



JBL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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 a submitted manuscript.**

1.2. The directives of *The SBL Handbook of Style*, 2nd ed. (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014) (abbreviated *SBLHS*) 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 *SBLHS* §3 for a list of authorities for spelling.

1.3. 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 hard copy.

1.4. Submit manuscripts online in PDF format to [Scholastica](#). For an overview of working with Scholastica as an author, please consult the [author guide](#) provided by Scholastica. Any technical or software questions should be directed to Scholastica [customer support](#).

1.5. By submitting a manuscript to *JBL* for review, the author certifies that it is not being submitted simultaneously to another journal. Authors should not submit manuscripts that have appeared previously, that will appear elsewhere, or whose substance has appeared or will appear in print elsewhere, whether in English or in another language.

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

1.7. Because of the high number of manuscripts submitted to *JBL*, the review process can last approximately nine months. Authors will receive notification once a decision has been reached. Questions regarding the status of a submission should be directed to [Chris Holmes](#).

1.8. Authors of manuscripts 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. Authors will also receive a digital offprint of their article and a copy of the issue upon publication.

2. Form of the Manuscript

2.1. The maximum length of a submission is 10,000 words, including footnotes, roughly equivalent to 38–40 pages following the specifications in 2.2. Manuscripts that exceed this word limit will be returned to the author for revision.

2.2. Manuscripts should be double-spaced and in 12-point font (including footnotes), with margins of 1 to 1.25 inches on all sides.

2.3. 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 [here](#).

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

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

2.6. Overcapitalization is to be avoided (e.g., biblical, temple). See *SBLHS* §§ 4.3.2.3 and 4.3.6.

2.7. Abbreviations should follow *SBLHS* §8, including abbreviations for primary sources (§8.1–3) and for reference works and serials (§8.4). Titles not found in *SBLHS* should be written out in full.

3. Quotations

3.1. Block quotations (five or more lines) in any language should be printed as a single-spaced, separate indented paragraph without opening and closing quotation marks in the same font and point size as the normal text.

3.2. Shorter quotations (five or less lines) require quotation marks in the same font and point size as the normal text.

3.2. Authors are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of verbatim quotations, including the exact reproduction of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviations, even if they differ from the style of this journal. For correcting errors in quotations, see *SBLHS* §2.1.4.

4. Footnotes

4.1. 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.

4.2. Multiple notes within one sentence should be avoided. When several names requiring bibliographic references occur in one sentence, only one footnote should be placed at the end of the sentence, which includes pertinent references to each name.

4.3. When a note 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).

4.4. Footnotes should include the full name of the author or editor cited, unless he or she uses only initials.

5. Ancient Languages

5.1. Ordinarily, Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, and Coptic should not be transliterated but given in the proper characters in Unicode fonts. The unpointed consonantal text of Hebrew or Aramaic is to be used, unless the argument calls for the vocalized form of the words.

5.2. An English translation normally accompanies at least the first occurrence of any Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, or Coptic word or phrase.

5.3. In cases where transliteration seems appropriate, the systems specified in *SBLHS* §5, should be used. For Hebrew, use the academic style in §5.1.1.

6. Reference Style

Manuscripts submitted to *JBL* should follow the traditional documentation style outlined in *SBLHS* §6. Authors do not need to include a bibliography with their initial submission; however, they will be required to do so should the article be accepted for publication. Manuscripts submitted using the author-date system will be returned to the author for revision.

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