

Reading Questions: Hebrew Bible

1. Why does Pharaoh refuse to let the Hebrews go?
2. Is there evidence in Exodus and Deuteronomy that other gods besides the Hebrew God exist?
3. How does Moses respond to God calling him to free the Hebrews?
4. What is a covenant? Who are the parties to the covenant discussed in Exodus and Deuteronomy? What are the terms of the covenant?
5. Are there parallels between the Exodus story and modern stories of national liberation?
6. Why do the Hebrews “answer with one voice” that they will obey God’s law in Exodus Chapter 24? What does this action mean? What are its consequences?
7. Is there evidence in Exodus and Deuteronomy that the Hebrew God has a body?
8. How ought one to live according to Exodus and Deuteronomy? Is it a picture of active human flourishing as in Aristotle? What must one do to live as we should?
9. On what basis does Moses rule the Hebrews? Where does his authority come from?
10. What form of government does Moses set up for the Jews after leaving Egypt?
11. What does Job think would happen if he were able to “summon” God to a trial? What reasons does Job give for why such a trial would be impossible?
12. Is the Euthyphro dilemma relevant to the story of Job? Why or why not?
13. What offense is Job in danger of committing?
14. Does God as depicted in Job care about justice? Does God behave justly in Job?
15. How would you characterize the viewpoint of the Teacher in Ecclesiastes? What words would you use to describe it?
16. Is the viewpoint of the Teacher in Ecclesiastes compatible with belief in a just and good God?