

2021

# SOCIETY REPORT

Society of Biblical Literature

## WE ARE SBL

The expansive nature of the 2021 Society Report is a testimony to what SBL members do together, for each other and for those outside of scholarly institutions and pursuits. I was struck by the work so many have accomplished this year, of all years, when new and unexpected demands were placed *again* on everyone.

The report features so many projects and so much progress:

- ◆ The completion of the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, on which over seventy members labored and for which SBL played a historic role.
- ◆ Summer webinars on Africana Biblical Hermeneutics, Disability Studies and the Bible, Globalizing Biblical Studies in the Twenty-First Century, and Horizons of LGBTIQ+ Hermeneutics.
- ◆ Formation of two new committees of Council: the Committee on LGBTIQ+ Scholars and Scholarship and the transition of the Student Advisory Board to the Students in the Profession Committee.
- ◆ Participation of SBL and SBL members in the American Council of Learned Society's DEI Intention Foundry workshop and the continued work of the Black Scholars Matter Task Force.
- ◆ The launch of SBL's advocacy site Biblical Studies in Undergraduate Education.
- ◆ The integration of SBL's Bible Odyssey articles in the National Humanities Center's resource for K-12 teachers: The Humanities in Class Digital Library.
- ◆ The formation of two new awards: Bernadette J. Brooten Award for Scholarship in Gender, Sexuality, and Embodiment; and the Richards Award for Public Scholarship.

There is more to add, but suffice it to say that We Are SBL, and the statement from Council on page 3 below highlights its attention to this, too.

The biggest challenge this year that had a silver lining was, without question, the dual-format Annual Meeting. Staff, program unit chairs, and members participated in two simultaneous meetings. In the planning and execution of the meeting, one word stood out: generosity. More than any other year, we all experienced generosity from each other. Members understood what each other was experiencing. Staff heard expressions of gratitude for trying something new.

In trying something new, we also learned and imagined new things. SBL will leverage the best of both worlds, the in-person meeting and the online meeting, so that we can make the most of what is uniquely successful about each type of meeting. Stay tuned in 2022.

Sincerely,  
*John F. Kutsko*  
Executive Director



## Create the Best Version of SBL

### with your gifts ...

SBL has been your intellectual home for many years, a place you presented dozens of papers, met new colleagues, established a personal network, advanced your career, and made lasting friendships. You have witnessed firsthand SBL's vitality and relevance, whether in its commitment to international scholarship through programs such as the International Cooperation Initiative or its contribution to the public understanding of the Bible through websites such as Bible Odyssey.

Many biblical scholars of years past helped pave the way for the Society of Biblical Literature, scholars like you today. Since then, needs in the field have grown and shifted in the way of jobs, publications, programs, and technology, as well as approaches in biblical scholarship itself. As we face new challenges and opportunities, we must continually shift to the needs of both today's and tomorrow's scholars. However, this journey of change and growth cannot happen without you. With your support, the expanding needs of members can be met with increased Travel Grants, enhanced Bible Odyssey tools, and professional development resources.

COVID-19 has made an extraordinary shift in our day-to-day lives, but we encourage you to make a decision today for tomorrow, to invest in the Society, as you can, in order to strengthen a discipline that serves you and will serve others—the students and scholars that come after you, who will build on your scholarly achievements and contributions.

**PLEASE PLAN TODAY THE GUILD OF TOMORROW.**

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# WE ARE ALL SBL

Members of the SBL Council (SBL's Board of Directors) commit themselves to representing in all their work the values of the Society, including inclusivity, equity, diversity, scholarly integrity, accountability, and openness to change. Given how many things have changed fundamentally in the last two years, Council has been especially focused on addressing some of the big questions of who and what SBL seeks to be. As many people have pointed out, the crisis of COVID has laid bare many inequities in our world.

We want you to know that Council is committed to making diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) a central concern for the SBL. As the governing body of the SBL, Council is exercising its leadership by prioritizing and supporting DEI efforts. In addition to forming the Black Scholars Task Force in 2020, in 2021 Council added an additional member to the Nominating Committee so that the committee will have the benefit of more input and perspective. Council also asked all SBL editorial boards and committees to report on what they have done and are doing to address DEI concerns. Beginning in 2022, all committee reports to Council will include a question about DEI goals and implementation plans to keep DEI at the forefront of the work of every committee of Council.

Among the stated values in the Society's mission statement are professionalism, collegiality, respect for diversity, and accountability. We continue to strive to make SBL a welcoming and hospitable place for all, especially members who have been rendered by structural inequities more vulnerable in the academy and in society. Council approved the addition of two statements that members must acknowledge in order to renew membership online: one on professional conduct and SBL's expectation for ethical behavior; and one on SBL's commitment to civil discourse and respect for diversity. Council will continue to review and revise the SBL Professional Conduct Policy so that we live out these values.

Further, recognizing that SBL's mission statement is a decade old, Council is reviewing it to determine what changes need to be made for SBL to continue to be relevant and dynamic in these changing times. Along with this very fundamental work, a subcommittee is reviewing our governance structure in order to make sure it reflects our values and is designed to achieve SBL's mission and goals.

Finally, Council is committed to being as transparent as possible within the scope of its fiduciary responsibilities. We recognized in our current political climate an increased level of distrust and perhaps an inclination to see institutions and their officeholders as adversaries. We are also all trained to critique systems of power and authority and to work to uninscribe the behaviors that reinforce those structures. Knowing this, and knowing that we are all SBL, Council will continue to work to earn and sustain your trust.

## 2021 Council Members

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Hugh Rowland Page Jr.	



The Society of Biblical Literature is the oldest and largest learned society devoted to the critical investigation of the Bible. The Society's membership comprises over 7,000 members who represent 140 countries. With the help of more than 1,000 volunteers, SBL has been supporting scholarly research and fostering the public understanding of the Bible and its influence since 1880. The Society offers a number of resources that aid in the accomplishment of SBL's mission. Resources include publication opportunities with SBL Press, access to webinars and fonts, and the ability to find job opportunities via the Employment Services website. SBL also generates annual reports such as the Jobs Report, the Member Profile Report, and the Society Report to provide members with statistics concerning SBL membership and the demographics of the guild. Some major categories of member benefits include:



### Publications

The Society publishes a variety of resources that impact the guild. SBL Press invites members to submit proposals for books or the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, the flagship journal in biblical studies. SBL members have online access to the entire history of *JBL* articles as a part of their membership. Members can likewise access all of the reviews published in the *Review of Biblical Literature* and volunteer to write reviews of recently published books. SBL also sponsors the open-access journal *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism*. Another resource of SBL Press, the Bible Odyssey website, provides resources for the public's understanding of biblical studies and resources for teaching biblical studies in secondary and undergraduate settings. For members in underresourced countries, SBL's website provides access to many full-text books, including many SBL Press titles, via the ICI books page.

