



**MAR THOMA DIOCESAN SUNDAY SCHOOLS**  
**DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE**  
**2016 Diocesan Exam**  
**Grade 9**

Time : 90 Minutes

Maximum Score : 100 Points

**Section 1 – Multiple Choice. Circle the most appropriate response for the following question/statement. (25 x 1pt= 25 pts Total)**

1. On which day were the birds and the sea animals created?  
a. The fifth day    b. The fourth day    c. The first day    d. The seventh day  
**A L1 P1**
2. When the people of Israel asked for a King to rule over them, which prophet spoke to them about not forgetting God?  
a. Ethan    b. Samuel    c. Jesus    d. Elijah  
**B L2 P6**
3. Abraham had his first son \_\_\_\_\_ at the age of \_\_\_\_\_?  
a. Isaac; 86 years old    b. Isaac; 90 years old  
c. Ishmael; 86 years old    d. Ishmael; 90 years old  
**C L7 P27**
4. As part of the Covenant made by God to Abraham, what did Abraham have to do to keep the covenant?  
a. Sacrifice animals    b. Lead the people out of Egypt  
c. Circumcise the males in his house    d. None of the Above  
**C L9 P37 & 39**
5. Which of the following is **NOT** one of the four rites associated with the Covenant God made with Abraham?  
a. Setting up the stones of the altar    b. The oath made with the Covenant  
c. Placing different grains on the altar    d. A communion meal  
**C L16 P25**
6. What information or advice did the rich man initially want from Jesus?  
a. The way to inherit eternal life    b. The way to help the poor  
c. How to be born again    d. Why he should follow Jesus  
**A L20 P84**
7. What was the name of Bathsheba's husband?  
a. Jesse    b. Lot    c. Uriah    d. Kadir  
**C L8 P34**

8. The disciple named \_\_\_\_\_ is also known as Bartholomew.
- a. Matthew
  - b. Simon the Zealot
  - c. Nathanael
  - d. none of these

**C L10 P42**

9. Queen Esther's Jewish name was \_\_\_\_\_ which means \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Hadassah; Myrtle
  - b. Avishag; Rose
  - c. Anulat; Peace
  - d. none of these

**A L14 P59-60**

10. Which of the following people played a role in training and preparing Saul.

- i. before he met Jesus
- ii. after he met Jesus

- a. i. Gamaliel/ ii. Ananias
- b. i. Philip; ii. Ananias
- c. i. Gamaliel; ii. Timothy
- d. i. Cleophas; ii. Ananias

**A L16 P67 & 69**

11. Which of the following was not one of the types of offerings the Israelites were allowed/required to perform?

- a. Burnt Offering
- b. Fellowship Offering
- c. Grain Offering
- d. all of the above

**D L5 P19**

12. Who is the first martyr for the Christian faith?

- a. Stephen
- b. James
- c. Philip
- d. Thomas

**A L16 P68**

13. The Mosaic Covenant is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_ Covenant.

- a. Abrahamic
- b. Sinai
- c. Palestinian
- d. Davidic

**B L4 P15**

14. Hagar call God "El-Roi" because:

- a. God would bless her and promise her a son
- b. God would bless Isaac with descendants
- c. God promised he would bless Ishmael with descendants
- d. she was able to have seen God and still lived

**D L7 P27**

15. David ruled the Israelites for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- a. 30                      b. 40                      c. 70                      d. none of these
- B L8 P34**
16. \_\_\_\_\_ is a Jewish festival that celebrates the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt?
- a. Feast of Leavened Bread                      b. Passover
- c. Purim                      d. Feast of Tabernacles
- B L11 P49**
17. \_\_\_\_\_ helped Saul to regain his sight.
- a. Stephen                      b. Ananias                      b. Barnabas                      d. Silas
- B (L16 P66, 70)**
18. \_\_\_\_\_ helped with rebuilding Jerusalem when the Israelites returned from exile.
- a. Jeremiah                      b. Ezekiel                      c. Ezra                      d. Isaiah
- C L11 P49**
19. Paul was accompanied by a Levite named \_\_\_\_\_ on his first missionary journey.
- a. Ananias                      b. Sapphira
- c. Barnabas                      d. Bartholomew
- C L18 P77**
20. \_\_\_\_\_ was a very respected person and member of the Sanhedrin.
- a. Barnabas                      b. Nicodemus                      c. Jesus                      d. James
- B L17 P73**
21. The book of \_\_\_\_\_ is known as a book of war.
- a. Joshua                      b. Judges                      c. Numbers                      d. Deuteronomy
- D L13 P56**
22. \_\_\_\_\_ is the meaning of the name Jeremiah.
- a. Praise the Lord    b. Yahweh Exhalts    c. God is with us    d. none of these
- B L11 P47**
23. The book of Psalms can be divided into \_\_\_\_\_ sections.
- a. 3                      b. 4                      c. 5                      d. 6
- C L3 P11**
24. The word “bara” means to \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. love                      b. sacrifice
- c. to create out of nothing                      d. to have dominion over all earth
- C L1 P2**

