WORKSHEET # 1: Genesis 1

SPECIAL NOTE: No outside helps of any type—commentaries, study Bible notes, etc.—are to be used in any worksheets in OT 101 unless specifically stated to the contrary in a given worksheet. Read each question carefully and do your own work.

1. Genesis 1:1-3 (7 pts)

These verses are translated differently in different English Bible versions. Some of the differences are simply stylistic, whereas others are more substantive, revealing different understandings of the underlying (Hebrew) syntax. Note: In answering the questions below, look particularly at the syntactical relationships between verses 1, 2, and 3 in the different translations.

a. Write out four English translations of vv. 1-3, two from each of the following groups:
   Group 1: KJV, NKJV, NASB, RSV, JB, NJB, REB, NIV, NLT, ESV
   Group 2: NAB, NEB, NJPSV, NRSV
   You may access several of these at the following Web site: http://bible.gospelcom.net/

b. What are the issues arising from the different translations of these verses—particularly how verse 1 relates to verses 2 and/or 3, i.e., the syntactical relationships)—and what are the implications of each?

c. What light does John 1:1 shed on the translation—not necessarily the theology—of v. 1?

2. the heavens and the earth (verse 1) (6 pts)


b. What light does John 1:3 shed on this phrase?

c. What is the extent of this phrase? (That is, what does it include?) See Psalm 148:7 and Joel 3:15-16 for help here.

3. day (yôm): (7 pts)

a. Using an exhaustive concordance (paper or electronic) keyed to a “literal” translation (KJV, NKJV, NASB, RSV, ESV), look up and list every occurrence of the word day (yôm) in Genesis 1:1-2:4, sorting them according to meaning. That is, how is each occurrence used? Is the word used consistently in each case? What is/are the main way(s) that day is used in this passage?

b. How do you explain the lack of a concluding formula ("And there was evening and there was morning...") for Day Seven? How does Hebrews 4:1-10 speak to the issue here?

c. How do Psalm 90:4 and Joel 1:15 use the word day?

d. How does Exodus 20:9-11 use the use of day in Genesis 1:1-2:4?

e. To what extent can we be certain about the length of the creative days in Genesis 1, based on your study of yôm?