### Meetings

SBL offers its members and affiliates space for networking and scholarly ideation through a system of dynamic meetings. These congresses are purposed to satisfy the varying needs of Society members. Regional meetings offer an intimate environment for research sharing, development for graduate students and early career scholars, and connecting with other members in one's geographical area. The International Meeting highlights the increasingly global nature of biblical studies and showcases the particular contributions of its host institution. The Annual Meeting gives members the chance to participate in the largest gathering of scholars in the guild, with over 1,200 academic sessions and an exhibit hall with one of the world's largest collection of books in biblical studies. Through SBL congresses, members can remain current with prevalent approaches to biblical texts and develop relationships with scholars in their research area(s).

### Awards

The Society offers yearly opportunities to apply for or receive nominations for awards that honor accomplishments and/or support research and development.

- ◆ A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship
- ◆ Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship
- ◆ David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Biblical Scholarship
- ◆ SBL–De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History

# ABOUT THE SBL

- ◆ Status of Women in the Profession Committee Mentor Award
- ◆ The Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee's Outstanding Mentor Award
- ◆ Bernadette J. Brooten Award for Scholarship in Gender, Sexuality, and Embodiment
- ◆ The Richards Award for Public Scholarship
- ◆ Regional Scholar Awards
- ◆ International Travel Award

## SBL Central

SBL Central is a resource hub purposed to increase both the discoverability and accessibility of writings for scholars across the globe, including unaffiliated researchers and adjunct faculty. SBL members can access electronic entries of the *Review of Biblical Literature* on SBL Central. SBL Central also hosts abstracts for Annual Meeting presentations and even full-text papers for presenters who wish to share them. A new feature this year allows members to receive article notifications from SBL Central when participating journals publish a new issue.

Besides these many tangible benefits of membership, SBL offers many other benefits that are no less important, if less concrete. The Society is the oldest academic organization dedicated to biblical scholarship. Membership in the Society allows you to be counted as a colleague with your peers in the guild. It is an important professional credential. SBL spent over a year preparing an in-depth member profile survey. With this aggregated information, we can assist departments and institutions in creating new positions or making the case for keeping faculty positions open. With this data we can approach funding agencies to develop programs and services that strengthen the field and give new opportunities to biblical scholars. Through the member survey, we can better see trends, respond to them, and more effectively allocate SBL resources to help define and shape worldwide biblical scholarship.



## SBL PLAYS HISTORIC ROLE IN PRODUCING THE NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION (NRSVUE)

As far back as 2015, the Society of Biblical Literature began conversations with the National Council of Churches (NCC), which owns and licenses the NRSV, about producing a thirty-year review of the NRSV. Conversations always focused on what would deliver value to scholars, to the publishers who license the translation, and to readers in a variety of contexts, both academic and public.

SBL's goal was to continue the NRSV's translation practice of being "as literal as possible, as free as necessary." We strove to avoid changing that general approach, and we did so by focusing on improving two specific areas of translation: textual criticism (bringing the translation into conformity with current critical editions and new textual evidence) and philology (new insights about the meaning of the words found in the text). You can find more detail on the mandate and the process in the "Preface to the NRSVue" printed below. In short, our effort echoes the famous words from the King James Version's 1611 Preface: "We never thought from the beginning that we should need to make a new translation ... but to make a good one better."

This last point is significant. SBL did not produce a new translation, nor does SBL see the NRSVue as competing with other translations. SBL continues to encourage fresh translations, translations that might be more attentive to modern style and readability. Even with twelve thousand substantive changes, the NRSVue is an iteration that goes back to the KJV and an update to the NRSV. The NRSVue might be best described as regularly scheduled maintenance in the light of new texts and philological insight.

Nevertheless, this is a contribution to a historic translation, and it is significant that SBL has played this role for so public and prominent a translation of the Bible. To be sure, SBL's members have contributed to a variety of translations, but SBL has not previously been formally involved in one. Why now and why the NRSV? This was a natural undertaking for several reasons. First, SBL has a stake in the academic integrity of the NRSV. This version remains a primary translation in English-speaking university classrooms and



# SBL AND THE NRSVue

has historically been the text for theological education. Second, the last three decades have seen considerable new discoveries, including new manuscripts, text-critical tools, and philological insights. A thirty-year review would, we felt, result in an English translation that is based, without exception, on the most up-to-date scholarship. Third, SBL sought to keep current a translation that stretches back to the KJV, back to 1611. In other words, SBL has played a historic role for a historic translation. Fourth, the NRSVue is both ecumenical and interfaith—suitable in Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, and Jewish contexts, with a licensing policy that allows a broad range of ways publishers can name the divisions of the Bible, including, for example, Hebrew Bible, Old Testament, Tanakh, or First Testament. This is a value of SBL's, and in a period of religious and political divisiveness this is also a virtue to be celebrated.

Finally, and as a unique outcome of its role, SBL delivered to the NCC's archive the texts and logs submitted by the book editors and the texts and logs of the monthly editorial board meetings, as well as an audio file of the monthly meetings. This archive is a rich and detailed record of the editorial board's discussion, with additional revisions not suggested by the book editors. It includes, then, items that were not ultimately recommended for the NRSVue but may be recommended in the future. Consequently, SBL contributed not just to one translation but to future translations as well.

We live in a world of change as well as a world of tradition. The NRSVue is a translation that is both. Scholars rightly see themselves taking part in the long history of the production of knowledge, of making something good even better. That is true for SBL nearing its 150th anniversary and for the NRSVue, now past its 400th.