25. The rich man ultimately walked away from Jesus' calling because he \_\_\_\_\_.
- claimed to have kept the 10 commandments and thought that was enough
  - didn't believe that Jesus could actually offer eternal life
  - believed none of the poor people wanted his possessions
  - had great wealth and possessions and did not want to give that up

**D L20 P84**

**Section 2 – Short Answers. Answer any four (4) of the following questions. Answers should be brief and to the point. (4 x 5pts = 20 pts Total)**

1. Nicodemus met Jesus at night and told him that in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, one must be "born again" or "born of water and the Spirit."  
What does it mean to be born again? **2.5 pts**  
What example(s) did Jesus use when he referred to being born of the Spirit? **2.5 pts.**

**L17 P72-74**

- **Nicodemus met Jesus at night and told him that to enter the kingdom of heaven, one must be born again or born of water and the Spirit.**
  - **Being born again means being transformed from the inside out or becoming a new creation in Christ.**
  - **Jesus lives inside of you and so you behave differently from how you used to behave**
  - **Examples; Jesus compared being born again to the wind. You can't see it but you can feel it and you know where it is blowing.**
  - **Another example: Jesus being lifted up being compared to Moses lifting up the bronze serpent.**
2. Sometimes even after God makes great promises to us, we still give into doubt and uncertainty. Thinking back to the story of Abraham, Hagar and Ishmael:  
Explain what led to Abraham not trusting God.  
What were the consequences of his action?  
How did God respond to Abraham and what did God promise Hagar and Ishmael?

**L7 P28-29**

- **God promised Abraham a nation of descendants but since Abraham was old, he and his wife wondered how they would have children. So Sarah encouraged Abraham to have a child through her maidservant Hagar.**
- **Consequence: Ishmael was the child born to Hagar. As a result of Abraham's action, both Hagar and Ishmael treated Sarah and Isaac scornfully or looked down upon them. This created tension in the household.**
- **Consequence: As a result, Sarah grew angry and made Abraham force Hagar and Ishmael out of her household.**
- **God reminded Abraham that Isaac would be the chosen son through which Abraham's descendants would follow.**
- **God promised Hagar that Ishmael's descendants would also turn into a great nation.**

3. "Human beings are the crown of God's creation." Explain this statement in detail. **5 pts.**

**L1 P2-4**

- **To understand who we are in God, we need to begin knowing that we are made in the image of God. We are special, the crown of His creation.**
  - **We are unique and different from every other aspect of divine creation. Man is distinct in his moral, intellectual and spiritual capacities. Truly, human life is valuable because every human being, even with all our flaws and faults are still made in the image of God.**
  - **What is man's purpose in creation? God gave man "dominion" over all creation. When God said, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and 2. have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth", he had the "big picture" in mind.**
  - **In the original Hebrew text, "dominion" does not mean "to dominate", "to exploit" or "to control", instead, it means "to be responsible for". God appointed man as "stewards" over His creation;**
  - **He gave us a responsibility.**
4. How did God use Joshua to win the battle of Jericho? **1 pt.**  
What was their battle strategy (how did they approach the city of Jericho)? **2 pts.**  
Who did they spare and why? **2 pts.**

**L13 P56-57**

- **God instructed the Israelites to march around the walls of Jericho for seven days.**
  - **Order of procession was soldiers, priests, ark of covenant and more soldiers**
  - **Warriors remained silent as they circled the city for six days except for the 7<sup>th</sup> day.**
  - **When they invaded Jericho, they were told to put certain items into the treasury like metal, gold, silver and vessels of bronze and iron.**
  - **They Spared Rahab the prostitute who had provided refuge to the spies that had invaded them previously.**
5. In the Garden of Eden and in the wilderness, God gave his people commandments to follow. What was the purpose of the commandments God gave, especially the 10 commandments? **1 pt.**  
What were they meant to prevent people from doing? **1 pt.**  
Did this work? **1 pt.**  
How did God display His love for his people? Why? **2 pts.**

**L4 P15-16**

- **Purpose of the commandments is to provide a path or direction in doing what is right in the sight of God**
- **To prevent them from sinning before God**
- **Although the commandments were given, Adam and Eve and the Israelites still sinned before God.**
- **God sacrificed his son Jesus Christ on the cross for the sins of the world.**
- **He did this so we could reestablish our relationship between God and man that was lost in the Garden of Eden.**

6. Explain why the book of Isaiah is called a miniature Bible. **2 pts.**  
List three topics that Isaiah addressed during his ministry as a prophet in his writing? **3 pts.**

