Study Guide for MABS Exam

OT geography and historical context

- Know geographical regions in Israel (4 longitudinal regions)
- Know bodies of water (rivers, oceans, etc.) in and around Israel
- Know ancient nations intersecting with Israel’s history

Historical Background to the Old Testament

- Know the dates of the exiles for both northern and southern kingdoms.
- Know the nations which carried off both kingdoms to exile
- Know the dates of the returns from exile

Pentateuch author and purpose

- Know author of Pentateuch
- Know books in the Pentateuch
- Know purpose of Pentateuch (read a good introduction to the OT)

Historical books key themes, theological emphases, and issues

- Know what events are covered in the historical books
- Know what OT books are in the “historical books”
- Know key theological themes in these series of books (read a good introduction to the OT for this)

Genesis

- Know key ideas in Genesis
- Be familiar with the creation vs. evolution debate
- Be familiar with the universal vs. local flood debate
- Know key events and chapters in the book: creation, fall, tower of Babel, call of Abraham, Abrahamic covenant in Genesis 15, sacrifice of Isaac, Jacob’s time at Bethel and Peniel, and prophesy of Shiloh.
- Know key people and their lives: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
Exodus
- Be familiar with 10 plagues and their overarching purposes
- Know the date of the Exodus
- Know key chapters and contents of plagues, Passover, Israel’s commissioned purpose (chapter 19), 10 commandments, tabernacle, and Golden Calf incident and surrounding events

Leviticus themes, theological emphases, and issues
- Know sacrifices in Leviticus 1-4
- Know overall theme of Leviticus
- Be familiar with Leviticus 10:1-3
- Know who can offer sacrifices
- Know what the Day of Atonement is

Numbers
- Know which tribes settled on the east side of the Jordan
- Know who Balaam was
- Know the general events of Numbers

Deuteronomy themes, theological emphases, and issues
- Deuteronomy’s structure is a covenant treaty structure
- Know the chapter for the shema and the blessings and curses
- Know the purpose of Deuteronomy

Joshua geography, places, events, dates, and content flow
- Know the order of Joshua’s campaigns
- Know the battles (and surrounding events) of Jericho, Ai, and Gibeon
- Know what happens at the end of the book of Joshua

Judges
- Be familiar with the judges
- Know the “downward cycle” that occurs in Judges
- Be familiar also with the latter half of the book (Judges 17-21)

Ruth
- Know the time of Ruth – when did it take place?
- Know the events that occur in Ruth
- Know the ending of the book of Ruth and why that is theologically significant
1 Samuel

- Know about the following people: Samuel, Eli, Saul, David, Jonathan.
- Know particularly a key physical characteristic about Eli and why that is theologically significant
- Be familiar with the theological significance of the ark sojourn (1 Sam 4-5)
- Be familiar with the failures of Saul
- Know who the true King of Israel is according to 1 Samuel
- Know chapters of David and Goliath, David’s anointing, Witch of Endor, and Saul’s death

2 Samuel

- Know significance of the Tel-Dan stele
- Know the downfall of David in 2 Samuel
- Know David’s sins in 2 Samuel
- Be familiar with chapter and content of Davidic Covenant
- Know the dates of David’s reign
- Know the following people: David, Amnon, Absalom, Joab, Uriah, and Bathsheba

1 Kings and 2 Kings

- Know the biblical stories of the following people: Jeroboam, Rehoboam, Elijah, Elisha, Naboth, Jezebel, Ahab, Asa, Jehu, Baasha, and Solomon
- Know the accounts of the fall of both northern and southern kingdoms

1 and 2 Chronicles

- Know the theological difference between Chronicles and Kings
- What is the structure that plays a dominant role in Chronicles?
- Know the overall structure of Chronicles
- Who is the focus of 1 Chronicles?
- Know the stories of Josiah and Uzziah.