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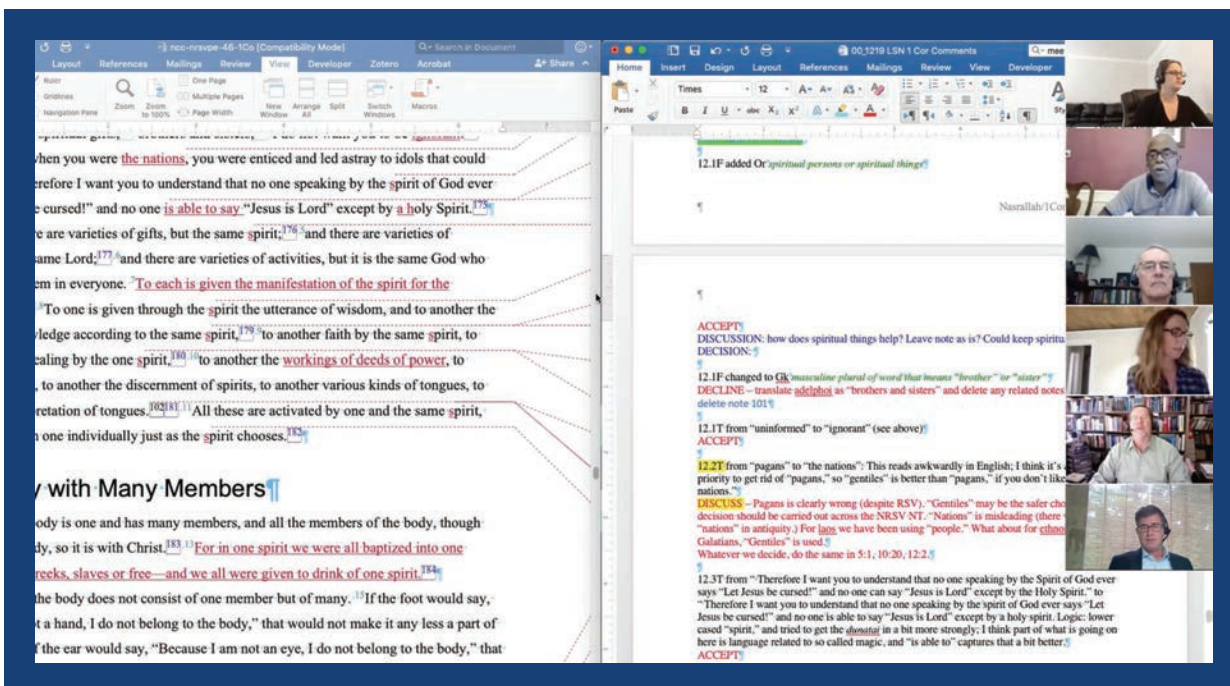
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## Purpose of the Revision

The National Council of Churches, which holds the copyright of the *New Revised Standard Version*, commissioned the Society of Biblical Literature to direct the *NRSVue* revision project thirty years after its original publication. The editors of this edition encourage readers to read the excellent prefaces to both the *Revised Standard Version* (1952) and the *New Revised Standard Version* (1989); some elements of the latter have been incorporated herein. This preface also outlines the process of the update and the mandate under which it was conducted.

The review, managed by the Society of Biblical Literature, included seven general editors and fifty-six book editors, with several general editors serving also as book editors. The general editors were divided into three





teams: Old Testament (also known as the Hebrew Scriptures), Apocrypha (also known as the Deuterocanon), and the New Testament. In addition to the seven general editors, the National Council of Churches appointed two members of its Bible Translation and Utilization Advisory Committee to serve as liaisons to the committee of general editors appointed by the Society of Biblical Literature. Three members of the Society's staff participated in and managed the project.

Beginning in 2017, each book of the Bible was assigned to one or more book editors. Over the course of two years (2018–2019), the book editors submitted their proposed updates to the general editors. Each of the three teams of general editors met via Zoom at least once a month for two years (2019–2020) to review and discuss the proposed updates submitted by the book editors. The accepted updates were submitted to the National Council of Churches in 2021 for its final review and approval of what would become this *NRSVue*.

The *NRSVue* presents approximately 12,000 substantive edits and 20,000 total changes, which include alterations in grammar and punctuation.

Like its predecessors, this *NRSVue* has relied on the best results of modern discovery and scholarship. The mandate primarily focused on two types of revisions: text-critical and philological. The *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition* (*NRSVue*) is not a new translation. While some stylistic improvements have been made, these were reserved for instances where the translation was awkward, unclear, or inaccurate. Other changes involve matters of consistency, grammar, and punctuation and general improvements that render the translation and notes more consistent and uniform.

## Text-Critical Revisions

The role of text criticism in Bible translation is to establish a base text from which to translate, a text reconstructed from the earliest versions in the original languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek) as well as in ancient translations of the books of the Old Testament, Apocrypha, and New Testament. Translators rely on scholarly critical editions of the Bible for their work. A typical text-critical resource establishes a text based on scholarly judgment of the preferred reading among the readings available, with important alternative readings provided in a detailed apparatus. Scholars follow well-established rules in their effort to determine one preferred or superior reading from among others, though this remains both art and science. The challenge of establishing the Hebrew and Aramaic text of the Old Testament is different from the corresponding challenge in the New Testament. For the New Testament, a large number of Greek manuscripts exist, preserving many variant forms of the text. Some of them were copied only two or three centuries later than the original composition of the books. While the Dead Sea Scrolls dramatically improved the resources for Old Testament textual criticism, most translations, including the *NRSVue*, still rely especially on a standardized form of the text established many centuries after the books were written.

The goal of the text-critical review was to evaluate whether or not to modify the textual basis for the revision. To this end, the text underlying the *New Revised Standard Version* was examined in the light of all available evidence, making use of new data, perspectives, and scholarly resources. The review occasionally resulted in a change to the translation itself or to the textual notes that have been an integral feature of the *New Revised Standard Version*.

For the Old Testament, the team made use of the *Biblia Hebraica Quinta* (2004–) for those books published to date and the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* (1977; ed. sec. emendata, 1983) for the remaining books. Both are editions of the Hebrew and Aramaic text as current early in the Christian era and fixed by Jewish scholars (the Masoretes) of the sixth to the ninth centuries. The vowel signs, which were added by the Masoretes, are accepted in the main, but where a more probable and convincing reading can be obtained by assuming different vowels, we adopted that reading. No notes are given in such cases because the vowel points are more recent and less reliably original than the consonants.

Departures from the consonantal text of the best manuscripts have been made only where it seems clear that errors in copying were introduced before the Masoretes standardized the Hebrew text. Most of the corrections adopted in the *NRSVue* are based on other ancient Hebrew manuscripts or on the ancient versions (translations into Greek, Aramaic, Syriac, and Latin), which were made prior to the time of the work of the Masoretes and which therefore may reflect earlier forms of the Hebrew text. In such instances a note specifies the manuscript, version, or versions attesting the correction and also gives a translation of the Masoretic Text.

Since the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Septuagint translation predate the Christian era, they present for certain books an earlier and more original version in the development of the texts. Each of the versions was considered authoritative by a community. This advance in textual scholarship is recent, however, so the *NRSVue* retains for its translation the ver-

sion presented by the Masoretic Text, whether it attests the earlier, parallel, or later version. The differences between these major versions are larger than can be added to the notes.

The *NRSVue* uses double brackets in the Old Testament in the same way the *New Revised Standard Version* did in the New Testament: to enclose passages that are now regarded to be later additions to the text but that have been retained because of their evident antiquity and their importance in the textual tradition. In short, the text-critical basis for the Old Testament is an improved Masoretic Text, which was the goal of the *New Revised Standard Version*. The Masoretic Text has been given preference where there is no scholarly consensus in favor of another reading or where the arguments are equivocal.

