UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
PIETERMARITZBURG CAMPUS
MAIN EXAMINATION: NOVEMBER 2014
BIST310 P2: BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

INTERNAL EXAMINERS: PROFESSOR GERALD WEST
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EXTERNAL EXAMINER: DR MARIUS NEL, STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

DURATION: 3 HOURS TOTAL MARKS: 100

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. This paper consists of 2 pages. Please ensure that you have both of them.
2. Answer FOUR (4) questions, ONE (1) from EACH section.
3. It is to your advantage to write clearly and legibly.
4. Bibles will be provided.

SECTION A
25 MARKS

1. In John 9:1-41 we have a typical example of different contending voices in the Bible. Compare and discuss the dominant theology of Jesus’ disciples and Jesus’ own theology. You must also discuss the negative and the positive impact of these theologies on people who are HIV positive.

SECTION B
Answer ONE question
25 MARKS

2. Elelwani Farisani argues that “Naboth’s garden was not just a vineyard, but it was a nahala, ie. an ancestral land (inheritance). It was a family property which was given to each family by God, who was regarded as the original landowner”. Drawing in detail on Farisani’s analysis of 1Kings 21:1-29, explain clearly the key issues this text identifies concerning land. When you have done this, briefly indicate how this biblical text might
assist South Africans to reverse the effects of the Land Act of 1913, so that the land might benefit all.

3. Do a careful exegesis of Genesis 1:26-27, explaining clearly how the detail of this text contributes to current issues in the debates around sexuality.

SECTION C
Answer ONE question
25 MARKS

4. 1 Samuel 8 is a text that deals overtly with an economic perspective of the monarchy. Do a careful exegesis of this text, explaining in detail the mechanisms of economic extraction of the tributary mode of production.

5. Genesis 19 is often used as a ‘biblical’ argument against homosexuality. In what ways does locating Genesis within its literary context (Genesis 18:1-19:11) provide a different understanding of what this biblical narrative is about? In your answer you should also briefly refer to how this story has been understood by other biblical texts, such as Isaiah 1:7-17, Ezekiel 16:49-50, and Luke 10:8-12. Conclude your answer with some personal reflection on the usefulness of Genesis 19 for contemporary discussions on ‘homosexuality’.

SECTION D
Answer ONE question
25 MARKS

6. Genesis 1:26 has been used to justify human exploitation of the environment. Biblical scholars, however, have argued that this text can be understood in a range of different ways that indicate that humans ought to be stewards of creation. Explain carefully the four ways in which scholars have interpreted this text. When you have done this, indicate briefly which of these four you find most convincing and why.

7. 2 Samuel 13:1-22 has been used to enable churches to engage with issues of violence against women. More recently, this same text has been used to enable churches to engage with issues of masculinity. Explain carefully what exegetical detail enables the issue of masculinity to become the focus of this biblical text. When you have done this, indicate briefly how you might use this kind of detail in your community to deal with the issue of masculinity.