*(Hint: The first chapter of Isaiah is broken out into 2 major sections: the current situation of Israel and God's Solution)*

**L15 P63-64**

- **The book of Isaiah consists of 66 books. First 39 address Old Testament issues and prophecies. Second 27 books address New Testament Themes. 2 pts.**

**Any 3 of the below answers 3 pts. max**

- **Book of Isaiah addresses the problem of sin and rebellion towards God**
- **Isaiah addressed as Israel as an isolated conquered lot in a state very similar to Sodom and Gomorrah.**
- **Adopted Pagan Rituals**
- **Sacrifices became meaningless**
- **Isaiah reminds people that God wants them to obey his commands and he would restore them**

**Section 3 – Memory Verses. Complete any of five (5) of the following. (5 x 5pts = 25 pts. Total)**

1. Not everyone **who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.** - Matthew 7:21  
**(L16 P71)**
2. David said to Nathan, **“I have sinned against the LORD.”** Nathan said to David, **“Now the LORD has put away your sin; you shall not die.** – 2 Samuel 12:13  
**(L8 P36)**
3. I will establish **my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring** after you. – Genesis 17:7  
**(L9 P41)**
4. After these **things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”** – Genesis 15:1  
**(L6 P26)**
5. For if you keep **silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for such a time as this.** – Esther 4:14  
**(L14 P61)**
6. Jesus answered him, **“Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”** – John 3:3  
**(L17 P74)**

**Section 4 – Mar Thoma Church: Our Foundation and Vision. Circle the most appropriate response for the following question/statement. (10 x 1pt= 10 pts. Total)**

1. What is the role of the Sabha Council?

- a. To oversee general parish activities
- b. To review the diocesan website and circulars
- c. To help the Metropolitan in the general administration of the Church and carrying out decisions of the Mandalam
- d. To make the questions for the Diocesan Exam

**C MTFV P202**

2. After how many months does the Church accounts have to be presented to the Church Executive Committee?

- a. 3
- b. 4
- c. 5
- d. 6

**A MTFV P202**

3. Which of the following is **NOT** a sacrament?

- a. Holy Communion
- b. Baptism
- c. Offertory
- d. Unction

**C MTFV P199**

4. The Mar Thoma Church has \_\_\_\_\_ forms of ordained ministry.

- a. One
- b. Two
- c. Three
- d. Four

**C MTFV P200**

5. Candles lighted during Holy Communion symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. fight against darkness
- b. presence of God
- c. expression of power
- d. none of these

**B MTFV P199**

6. \_\_\_\_\_ is believed to be the founder of the Roman church.

- a. St. Thomas
- b. St. Peter
- c. St. John
- d. Emperor Constantine

**B MTFV P190**

7. Which of these is **NOT** one of the reforms made by Abraham Malpan?

- a. He translated the liturgy into the local language of the people
- b. He preached that salvation is through the grace of God
- c. He canonized all the holy martyrs of India as Saints for the church
- d. All of these

**C MTFV P2194**

8. \_\_\_\_\_ was an explorer who was responsible for ushering Roman Catholicism into India.

- a. Ferdinand Magellan
- b. Giovanni DeVerrazano
- c. Vasco de Gama
- d. Christopher Columbus

**C MTFV P192**

9. The bishops of our church wear the “masnapsa” \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. As a symbol of their submission and sacrifice
- b. Because the cross on it represents the number of years they have served as a bishop
- c. As a symbol of the bishop’s authority over priests and deacons
- d. All of these

**A MTFV P200**

10. The laity members make-up \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the Sabha Prathnidhi Mandalam.

- a. 35
- b. 45
- c. 55
- d. 65

**D MTFV P201**

**Section 5 – Mar Thoma History Short Answer. Answer one of the following questions. Answers should be brief and to the point. (1 x 5pts = 5 pts Total)**

1. The liturgy and faith practices of the Mar Thoma church was based on the relationship between the church in Kerala with the East-Syrian and Persian church.
- Describe the sequence of events that led to the establishment of the "Crooked Cross Oath". **3 pts.**
  - What did this oath ensure for the Malabar church? **1 pt.**
  - What does this oath remind us of? **1 pt.**

**MTFV P192-93**

- 3 pts. {
- **The Portuguese became a dominant power and brought Roman Catholicism to the Thomas Christians.**
  - **In addition to conquests and commerce, the Portuguese's mission was to bring the Indian church under the Roman ecclesiastical supremacy.**
  - **The synod of Diamper forced the Indian church to accept Roman doctrine and practices (1599)**
  - **The Malabar Church asserted its freedom and regained its autonomous nature by taking this oath. 1 pt.**
  - **This oath reminds us of the tragic split that took place in the ancient Indian Church; one continuing in the old tradition and the other accepting Roman Catholicism. 1 pt.**