The *Revised Standard Version of the Bible* containing both the Old and New Testaments was published in 1952; a translation of the Apocrypha in the Old Testament followed in 1957. In 1977, this collection was issued in an expanded edition containing three additional texts considered canonical by Eastern Orthodox communions (3 and 4 Maccabees and Psalm 151). Thereafter the *Revised Standard Version* gained the distinction of being officially authorized for use by all major Christian churches: Protestant, Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Eastern Orthodox. The translation of the Apocrypha, therefore, is not peripheral but of equal import as the translation of the Old Testament and the New Testament. Indeed, some of the deuterocanonical books were originally written in Hebrew or Aramaic and were considered sacred texts by the early Jewish communities who first transmitted them and the later Christians who preserved them.

The *NRSVue* includes a considerable number of changes to the Apocrypha. Because there is no single critical edition for the books in this collection, the team made use of a number of texts. For most books the basic Greek text used was the edition of the Septuagint prepared by Alfred Rahlfs (Stuttgart, 1935). For several books the more recent volumes of the Göttingen Septuagint project were utilized. A *New English Translation of the Septuagint* (Oxford, 2009) also served as a resource to compare translations and evaluate critical texts for individual books.

For the book of Tobit, the *New Revised Standard Edition* relied on the shorter Greek manuscript tradition; the *NRSVue* translated the longer Greek tradition (preserved in Codex Sinaiticus), while taking the Qumran manuscripts and other ancient witnesses into account. For the three Additions to Daniel, the Committee continued to use the Greek version attributed to Theodotion. Ecclesiasticus has an especially challenging textual history. The team generally followed the Greek text of Joseph Ziegler (and the versification in the Prologue), while giving particular consideration to the earliest Hebrew manuscripts from the Dead Sea region, with occasional recourse to the Syriac. The versification of 1 Esdras now follows Robert Hanhart's edition (Göttingen, 1974), which also brings the book into conformity with its usage in the Eastern Orthodox tradition. The basic text adopted in rendering 2 Esdras is the Latin version given in Robert Weber's *Biblia Sacra* (Stuttgart, 1971), with consultation of the Latin texts of R. L. Bensly (1895) and Bruno Violet (1910), as well as by taking into account the Syriac, Ethiopic, Arabic, Armenian, and Georgian versions. Since the Additions to the Book of Esther are disjointed and unintelligible as they stand in most editions of the Apocrypha, we provide them with their original context by translating the entirety of Greek Esther from Hanhart's edition (Göttingen, 1983). The versification of the Letter of Jeremiah now conforms to Ziegler's edition (Göttingen, 1957, 1976). The Septuagint's Psalm 151 is an abbreviated version of the Hebrew composition found in the 11QPsalms<sup>a</sup> scroll. While the Greek remains the basis for the translation, the team also consulted that scroll.

For the New Testament, the team based its work on three recent editions of the Greek New Testament: (1) *The Greek New Testament*, 5th revised edition (United Bible Societies, 2014); (2) *The Greek New Testament*:



*SBL Edition* (Society of Biblical Literature and Logos Bible Software, 2010); and, (3) for Acts and the Catholic Letters, *Novum Testamentum Graecum: Editio Critica Maior* (Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2013, 2017). Occasionally these editions differ in regard to text or punctuation; in such cases the team followed the reading best supported by a combination of both traditional and more recent approaches and considerations. As in the original *NRSV*, double brackets are used to enclose a few passages that are generally regarded to be later additions to the text but that have been retained because of their antiquity and importance in the textual tradition. Here and there in the notes the phrase “Other ancient authorities read” identifies alternative readings preserved by Greek manuscripts and early versions. In both Testaments, other possible translations of the text are indicated by the word “Or.”

Textual criticism continues to evolve. Not only have additional manuscripts become available, but some of the goals and methodology have changed over the last several decades. This is more the case for reconstructing the books of the Old Testament and Apocrypha, but it is generally true for the entire enterprise. In the *NRSVue*, care was taken not to push too far ahead of the existing critical editions or to turn the translation itself and its notes into a critical edition. Nevertheless, a careful reader will notice in general a more generous use of the notes for alternative readings. The editors hope that this work will serve translators in the future.

## Philological Revisions

Deciphering the meanings of the Bible’s ancient languages involves a host of efforts: the study of the languages themselves, the comparative study of cognate languages from the ancient Near East and the Greco-Roman world, the disciplines of philology and linguistics, and the historical study of the social, cultural, and economic contexts in which the Bible was written. The *NRSVue* took special care not to use terms in ways that are historically or theologically anachronistic, though, as in every translation, anachronism is unavoidable.

The *NRSVue* continues and improves the effort to eliminate masculine-oriented language when it can be done without altering passages that reflect the historical situation of ancient patriarchal culture. This goal is to provide a historically accurate and acceptable rendering without using contrived English. Only occasionally has the pronoun “he” or “him” or other gendered language been retained in passages where the reference may have been to a woman as well as to a man, for example, in several legal texts in Leviticus and Deuteronomy. In such instances of formal, legal language, the options of either putting the passage in the plural or of introducing additional nouns to avoid masculine pronouns in English could easily obscure the historical background to and literary character of the original. In the vast majority of cases, however, inclusiveness has been attained by simple rephrasing or by introducing plural forms when this does not distort a meaning.

The *NRSVue* also continues the well-established practice of using in the Old Testament the word LORD (or, in certain cases, GOD). This represents the traditional way that English versions render the Divine Name, the “Tetragrammaton” (see the notes on Exodus 3.14, 15), following the precedent of the ancient Greek and Latin translators and the long-established practice in the reading of the Hebrew Scriptures in the synagogue.

## The Future of Revisions and a Virtue of This Translation

The *NRSVue* represents a base text that was produced from a variety of textual witnesses, a text that was not used by any one community but combines readings from several of them. This, however, may well be a model and a reminder to us today: it results in a text that can be used across both Jewish and Christian traditions and in all their diverse communities. Indeed, this model stretches back to 1611, the origin of this edition. The translators of the *King James Version* took into account all of the preceding English versions and owed something to each of them. In 1977 the *Revised Standard Version* incorporated books that permitted it to become officially authorized by all the major Christian churches, and the use of the Masoretic Text of the Hebrew Scriptures reflects the use of that text in synagogues. Beginning with the Revised Standard Version Bible Committee, the translation teams became both ecumenical and interfaith. The process that produced this translation of the Bible represents an ideal and a virtue. It is a Bible produced by consensus that can be used among and across pluralistic communities in contexts both academic and religious.