Ezra

- Know Ezra’s (the person’s) background
- What structure was rebuilt in Ezra?
- What was the major problem that Ezra faced?
- Who was the king that allowed the exiles to return?
- Know Ezra 7:10

Nehemiah

- Know Nehemiah’s background
- What structure was rebuilt in Nehemiah’s time?
- Be highly familiar with the how the rebuilding process occurred
- Be also highly familiar with the spiritual revival that occurred in Nehemiah 8-10.
Esther

- Count how many times “God” is mentioned in Esther.
- Know the following people: Esther, Vashti, Ahasuerus, Haman, Mordecai

Wisdom Literature

- Know the different writers within the book of Proverbs.
- Know the theme of Song of Solomon
- Know the content of the following passages: Proverbs 1, 2, 6, 23, and 31
- Know the principle contrast in Proverbs

Job

- Know Job’s background
- Be familiar with God’s dialogues with Satan
- Know who Job’s “friends” were
- Be familiar with the ending of Job
- Know the main theme of Job

Psalms

- Know how Psalms is divided in the English Bible
- Be familiar with the key authors in the book of Psalms
- Be familiar with the terms acrostic, parallelism, and chiasm
- Identify the structure of Psalm 119
- Know the Psalms of Ascent

Ecclesiastes

- Know the themes in Ecclesiastes
- Know who wrote the book

Isaiah

- Know the overall structure of the book
- Know the content of the following passages: Isaiah 6, 7, 9
- Know what the Servant Songs are
- Which king does Isaiah prophesy about far in advance?
- Know what “Isaiah” means

Jeremiah and Lamentations

- Be familiar with Lamentations 3
- Know the historical context and impact of Jeremiah
- Be familiar with how Jeremiah was treated for his preaching
- Know Jeremiah 31
Ezekiel
- Know historical background to Ezekiel
- Be familiar with the vision of dry bones, Gog and Magog, divine chariot, eagle, and the branch.
- Know Ezekiel 36
- Know the background of Ezekiel as a person

Daniel
- Know the historical background of Daniel
- Know the 70 week prophecy
- Know the visions of the beasts and the goat and ram.
- Know the theological theme of Daniel.

Hosea – Malachi
- Know the themes of each individual book
- Know the personal background of each prophet
- Read through each book and be generally familiar with its content

Intertestamental History
- Know the ruling empire of New Testament times
- Know about the Maccabees’ revolt
- Know basic facts about King Herod’s background
- Know about the LXX

NT key themes and issues
- Know the overarching flow of the New Testament
- Know who wrote the most NT books
- Know the basic information of the NT canon

Synoptic Problem
- Know the basic tenets of the theory of “literary dependence” or “Mark priority”
- Know some basic reasons why those theories are wrong
- Know what is the best explanation of the similarities found in the gospels

Matthew
- Know the theme of Matthew
- Know the major discourses in Matthew
- Know the general contents of Matthew
- Know the places where Jesus pronounced woe
- Know who Matthew was written to
- Know the chapter of the Olivet Discourse and the Great Commission
Mark

- Know the problems with the ending of Mark
- Know the theological theme of Mark
- Know which apostle was associated with Mark
- Know the proposed audience of Mark
- Know the unique key word of Mark
- Know the key verse of Mark
- Be familiar with the miracle of casting demons into swine, the healing of the leper, and his casting out of a demon in the synagogue.

Luke

- Know the theological theme of Luke
- Know which apostle was associated with Luke
- Know the proposed audience of Luke
- Know Luke’s occupation
- Who does Luke write his gospel to?
- Be familiar with the parable of the prodigal son in Luke
- Be familiar with the “Christmas” story in Luke
- Be familiar with the following events: 10 lepers, Zacchaeus, commission of the 70, discussion about Herod in Luke 13.

John

- What is John’s theme?
- What heresy was John writing against?
- Know the key discourses, sayings, and miracles of Jesus in John
- Know the conversations of Jesus with Nicodemus and the woman at the well.

