THE JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE,
135 YEARS AS THE FIELD’S FLAGSHIP JOURNAL

The SBL has long and proudly called JBL the flagship journal of the field of biblical studies. This is no empty statement. According to the Arts & Humanities Citation Index, JBL is the biblical studies journal most frequently cited in academic publications: it is cited nearly twice as often as the average biblical studies journal and 18 percent more often than its closest competitor. As further evidence of JBL’s flagship status, Project MUSE recently added JBL to its Standard Collection because of JBL’s high MUSE score and high-quality content. This distinction is another indication of JBL’s superlative value within the academy—and for the academy. That JBL continues to be regarded as the flagship journal of the field is further demonstrated not only by its relatively stable subscription numbers (in a challenging library market) but also by the interest it generates from outside vendors. In fact, JBL is available electronically via JSTOR (1890–2006), ATLA (1943), EBSCO (1973–), and other online outlets, as well as through the Accordance and Logos software systems.

In addition to being the flagship journal for biblical studies, one that ensures that its articles receive the most extensive exposure among fellow scholars, JBL is one of the lowest-priced journals in the field. Maintaining a society-owned journal benefits every member and the entire discipline. To that end, SBL works tirelessly to keep JBL’s costs down and its price for libraries low, to provide JBL freely as a benefit to all members around the world, and to maintain a commitment to contemporary relevance within a tradition of extraordinary high quality.

In 2014, JBL published nearly nine hundred pages of biblical scholarship, spread across four issues distributed both in print and online. This volume of the journal included forty-six full-length articles and critical notes. The 2015 volume will see the publication of some forty-five articles engaging a variety of topics across and beyond the biblical canon from varying ideological and methodological perspectives. With a growing diversity of articles, in terms of both subject matter and approach, JBL aims to reflect the range of sources, perspectives, and methodologies that are in use in the field of biblical studies at our own moment in time and to continue to change so that we remain at the forefront of academic biblical studies.

While the journal has changed and developed throughout its history, along with the field of biblical studies itself, one constant has been the emphasis on quality. Thanks to the efforts of General Editor Adele Reinhartz and the forty international members of the editorial board, we anticipate continued excellence and further growth for JBL in years to come.
Like other learned society journals, *JBL* is a core service to SBL members that is provided online as a member benefit. In addition, its presence in the libraries of our members is critical to its contribution to the field, to SBL's role in scholarly communication, and to the advocacy SBL makes in higher education.

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