In the future, new text-critical resources will become available, the methodology and goals of textual criticism may change, translation theory may evolve, and the need to reflect contemporary language will be constant. In short, efforts to update the translation of the Bible will continue. As they do, it is the hope of the Society of Biblical Literature that this translation will continue to be produced by a diverse team and for diverse readers.



## BILL HEROMAN: STUDENT, SCHOLAR, TRUCK DRIVER, AND BIBLIOBLOGGER

SBL is in part its membership. Over 1,000 SBL members volunteer yearly to ensure that the Society meets its goals through congresses, committees, and internal policies. SBL members also furnish resources and participate in webinars that provide professional development to members. The 2021 summer webinar series, for example, featured the voices of scholars with varying methodological approaches, identity markers, and nationalities in four webinars on globalizing biblical studies, LGBTIQ+ approaches, Africana biblical methodology, and disability studies. These webinars are not only informative and exciting to watch, but they accentuate the diversity that epitomizes SBL membership. Through Member Reviews and Member Spotlights, the Society has done much to showcase the diversity that is SBL. Our goal is to continue this work.

With that as background, SBL members, meet Bill Heroman. Bill is a Texas resident, full-time truck driver, husband, father of two, biblioblogger, and PhD candidate at Saint Mary's University in Twickenham, London. Bill's unique journey to biblical studies illustrates the diverse nature of SBL members and emphasizes the positive impact SBL congresses have on the many scholars who embody the field of biblical studies.



### His Introduction to Biblical Studies

Heroman's interest in the Bible emerged from his relationship with evangelical friends in late high school and early college. After college, he was exposed to the house-church movement and developed interest in the study of the ancient context of the New Testament. Most specifically, Bill's interest was in reconstructing

the story of Paul and considering how Paul did church. Through his research, Bill saw the need to study the Bible as objectively as is possible. He left the house-church movement and sought understanding of the historical context of biblical texts. In 2007, Bill's research led him to bibliobloggers such as Brandon Wason, Mark Goodacre, and Chris Tilling. This was also his introduction to SBL. He experienced his first SBL Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 2009 and found himself surrounded by scholars he was following through biblioblogging. This SBL meeting provided a community of scholars Bill already knew on a first-name basis. Bill developed a desire

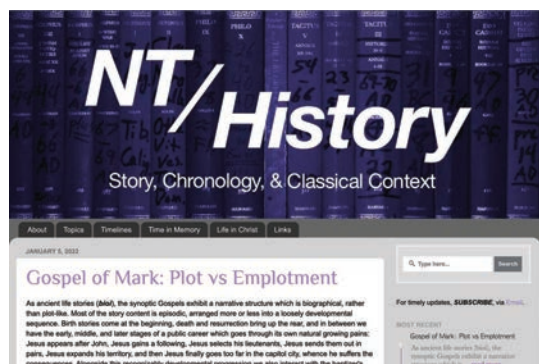
to contribute and share his observations from his years of reading scholarly papers and following biblioblogs, so he became a biblioblogger himself. He started the NT/History Blog with ideas and requests for feedback. The feedback he received, in addition to attendance at SBL congresses, led to a deeper understanding of the field of biblical studies and how he can contribute to the guild.

### Heroman's Journey to Graduate School

Through the encouragement of Chris Keith, Bill joined a Masters of Philosophy degree program at Saint Mary's University in Twickenham, London. After years of writing, Bill applied for admission to Saint Mary's PhD program in theology. His dissertation uses historical criticism and narratology to investigate Matthew 2:22 as a work of historical fiction. Bill is completing his PhD under the advisement of James Crossley.

### Bill Heroman's Professional Life

Heroman was a special-education high-school teacher for twelve years. He taught math and English and worked as support personnel for other classroom professionals. As a second career, he became a truck



driver. He manages to blog, conduct PhD research, care for his family, and work as a full-time truck driver by completing his 40 work hours, in addition to the legally required 30 hours of rest, in three consecutive days. He then uses the remaining four days of the week to complete his research and writing. Bill finds truck driving much more relaxing than public school teaching. Truck driving offers him the space to consider his research while on the road.

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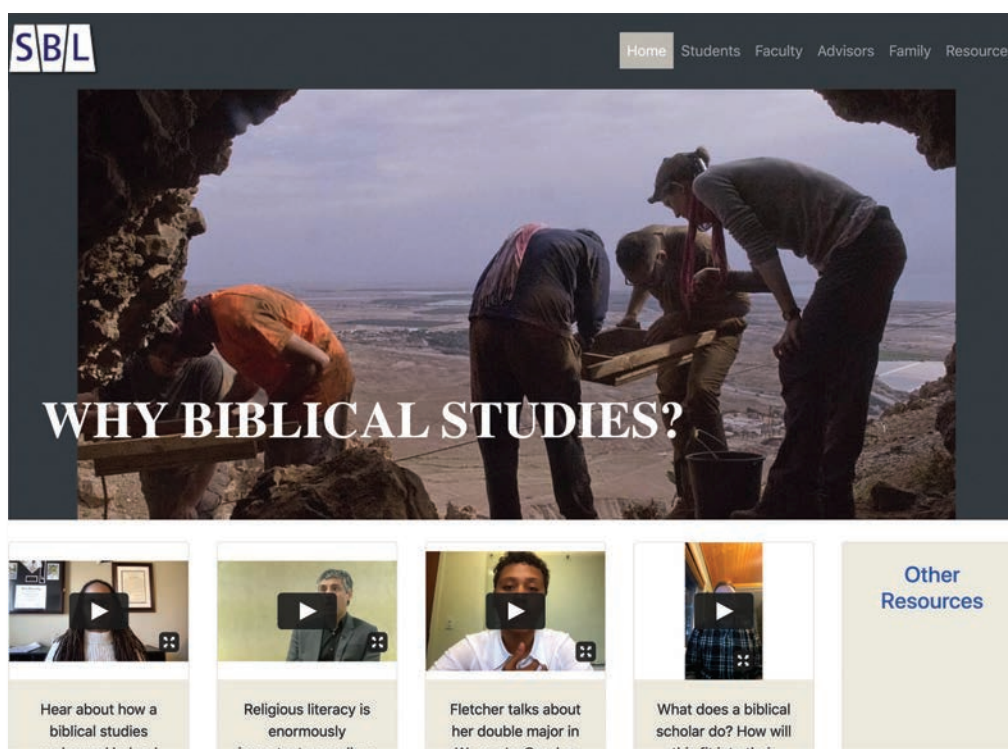
## BIBLICAL STUDIES IN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

The Biblical Studies in Undergraduate Education (BSUE) Working Group was established in 2019 to offer the Society space to consider the challenges facing biblical studies in the context of undergraduate liberal arts teaching. The BSUE aims to:

- ♦ develop strategies to advocate for biblical studies within the larger field of religious studies and the humanities;
- ♦ design and routinize data-collection tools to survey the field;
- ♦ propose suggestions for undergraduate and graduate curricular design that are responsive to the significant pressures undergraduate education is facing;
- ♦ and envision next steps for the field of biblical studies in higher education and in relation to other professional and public contexts.