Acts

- Know the overarching theme of Acts
- Know the geographic progression in Acts
- Know the two major human characters of Acts
- Know the events of Acts 2, 9, and 15
- How many missionary journeys did Paul have in Acts?
- Know Paul’s interaction in Athens
- Know Peter’s interactions in the beginning of the book
- How does the book of Acts end?
Pauline Epistles' key issues

- Know the date of composition for the prison epistles
- Know what books are in Paul’s prison epistles and pastoral epistles
- Know the primary group against which Paul wrote

General Epistles' key issues

- Know which books belong into the general epistles classification
- Know who wrote these books

Revelation key issues

- Know the different views of interpreting Revelation
- Know the date of writing for Revelation
- Know the content of Revelation 20

1 Corinthians

- Know the problems of the Corinthian church
- Know the content of chapters 1-2 and 12-15

2 Corinthians

- Know what the purpose of 2 Corinthians
- Know the chapter which has Paul’s thorn in the flesh
- Know what is Paul’s boasting in 2 Corinthians
- Know the overall flow of the book

Romans

- Know the overall theme of the book
- Know the themes of chapters 1-3; 4-5; 6-8; 9-11; 12-16

Galatians

- Know the general content of the book
- Know the role of the law according to Galatians
- Know the major issue in Galatians

Ephesians

- Know the general structure of the book
- Know the general contents chapter by chapter
- Know the key word in chapters 4-6
Prison epistles

- Know the location of writing
- Know the content of Philippians and Colossians
- Know who Onesimus was

1 Thessalonians

- Be familiar with chapters, 1, 4, and 5

2 Thessalonians

- Be particular familiar with chapter 2
- Know the key issues in the book

1 Timothy

- Know the key topics in this book
- Know which chapter discusses woman’s roles and eldership
- Know overarching purpose of the book

Pastoral Epistles

- Know the historical background of Titus and 2 Timothy
- Know the content of Titus 1
- Know the content of 2 Timothy 4

Hebrews key

- Know what the overall purpose of Hebrews is
- Know authorship issues
- Be familiar with the chapters, 2, 6, and 10.

James key

- Be familiar with the overall theme of James
- Be familiar with the passages on trials and the tongue

1 Peter

- Know chapters 1, 3, and 5
- Know the general contents of the book

2 Peter and Jude

- 2 Peter and Jude were addressing what issue?
- Know the doctrinal significance of 2 Peter 1:20-21
- Know general content of each book
Johannine letters

- Know general contents
- Know the one addressed in each letter
- Know general themes of each book

Revelation key

- Know the structure of the book
- Know the seal, trumpet, and seal judgments
- Be familiar with the seven churches and the vision of Revelation 4-5
- Know the content of Revelation 20-22

Hamartiology

- Know the extensiveness of sin
- Know the term “original sin”
- Know the result of sin

Anthropology

- Know the issue of trichotomy vs. dichotomy
- Know the concept of image of God
- Know the terms "Creationism" and "Traducianism"
- Know how God made man and what His purpose for him is

Soteriology

- Know the contents of the acronym TULIP
- Know the difference between general and special call
- Know the concept of election
- Know the idea of justification by faith alone
- Differentiate justification, sanctification, and glorification
- Be familiar with the idea of regeneration

Eschatology

- Know the different views on this subject
- Know the following eschatological events: rapture, second coming of Christ, bema seat judgment, Great White Throne judgment, and Tribulation
- Know the role of Israel in the premillennial system
Angelology

- Know the major distinction within angels
- Know the destiny of demonic forces and Satan himself
- Know the opposing role that Satan has

Theology Proper

- Be familiar with God’s communicable and incommunicable attributes.
- Know the idea of the trinity.
- Be familiar with the idea of open theism.

Christology

- What is the hypostatic union?
- Know the work of Jesus Christ past, present, and future
- Define the nature of the atonement
- Know the different pre-incarnate appearances of Jesus Christ

Pneumatology

- Discuss the Holy Spirit in relation to the Trinity
- Know the Holy Spirit’s role in a believer’s life
- Defend the divinity of the Holy Spirit

Ecclesiology

- Be familiar with communion and baptism
- Be familiar with different structures of church government
- Be familiar with the distinction between church and Israel
- Be familiar with a biblical view on spiritual gifts
- Identify when the church began

Bibliology

- Know doctrines of inspiration, inerrancy, and perspicuity
- Know the concept of canon and the requirements for canonicity
- Be familiar with the concept of the authority of Scripture
- Know the distinction between general and special revelation