1. General Information

1.1 All articles and critical notes submitted for publication are expected to conform to the requirements set forth here. If a manuscript departs from these instructions in major ways, it will be returned to the author for corrections before it is considered for publication. **Note that failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in delays in the processing of your article.**

1.2 A searchable PDF of the manuscript should be submitted in what the author intends as its final form. Please do not submit an MSWord file. *JBL* no longer accepts manuscripts submitted in hardcopy. Only one article or note may be submitted at a time. Send submissions in PDF format by email attachment to: [JBL.submissions@sbl-site.org](mailto:JBL.submissions@sbl-site.org).

1.3 During the peer-review process, the confidential nature of the submission will be protected. The author can assist with this by not citing his or her own work in the article, and omitting any acknowledgments or reference to previous versions or presentations of the essay.

1.4 The directives of *The SBL Handbook of Style*, 2nd ed. (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2014) are to be followed, supplemented by *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010). The American style of spelling is to be used. See *The SBL Handbook of Style*, §3 for a list of authorities for spelling.

1.5 Authors of articles selected for publication will receive one set of page proofs, which they are expected to read carefully, check against the manuscript, correct, and return promptly.

2. Submission

2.1 The manuscript should be sent as a PDF by email attachment.

2.2 A **one-page** cover page should be the first page of the pdf and should include:
   a) The name, address, and email of the author. The author’s name should not appear on the manuscript itself.
b) A statement certifying that the article is not being submitted simultaneously to another journal. Articles that have appeared or are to appear elsewhere, or whose substance has appeared or will appear in print, whether in English or in another language, should not be submitted.

c) The title of the article. The article title should also be repeated at the beginning of the manuscript.

d) An abstract of 150 to 250 words. The abstract should not appear at the head of the article, but on the cover sheet only.

e) The total word count of the article, including footnotes.

3. Form of the Manuscript

3.1 The maximum length of a submission is 10,000 words. This is the equivalent of about 38–40 pages that meet the specifications in 3.2. Pages should be of standard size. Legal-size paper is not to be used. Please note that essays that exceed this word limit will be returned to the author for revision.

3.2 Manuscripts should be double-spaced and in 12-point font, including footnotes. Indented quotations may be single-spaced. Margins of 1 to 1.25 inches are to be left on all edges of the paper.

3.3 Non-Latin scripts such as Hebrew and Greek must be provided in a Unicode font such as SBL Hebrew and SBL Greek, which are available for download at http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/biblicalfonts.aspx.

3.4 Words to be printed in italics (e.g., titles of books and periodicals, foreign words) should be italicized in the manuscript. Words and letters to be printed in caps should appear in caps in the manuscript.

3.5 Special material (e.g., lists, tables, diagrams) should be included in the manuscript where they are to appear in the main text, using your word processor’s tables function.

3.6 In articles or critical notes discussing biblical verses, the author should provide the reader with the text of the verse (at least in an English translation) at the beginning of the discussion.

3.7 Overcapitalization is to be avoided (e.g., biblical, temple). See The SBL Handbook of Style, §4.3.6.

4. Quotations

4.1 Quotations of five or more lines in any language will be printed as a separate indented paragraph, in smaller type than that used in the body of the article, and without opening and closing quotation marks. Quotations should appear in that fashion in the manuscript.
4.2 Respect for accuracy in verbatim quotations demands that the spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviations of the original be reproduced exactly, even if they differ from the style of this journal. Should a quotation contain an error, this may be indicated by [sic] or [?], at the author’s discretion.

5. Footnotes

5.1 Authors should use the footnote function of their word processor to create the footnotes (please do not use endnotes). Footnotes should be in 12-point font and double-spaced. A raised arabic numeral (without punctuation or parentheses) should follow the appropriate sentence in the main text (and its punctuation, if any) to call attention to the note. Footnote references should be placed at the end of the sentence to which it belongs.

5.2 Multiple notes within one sentence should be avoided. For example, when several names occur in one sentence and a bibliographical reference is to be given for each, only one footnote should be used (not a separate footnote for each name). This should be placed at the end of the sentence and should include the pertinent reference for each name.

5.3 When a note comments on an issue and includes a bibliographical reference within a sentence, the reference should be set entirely within parentheses, not commas, and if possible at the end of the sentence. Example: But Charles C. Torrey thinks that the name “Cyrus” has been interpolated in Isa 45:1 (“The Messiah Son of Ephraim,” JBL 66 [1947]: 253).

5.4 Footnotes should include the full name of the author cited, unless the author only uses initials.

6. Reference Style

Articles submitted to JBL should follow the traditional documentation style outlined in The SBL Handbook of Style, §6. You do not need to include a bibliography with your initial submission, however, one will be required should your article be accepted for publication. Articles submitted using the author-date system will be returned to the author for revision.

7. Hebrew, Greek, etc.

7.1 Ordinarily, Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, and Coptic—whether a block of material is quoted or just a word or phrase—should not be transliterated, but given in the proper characters. The unpointed consonantal text of Hebrew or Aramaic is to be used, unless the argument calls for the vocalized form of the words. Please use a Unicode font for all non-Latin scripts.

7.2 Whether or not one transliterates, an English translation should normally accompany at least the first occurrence of any Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, or Coptic word.

7.3 In cases where transliteration seems appropriate, the systems specified in The SBL Handbook of Style, §5, should be used.
8. Citations of Ancient Texts and Abbreviations of Ancient Texts

See The SBL Handbook of Style, §§8.1–3.

9. Abbreviations of Commonly Used Periodicals, Reference Works, and Serials

See The SBL Handbook of Style, §8.4. Titles not found in this list are to be written out in full.

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