

Name _____

Date _____

The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith & Justice

Directed Reading Worksheet

Chapter 2, *Maps for the Journey*

Directions: Read carefully through Chapter 2 and then use the text as a reference to locate answers for the questions. All questions in this *Directed Reading Worksheet* are taken in sequential order from the chapter – first questions from the early sections of the chapter; last questions from the end of the chapter, etc. Answer **True or False** questions by circling the word True or False at the beginning of the question. **Fill-in-the-Blank** questions must often be answered with one than one word per blank. (Refer to your text often!) Write your own **Short Answers** for other questions.

1. To analyze something by its _____ involves looking at the circumstances in which it occurs.
2. One of the best ways to understand more about the Old Testament (OT) is to put the _____, uses and _____ of the books into context .
3. With the _____ context, we can also include the cultural and social factors of the day.
4. The events described in the Bible occurred between _____ - _____ B.C.
5. It is likely that the earliest forms of writing were _____ .
6. The famous _____ writing of ancient Egypt was finally deciphered in _____ after Napoleon's invasion of Egypt and the recovery of the _____.
7. Archaeological evidence shows that humans lived in the Palestinian region for over _____ years.
8. The fertile crescent is _____ .
9. “_____” arose in the land known to history as Canaan.
10. The most popular Canaanite god was _____. He was the god of rain and fertility.
11. The first twelve chapters of the book of Genesis contain stories about the origins of the world, humans, and varying cultures. It is often described as _____ history.
12. It is the book of _____ that formally introduces the Chosen People.
13. Israelite kings ruled beginning about _____ B.C.
14. Although tradition holds that Saul was the first king, _____ was the most significant early leader who managed to unite a diversified people against the immediate threat of the Philistines.
15. The main task of the historical writers of ancient Israel was to _____ .
16. The Old Testament is written primarily as _____ literature.
17. _____ is the most prominent feature of the Pentateuch.
18. The books of wisdom literature are intended to _____ .

19. The largest body of religious poetry in the Bible is the book of _____.
20. The largest collection of books in the OT is arranged under a subcategory Prophetic Books. This subcategory lists books by the so-called “_____” prophets.
21. _____ literature is often described as strange, bizarre, and involving highly symbolic visions.
22. True or False. The Old Testament must be read and interpreted in light of its historical, cultural and literary contexts.
23. True or False. The biggest motivation for writing in the ancient world was religious or spiritual.
24. True or False. Israel was called a “gift of the Nile” by the Greeks.
25. True or False. The Israelites were the first people to settle in the land of Canaan.
26. True or False. The Canaanites were a monotheistic people.
27. True or False. Although there was syncretism between the Canaanite and Israelite religion, the Israelite concern for justice and care for others was not shared by the Canaanites.
28. True or False. Many Canaanites converted to the Israelite religion.
29. True or False. The persistent problem of mixing Canaanite and Yahwist religious ideas resulted in a number of reform movements in Israel’s ancient history.
30. True or False. After the Exile, all the Jews returned to their homeland.

Short Answer

31. What can archaeology contribute to Biblical Studies?
32. What was significant about the discovery of the Rosetta Stone?
33. According to archaeology, the Israelites settled in the hills of Palestine rather than on the coastal plains where large cities were located. Why?
34. Canaan/Israel was located between two major civilizations--the Egyptian and Mesopotamian. How did this impact the lives of God’s Chosen People?
35. How would you explain the OT perspective of God as a warrior God? (Hint: Reading the OT in context is helpful in understanding this image of God.)

36. Early Israelite faith was based on 3 beliefs or practices:

a.

b.

c.

37. List some of the accomplishments of David's and Solomon's reigns.

38. What was so remarkable about the Babylonian Exile?

39. How did Jews of the Diaspora maintain their identity?

40. Identify the main activities of the Biblical Prophets.

a.

b.

c.