Fall 2023 Exegesis Exam

Ministry Context

Lamentations 3:19-33

At an upcoming service for healing and wholeness, you are preaching about lament in our lives of faith. The text you have chosen for that sermon is Lamentations 3:19-33.

Section I: Language, Historical Situation, and Scriptural and Theological Context

Language of the Text

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

First Required Response

In your study of Lamentations 3:19-33, you notice variant translations of verse 22:

> The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
>   his mercies never come to an end; (NRSV)

> It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed;
>   His compassions do not fail. (MEV)

Discuss the textual variants reflected in these translations, focusing on elements of Hebrew language, grammar, and syntax.

Discuss the interpretive implications between the given translations.

Based on your discussions, choose one of the given translations as a preferred translation of Lamentations 3:22 and justify your choice.

Limit your response to 600 words.

Historical Situation

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

Second Required Response

Discuss the historical events that led to the writing of the book of Lamentations.

Explain how this discussion informs your understanding of Lamentations 3:19-33.

Limit your response to 600 words.

Scriptural and Theological Context

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

Third Required Response

Identify and discuss the range of meaning of נֶפֶשׁ in each of these verses: Exodus 23:9, 1 Chronicles 28:9, Esther 7:3, and Ecclesiastes 6:7, 9.

Compare the uses of נֶפֶשׁ in Exodus 23:9, 1 Chronicles 28:9, Esther 7:3, and Ecclesiastes 6:7, 9 with its uses in Lamentations 3:20, 24, and 25.

Explain how this comparison informs your understanding of Lamentations 3:19-33.

Limit your response to 600 words.

Scriptural and Theological Context

Write an essay response to the following exegetical question. This response must *focus on the biblical text*. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section I.

Fourth Required Response

Compare Lamentations 3:19-33 with Job 10:1-12 and Psalm 79:1-13.

Explain how this comparison informs your understanding of Lamentations 3:19-33.

Limit your response to 600 words.

Section II: Careful and Critical Interpretation

Write an essay presenting your interpretation of Lamentations 3:19-33 based on your full exegetical study of the passage (not just material presented in Section I). Support your interpretation by a careful and critical analysis of the text that reflects the use of scholarly resources. *Limit your essay to 1,200 words*.

This essay must *focus on the biblical text* and provide a basis for your application in Section III: Application. Discussion of the ministry context is not expected in Section II.

Section III:

Application

Provide an outline or summary of themes for your sermon that addresses the required ministry context:

> At an upcoming service for healing and wholeness, you are preaching about lament in our lives of faith. The text you have chosen for that sermon is Lamentations 3:19-33.

Your work must be based on your careful and critical interpretation of the biblical text presented in Section II. *Limit your work to 600 words*.

Your response to Section III *must* address the ministry context.

Works Cited

In the text box below, provide a list of all resources cited in your exam responses. Do not include in this list any Internet link that includes any form of a personal name relating to your digital file storage (e.g., https://my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/jess_demo/...).