Jerusalem
- Death of Herod Agrippa I: Paul’s speech to Agrippa in Acts 26
- Paul in Rome: Paul’s journey to Rome (storm, shipwreck, events at Malta)
- Itineraries of Paul’s missionary journeys: 1st Missionary Journey: events on Cyprus

3. Key Ideas and Chapters in Paul’s Epistles
For each key idea and chapter topic, be able to link the topic with the Bible book. For each Bible book, know its date with respect to Paul’s journeys, the broad outline of the book and its purpose/message.

- Galatians 1–2: (defense of Paul’s authority)
- Galatians 3: (believer’s relationship to the law)
- Galatians 4: (the “allegory” about Abraham)
- Galatians 5:22-23: (fruit of the Spirit)
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11: (coming of Christ)
2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (events connected to Day of the Lord)
Itemize Paul’s communications with the Corinthians
1 Corinthians 5 (immoral brother)
1 Corinthians 7 (instruction concerning marriage)
1 Corinthians 8–10 (food sacrificed to idols)
1 Corinthians 11 (proper worship)
1 Corinthians 12–14 (spiritual gifts)
1 Corinthians 15 (resurrection)
2 Corinthians 8-9 (principles of giving)
Colossians 1:15-23 (supremacy of Christ)
Colossians 2:8-23 (Colossian heresies)
Colossians 3:18–4:1 (Christian relationships)
Philemon
1 Timothy 2 (proper worship in the church)
1 Timothy 3 (church leadership)
1 Timothy 5 (treatment of widows/elders)
Titus 1:5-9 (qualifications of elders)
2 Timothy 2 (instructions for Timothy)
2 Timothy 3:1-9 (godlessness in last days)
2 Timothy 3:16-17 (value of Scripture)
2 Timothy 4:1-8 (Paul’s final charge to Tim)
1. People
   Melchizedek, Elijah, Silas, Gaius, Diotrephes, Demetrius, Archangel Michael

2. Events/Ideas
   The Main Subject (Theme & Purpose) of Each Book, John’s Messages to the Seven Churches, Seven Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls, 144,000 Jews, Two Witnesses, The Woman and Dragon of Revelation 12, The Two Beasts of Revelation 13, Babylon of Revelation 17-18; Gog and Magog Order of events in Revelation

3. Key Passages

4. Quotations
   Be able to recognize the major quotations from the General Epistles, Hebrews, and Revelation. Example: “A priest after the order of Melchizedek” would be from Hebrews.
1. People
   Elimelech, Naomi, Mahlon, Kilion, Ruth, Orpah, Boaz, Obed, “Peloni-Almoni,” Jonah,
   Nineveh, Tarshish, Phoenicians, Assyrians, Paul, Abraham (in Rom.), Pharaoh (in Rom.)
   Timothy, Phoebe, Tertius, Gaius, Epaphroditus, knowledge of the cities of Philippi & Ephesus.

2. Concepts / Content Issues
   Categories / Groups of Psalms: Psalms of Descriptive Praise, Psalms of Declarative Praise,
   Psalms of Lament, Wisdom Psalms, Torah Psalms, Royal Psalms, Imprecatory Psalms, Psalms
   of Trust, “Passover Psalms,” “Psalms of Ascent,” “Halal Psalms”, “Global Outreach Psalms,”
   Jonah’s Psalm, “Messianic Psalms”—breadth and depth in concept; specific examples. Terms
   in/about the Psalms: Ascent, Strophe, Selah, Acrostic, Titles or Superscriptions; Parallelism—
   concept and patterns: synonymous, antithetical, synthetic (plus!); also, awareness of the
   discredited concept: Enthronement Psalms and Akitu Festival (a la S. Mowinckel) Book of
   Romans: Background, General Outline, Israel’s Future, Book of Ephesians: Background,
   General Outline, Women and Men issues, Armor of the believer; Book of Philippians:
   Background, General Outline; Salvation by Grace Alone, Grace in Torah vs. first century
   Legalism, Yahweh’s Purpose in His Torah (four points).

3. Key terms
   Hallelujah (mng. of Heb. word), Kinsman-Redeemer (Heb. gō‘ēl; better: “Protector of Family
   Rights”), Mercy (Heb. ḥesed; better: “Loyal Love”), Torah (mng. of Heb. word), Yahweh (mng.
   of Heb. word), Baal (basic concepts); Ugarit / Ugaritic texts, “God-fearers,” “Declared the Son”
   (Rom. 1:4), Righteousness (Gk. & Heb. words), Sin, Faith, Gospel, Hope, Salvation,
   Circumcision, All Under Sin, Propitiation, Condemnation, Justification, Law, Grace, Adoption,
   Sanctification, Foreknowledge, Election, Predestination, Mystery, Spiritual Gifts, Glorification,
   Adoption, Redemption, Liberty

4. Noteworthy / Characteristic Patterns / & Messianic Psalms
   1, 2, 3, 8, 13, 14, 16, 19, 22, 23, 24, 29, 34, 40, 45, 51, 60, 93,100, 104, 110, 113, 114, 117, 118,
   119, 122, 137, 142