2. List and explain any five elements or components of worship used in the Mar Thoma Church.

**MTFV P198-99 1 pt. ea. (max 5)**

- **Worship:** Worship of God through a corporate body experience which allows us to focus more on worshipping God as a corporate body rather than individuals.
- **Liturgy:** Use of liturgy with theological phrases and scriptural portions
- **Symbolism:** Placing of the altar towards the East since the sun rises in the east
- **Incense:** Represents Sweet smelling sacrifice and prayers rising towards God
- **Candles:** Representing the presence of God and that believers are called to be the light of the world
- **Vestments:** Garments worn by the priest
- **Gestures:** Outward expression of inner penitence, submission, and respect in the presence of God

**Section 6 – Essay. Choose one of the following two topics to write an essay in 200 words. (Total 15 points)**

1. In the story of Ananias and Sapphira, explain how God does not tolerate deception. What lesson in this story do you feel you can relate to? Give an example(s). Why is it so important to not let lies and deception affect the church?

**L18 P76-79** *The following is only a suggested response. Actual answers can vary.*

- **During the time of the Apostles, many believers were selling their lands and properties and placing the proceeds at the feet of the apostles. Ananias and Sapphira were husband and wife and sold a piece of property but they kept back a part of the sale proceeds for themselves. When Peter came to the church, Ananias came and placed the money at the feet of the apostles as if he had given all of the money he received from the sale of the land. His wife Sapphira also lied to Peter when Peter asked if what they gave was the full price of the property. Both Ananias and Sapphira died as result of their responses and their bodies were carried out.**
- **In this story, it is not the fact that Ananias and Sapphira kept back a part of the sale for themselves that was the problem. Peter reminded Sapphira that the decision to sell the property was and offer the sale money was theirs. The problem was that they lied to God to make themselves appear holy or holier than the other believers. It was important for everyone to see that God did not want his church to be a place where people spread lies and rumors. God did not want people to believe lying and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ could go hand in hand.**
- **Lying and deception are a major hindrance to the work of the Holy Spirit and can create friction in the church. In this case, God was preventing the church from becoming a place of competition and pride. Spreading the good news requires an environment of fellowship and openness and humility. Pride and deception have no place in the church and in the heart of any follower of Jesus.**

2. In the passage below, Jeremiah speaks of two different covenants.  
 What are the two covenants?  
 Describe the covenants their differences?  
 Which covenant do you think we fall under and why?  
 Discuss some of the highlights or themes in Jeremiah 31 how they can impact people today.

*<sup>31</sup> The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.*

*<sup>35</sup> Thus says the Lord,  
 who gives the sun for light by day  
 and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night,  
 who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—  
 the Lord of hosts is his name:*

*<sup>36</sup> If this fixed order were ever to cease  
 from my presence, says the Lord,  
 then also the offspring of Israel would cease  
 to be a nation before me forever.*

*<sup>37</sup> Thus says the Lord:  
 If the heavens above can be measured,  
 and the foundations of the earth below can be explored,  
 then I will reject all the offspring of Israel  
 because of all they have done,  
 says the Lord.*

(Jeremiah 31:31-37)

**L11 P47-49** *The following is only a suggested response. Actual answers can vary.*

- **The Old and New Covenant**
- **The Old Covenant made with Moses represents the Laws of the Old Testament. A right relationship with God could only be established by following the 10 commandments and other related laws. The laws were written on stones but not in the hearts of the people. The penalty for breaking the commandments was death. Old covenant was used mediators between God and man. The old covenant used animal sacrifices to illustrate how blood would need to be shed for forgiveness.**
- **The New Testament covenant was the covenant with Jesus Christ. The laws of God would be written in the hearts of the believers. The new covenant was one in which God would forgive the sins of his people and remember their wickedness no more. This is possible through the life and death of Jesus Christ on the cross. In the new covenant, Jesus Christ becomes the mediator of the new covenant. His sacrifice puts an end to need to continually sacrifice an animal. In the new covenant, God enters**

**into a deep intimate relationship with each person and offers true forgiveness.**

- **Jeremiah lived in very troubled times. The nation of Israel was falling apart and people were committing wickedness and immorality and were losing sight of God's love and commandments. The people of Israel were invaded by Babylon and were under Babylonian exile for almost 70 years. However Jeremiah 31 discusses some themes such as:**
  - **Homecoming of the Jews from Babylon and their rebuilding and restoration**
  - **End of Rachel's mourning: Symbolizing an end to Israel's spiritual grief**
  - **Gathering of Judah**
  - **Future blessings**
- **This passage can impact people today because it shows how God had a plan to deliver humanity through the sacrifice of Jesus. Through Jesus we can enter into a real living relationship with God. We can have a relationship where God writes his laws on our hearts and where we can be forgiven of our past and move forward into the future.**