The BSUE Working Group designed a new SBL website named *Why Biblical Studies?* in order to advocate for the field to students, families, faculty, and advisors.

Thanks to Mary Foskett, Marc Brettler, and all the BSUE members for their work!



### Mark G. Brett Concludes Term as *JBL* General Editor

At the end of 2021, Mark G. Brett concluded his term as the General Editor of the Society's *Journal of Biblical Literature*. Mark took on this role in 2019 and guided the journal through a challenging time of unprecedented submissions and the global pandemic. As the first non-North American to serve as General Editor of *JBL*, and as a scholar whose work is known for its methodological breadth, Mark steered the journal toward a broader range of voices and perspectives, with his final year marking the first time in *JBL*'s history that the majority of submissions came from outside the United States.



Over the past three years, Mark oversaw the evaluation of more than 550 manuscripts, read approximately 1,000 reviewer reports, and issued nearly 600 publication decisions. The end result of this work was the publication of 133 articles. The time it takes for the average submission to receive a decision also fell from a peak of nine months in 2019 to less than six months in 2021. More significant than these raw numbers, which themselves bear witness to Mark's efforts on behalf of the journal, are the quality and character of the articles published. From detailed historical and philological studies such as "Sabbath and Sanctuary Cult in the Holiness Legislation: A Reassessment" and "Junia: An Apostle before Paul," to reception-historical pieces such as "The Mark of Cain and White Violence" and "The Book That

Changed: Tales of Ezran Authorship as a Form of Late Antique Biblical Criticism," to critical reflections on the discipline, as in "Multiracial Biblical Studies," Mark worked closely with authors and the editorial team to bring the best of biblical scholarship to a global readership. To address pressing concerns of the academy, he also coordinated two *JBL* Forums, on "Biblical Studies in a Pandemic" and "The Ethics of Citation and Social Inclusion."

One of the most important changes Mark made was to broaden *JBL*'s leadership team. Beginning in 2020, the new position of Associate Editor was created to spread the editorial workload and deepen its expertise, in view of both the high volume of submissions and the broad range of subjects covered by *JBL*. Susan E. Hylen joined the team first, followed by Hindy Najman in 2021, with Hugh Page Jr. and Eric Barreto joining the team in 2022. This new editorial structure has already made an impact on the journal's decision time frame, and it will make the management of the journal stronger and more sustainable moving forward. For all these reasons, we are exceptionally grateful to Mark for his service.

### Susan E. Hylen Appointed *JBL* General Editor

In December 2021, Susan E. Hylen was appointed General Editor of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, with her term beginning in January 2022 and running through 2024. Susan is Associate Professor of New Testament at Emory University's Candler School of Theology (Atlanta, Georgia). She is the twenty-ninth General Editor of *JBL*.

As General Editor of *JBL*, Susan will be an ex officio member of the Research and Publications Committee. She will work with the *JBL* Associate Editors, the editorial board, and SBL Press staff to review manuscript submissions and produce four issues each year.

No stranger to *JBL*, having served as the journal's first Associate Editor since 2020, Susan has served the academy in a variety of roles, including chairing the Women in the Biblical World Section of the Society of Biblical Literature (2011–2016), being coeditor of New Testament Library, New Testament editor for *Interpretation: Resources for the Use of Scripture in the Church*, and a book editor for the NRSV Updated Edition, as well as sitting on the editorial boards of *Horizons in Biblical Theology* and *Emory Studies in Early Christianity*.





Susan is a highly active scholar who has published widely on early Christian women, the Gospel of John, and many other topics, using a range of methods (from metaphor theory to feminist criticism). She has written four books: *Women in the New Testament World* (Oxford University Press, 2018), *A Modest Apostle: Thecla and the History of Women in the Early Church* (Oxford University Press, 2015), *Imperfect Believers: Ambiguous Characters in the Gospel of John* (Westminster John Knox, 2009), and *Allusion and Meaning in John 6* (de Gruyter, 2005), and edited or coauthored three others. In addition to these academic books and numerous articles, book chapters, and conference presentations, Susan engages in public scholarship by way of public lectures and contributions to resources aimed at popular audiences.

#### **Eric D. Barreto, Hindy Najman, and Hugh R. Page Jr. Appointed Associate Editors**

**Eric D. Barreto**, Weyerhaeuser Associate Professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, is joining the editorial team for 2022 as Associate Editor focusing on New Testament and early Christianity. Eric has been a frequent leader at the Hispanic Theological Initiative and at the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. He is the author of *Ethnic Negotiations: The Function of Race and Ethnicity in Acts 16* (Mohr Siebeck, 2010) and coauthor of *Exploring the Bible* (Fortress, 2016) and *In Tongues of Mortals and Angels: A Deconstructive Theology of God Talk in Acts and Corinthians* (Lexington/Fortress Academic, 2019). Eric has substantial editorial experience as editor of *Reading Theologically* (Fortress, 2014) and as a board member of the *Connections Lectionary Commentary* (Westminster John Knox). He also coedited *Reading Acts in the Discourses of Masculinity and Politics* (T&T Clark, 2016).

**Hindy Najman**, Oriel and Laing Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture at Oriel College, University of Oxford, joined the journal's growing editorial team in October 2021. As an Associate Editor, Hindy manages the review and evaluation of submissions on the history and literature of Judaism from the Persian period forward. Hindy is the founding director of the interdisciplinary Centre for the Study of the Bible at Oxford and serves in a variety of editorial roles for leading publications. She is the author of three books—*Losing the Temple and Recovering the Future: An Analysis of 4 Ezra* (Cambridge University Press, 2014), *Past Renewals: Interpretive Authority, Renewed Revelation and the Quest for Perfection* (Brill, 2010), and *Seconding Sinai: The Development of Mosaic Discourse in Second Temple Judaism* (Brill, 2003)—and an editor of many others and has written dozens of essays and articles on topics in biblical studies and early Judaism.

**Hugh R. Page Jr.** will be joining the editorial team in early 2022 as an Associate Editor with a focus on the Hebrew Bible and ancient Israel. Hugh is Professor of Theology and Africana Studies at the University of Notre Dame, where he also serves as Vice President and Associate Provost for undergraduate affairs. His particular research interests include early Hebrew poetry, Africana biblical interpretation, esoterism in Africa and the African diaspora, poetry as a medium for theological expression, the use of religious traditions and sacred texts in identity construction within the Black community, and the role of mysticism and esotericism in Anglican and Africana spiritualities. Hugh's books include *Israel's Poetry of Resistance: Africana Perspectives on Early Hebrew Verse* (Fortress, 2013), *Exodus*, in the Peoples Bible Commentary Series (Bible Reading Fellowship, 2006), and *The Myth of Cosmic Rebellion: A Study of Its Reflexes in Ugaritic and Biblical Literature* (Brill, 1996), along with several edited volumes.



