

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. YOUR PAPER SHOULD BE NO LONGER THAN 8 PAGES. NOTE THAT THIS SHORT LENGTH REQUIRES YOU TO DISTILL AND COMMUNICATE YOUR POINTS CLEARLY AND SUCCINCTLY. IN THE BODY OF YOUR ANSWER, EXPRESS YOUR UNDERSTANDING WITH YOUR OWN WORDS AND PHRASINGS. SUPPORT FACTUAL INFORMATION WITH FULL AND SPECIFIC CITATIONS. **DO NOT WRITE OUT, QUOTE, OR SIMPLY REWORD CITATIONS OR SECTIONS FROM THE ARTICLES, ETC. THAT YOU HAVE READ.** SUCH QUOTES OR PARAPHRASING WILL BE OMITTED FROM CONSIDERATION AND WILL COUNT AGAINST YOU IN GRADING.

1. What is the Merneptah Stela, and why does it figure in debates about early Israel? (2 points)
2. Using the accompanying map, delineate the areas of Philistine, Canaanite, and Israelite occupation as understood from current archaeological evidence (3 points).
3. For each of these three groups, name and describe three archaeological criteria by which they have been identified and distinguished from one another (2 points each = 18 points).
4. In one paragraph, explain the argument against using material evidence to distinguish Israelites (3 points).
5. Biblical texts locate religious belief as part of the bedrock of early Israelite identity. In her 2003 JBL article, Bloch-Smith cites evidence that Israel's religious identity was actually formed alongside and in conjunction with a developing ethnic identity. Describe two significant changes between early (i.e., Iron I) Israelite religious belief and later, consolidated (i.e., "Biblical") Israelite religious belief (2 points each = 4 points).
6. Bloch-Smith argues that the archaeological evidence from the Iron I period reveals when, how, and why early Israel came to regard itself as a singular ethnic group. In sum:
 - With what other group(s) did "early Israel" share cultural behaviors & ideas? Give two examples as revealed by archaeological evidence (3 points).
 - Against which group did early Israel define itself? When (in terms of specific centuries)? Why (meaning, what proximate cause or event spurred this reaction)? (3 pts.)
 - What four specific characteristics did Israelite self-definition include? (4 points)

A crowded land

The conquest narrative of Joshua lists the kings whom the Israelites defeated and their territories:

East of the Jordan, from the Wadi Arnon to Mount Hermon: King Sihon of the Amorites ... Also the territory of King Og of Bashan, [who] ruled over part of Gilead to the border of King Sihon ... West of the Jordan, in the hill-country, in the lowlands, in the Arabah, in the slopes, in the wilderness, and in the Negeb—[in the lands of] the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites—they were: the king of Jericho, the king of Ai, the king of Jerusalem, ... the king of Lachish, the king of Gezer, the king of Arad, ... the king of Hazor, the king of Ta'anach, the king of Megiddo, the king of Kedesh ... Total number of kings: 31.

Joshua was now old, advanced in years. The Lord said to him, "Very much of the land still remains to be taken possession of. This is the territory that remains: all the districts of the Philistines and all of the Geshurites, from the Shihor, which is close to Egypt, to the territory of Ekron on the north ... namely, those of the five lords of the Philistines—the Gazites, the Ashdodites, the Ashkelonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites ... further, all the Canaanite country from Mearah of the Sidonians to Aphek at the Amorite border ... *Joshua* 12.1-24, 13.1-13