The SBL Council approved two committees: the Students in the Profession Committee and the Committee for LGBTIQ+ Scholars and Scholarship.

The Students in the Profession Committee
Camille Angelo
Kirsty Jones
Natalie Reynoso
Kelsey Spinnato
Megan Wines
Angela Zautcke (Chair)

The **Students in the Profession Committee** (previously known as the Student Advisory Board) advocates for the needs and interests of student scholars to the Society and their institutions. It supports and fosters participation among student scholars within the Society and in all professional areas of biblical studies. To achieve this, the Committee:

- ◆ Facilitates mentorship, networking, and career development of student scholars within and outside the academy.
- ◆ Elevates and promotes the scholarship and other academic labor of student scholars.
- ◆ Works to advance the representation of student scholars from diverse backgrounds.
- ◆ Provides resources of interest to student scholars, including (but not limited to) panel organization at the Annual Meeting.

Committee for LGBTIQ+ Scholars and Scholarship
Lynn R. Huber
Joseph A. Marchal (Chair)
Peter Anthony Mena
Melissa Harl Sellew
Eric A. Thomas
Charlene van der Walt

The **Committee for LGBTIQ+ Scholars and Scholarship** was constituted to identify ways that SBL can best support LGBTIQ+ scholars and scholarship. In pursuit of this mandate, the committee seeks to support, promote, and advocate for LGBTIQ+ members through the following:

- ◆ Create opportunities for mentorship, mutual support, and networking among and between LGBTIQ+ members.
- ◆ Create and maintain regular programming for professional development, pedagogy, and work/life balance (wellness) for LGBTIQ+ members.
- ◆ Advocate for better and more visible representation of LGBTIQ+ members on all SBL committees and in the leadership of SBL.

## NEW AWARDS

- ♦ Advocate for better and more visible representation of LGBTIQ+ scholarship in meetings, programs, book displays, addresses, and lectures.
- ♦ Create and maintain policies to ensure safer spaces, free from hostility and antagonism toward LGBTIQ+ scholars and scholarship, and to better promote their professional and interpersonal flourishing.

Congratulations to all the new members of these leadership groups. We are grateful for your contribution to the Society.

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## NEW SBL MEMBER AWARDS FOR 2022

The Society of Biblical Literature is delighted to announce two new awards for SBL members: The Bernadette J. Brooten Award for Scholarship in Gender, Sexuality, and Embodiment and The Richards Award for Public Scholarship. These awards came from the generosity and support of SBL members.

The **Bernadette J. Brooten Award** is sponsored by LGBTIQ+ Scholars and Scholarship and the Status of Women in the Profession Committee. The award is named in honor of Bernadette J. Brooten in recognition of her foundational and lasting contributions in the study of early Judaism and Christianity as scholar, teacher, and mentor. The award highlights in particular Professor Brooten's work in vastly improving our knowledge of the leadership role of women in those formative religious communities, setting on a new footing our understanding of gender, sexuality, and enslavement in the ancient Mediterranean world, and challenging scholarly approaches to both ancient homoeroticism and contemporary sexual ethics.

The primary goal for the Bernadette J. Brooten Award is to support and encourage early career researchers developing innovative approaches to the critical study of gender, sexuality, and/or embodiment in relation to biblical texts and traditions (broadly cast), especially with projects that foreground feminist, womanist, queer, and, or, as trans approaches.

The **Richards Award** honors members of the Society of Biblical Literature who have demonstrated excellence in public scholarship. It seeks to recognize the powerful role of sacred texts in society and how those texts shape culture. The award is given in honor of Kent Harold Richards and on behalf his mother, Eva Richards, who made a difference in seeking the common good, always encouraging the relevance of religion scholarship. The Educational Resources and Review Committee (ERRC) serves as the award committee to receive and evaluate nominations. Nominees will be considered for how they have contributed to and shaped public discourse, broadly defined. This may include writings (including op-ed pieces and blogs), websites attracting the public, public speaking (including media appearances and public lectures), teaching and mentoring, or other means through which the nominee has served the public.

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## SBL BENEFACTOR PASSES AWAY

SBL was saddened to learn that Lois Roets passed away on 28 December 2021. We extend our deepest sympathies to her family and friends. In 2015, Lois established the Philip G. and Lois F. Roets Endowment for the Bible and the Public Good on behalf of her husband, Philip Roets. This trust distributes funds in support of SBL's mission to foster biblical scholarship among the general public. For example, yearly deposits support Bible Odyssey in content creation and management. We mourn Lois's passing but are grateful for her generous donation and assistance in helping the Society serve the public.





## 2021 BIBLE ODYSSEY REPORT

Bible Odyssey is a public-facing resource whose purpose is to increase the accessibility of the academic study of the Bible. Since its launch in 2014, bibleodyssey.org has attracted a broad audience, including students, educators, and the general public. With its publication of short articles, videos, maps, translations, timelines, and images, Bible Odyssey is increasingly becoming a primary resource in K–12 and university classrooms. Several important numbers reveal the source and the extent of Bible Odyssey's popularity.

## 644 ARTICLES

Bible Odyssey currently provides access to a broad-ranging collection of 644 articles, 45 of which were published this past year.

Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	31
New Testament	8
Extracanonical/Other	6

## 2,396,676 READERS

During 2021, over two million readers from 237 countries and territories visited Bible Odyssey. The top ten countries with the most visitors are listed in the table below.

	Country	Number of Views
1	United States	1,382,197
2	United Kingdom	114,319
3	Philippines	110,051
4	Canada	109,434
5	Australia	99,137
6	Nigeria	84,763
7	India	83,838
8	South Africa	68,247
9	Kenya	45,787
10	Ghana	20,629



## 1,468 RESOURCES

Bible Odyssey offers a variety of resources for the Hebrew Bible, deuterocanonical, and New Testament texts, including articles, maps, images, and video interviews. Hebrew Bible was the subject on which the most articles were published in 2021 (68.9%). Nonarticle Bible Odyssey resources received a total of 192,886 views. Future plans include the production of additional video content and lesson plans.

Bible Odyssey's 2,396,676 2021 visitors accessed 2,801,898 different resources on the website. As is evident in the table that follows, articles are by far the most-consulted type of resource.

	Total Resources	2021 Views	Most Popular Resource
<b>Articles</b>	644	2,609,012	"Suicide in the Bible" (110,069 views)
<b>Maps</b>	27	60,466	"Israel and Judah" (27,117 views)
<b>Images</b>	648	68,404	"Giotto's Arrest of Christ" (3,323 views)
<b>Video Interviews</b>	149	64,016	"Origins of Baptism" (15,554 views)

## DIVERSE CONTRIBUTORS

Bible Odyssey is committed to the work of advancing the representation of persons of diverse genders, ethnicities, nationalities, and institutional appointments. Of 2021's 48 authors (authors of multiple pieces are counted separately for each article), 52 percent identify as women, 79 percent were new authors, 35 percent live outside of the United States, and 33 percent have appointments at universities outside of North America.

### 2021 Authors by Gender

25 women  
23 men



### 2021 Authors by Location

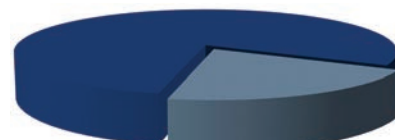
2021's contributors, 17 of whom live outside of the United States represent a number of countries, including Australia, Canada, Germany, Israel, Italy, Norway, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States

### 2021 Authors by Institution

Bible Odyssey authors work at a variety of institutions, including US public universities (7), US private universities (20), US secondary schools (1), universities outside North America (18), and other (2)

### 2021 New versus Repeat Authors

38 new authors  
10 repeat authors



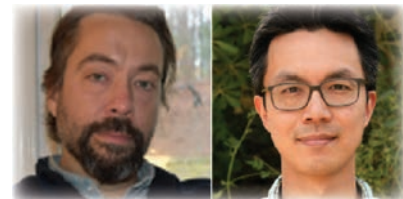
## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

## Undergraduates and Faculty Writing Together

In 2021, Bible Odyssey launched a new initiative highlighting the impact that instruction in the humanities has on students. Three of the articles published on Bible Odyssey in 2021 were coauthored by an undergraduate student and a faculty member. Interviews with the contributors in these partnerships suggest that this collaborative effort has given undergraduates effective research techniques, exposed students to the editing and publication process, and increased student confidence in their own interpretive voice. You can learn more about these authors by watching their interviews on the SBL Member Spotlight webpage.

## “Manasseh,” by Jesse Ainslie and Joseph Lam

Jesse Ainslie is an undergraduate student in Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is also an internationally touring musician who has performed alongside The National, Neil Young, and Willie Nelson. Joseph Lam is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the author of *Patterns of Sin in the Hebrew Bible: Metaphor, Culture, and the Making of a Religious Concept* (Oxford University Press, 2016).



## “Ahaz,” by Emma K. Buckles and Jeffrey Leonard

Emma K. Buckles is a student in the Biblical and Religious Studies Department at Samford University in Birmingham. She is pursuing a degree in religion and serves as an officer in both the Alpha Iota Epsilon chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa and Samford’s Preministerial Scholars Program. Jeffrey Leonard (PhD, Brandeis University) is associate professor of Biblical Studies at Samford University in Birmingham. He is the author of *Creation Rediscovered: Finding New Meaning in an Ancient Story* (Tyndale, 2020) and various articles in *JBL*, *JSOT*, and other venues. His research interests include inner-biblical allusion, source criticism, and creation traditions.



## “Leviathan,” by Alessandro Rivera and Dexter Callender

Alessandro Rivera is a senior at the University of Miami majoring in Religious Studies. He intends to continue his studies in the field of religion and is planning for a career in ministry or academia. Alessandro is looking forward to starting his graduate studies toward a Master of Divinity in the fall of 2022. Dexter Callender is associate professor of religion at the University of Miami, Florida. The author of *Adam in Myth and History* (Eisenbrauns, 2001), he specializes in myth theory and ancient Near Eastern literature and history.



## Translating Bible Odyssey Articles

With the help of the Asociación Bíblica Argentina and the Vietnamese Biblical Theology Society, 87 articles have been translated from English into Spanish or Vietnamese; 25 of these 87 articles were translated into Spanish in 2021 alone. Bible Odyssey articles translated in 2021 include the following:

- ♦ Abraham
- ♦ Abraham and Islam
- ♦ Abraham in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam



- ◆ Akedah in Jewish Tradition
- ◆ Binding of Isaac (Gen 22:1–19)
- ◆ The Creation of the Animals
- ◆ Did the Authors of the Canonical Gospels Know Each Other?
- ◆ The Emergence of Judaism
- ◆ Formation of the Pentateuch
- ◆ Gender and the Hebrew Bible
- ◆ Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37)
- ◆ How Do Biblical Scholars Read the Hebrew Bible?
- ◆ How Did Scribes and the Scribal Tradition Shape the Hebrew Bible?
- ◆ How Do Biblical Scholars Study the New Testament?
- ◆ How Has New Testament Scholarship Changed over Time?
- ◆ Isaac
- ◆ Jesus and Politics
- ◆ Levirate Marriage
- ◆ Marriage and the Attraction between Men and Women in Genesis 2:24
- ◆ Meaning of Dominion
- ◆ Postcolonial Reading of Hagar
- ◆ Political Significance of Luke's Christmas Story
- ◆ Translation of *ezer ke negdo*
- ◆ Who Is Your Favorite Woman in the Bible?
- ◆ Woman-Adulterer Motif

## 2021 User Analysis

In the summer of 2021, Bible Odyssey assistant Nick Smolenski (see Staff listing) evaluated the effectiveness of Bible Odyssey based on data from 20 June 2020 through 19 June 2021. Conclusions concerning Bible Odyssey's use include the following:

- ◆ More than 40 percent of web traffic on Bible Odyssey came from outside the US.
- ◆ There is a great number of single-page users who search for specific topics.
- ◆ Bible Odyssey has a high bounce rate, which suggests targeted engagement with the site.
- ◆ There is increased engagement with a younger demographic.
- ◆ Most users find Bible Odyssey pages through a Google search.

The analysis identified the top ten resources accessed during that time period:

Article Title	Unique Page Views
Suicide in the Bible	119,498
Crucifixion of Jesus and the Jews	87,955
Two Creations in Genesis	65,437
Difference between the Old Testament, the Tanakh, and the Hebrew Bible	53,263
First Murder	49,869
Map of Israel and Judah	48,728
Jesus and the Moneychangers	48,366
Mark of Cain	45,417
Homosexuality in the New Testament	43,193
Lot and His Daughters	37,068

The analysis also revealed that Bible Odyssey is most viewed by persons between the ages of 18 and 34. This suggests increased engagement among younger scholars.

Age Range	Unique Page Views
18–24	23.65%
25–34	23.69%
35–44	15.68%
45–54	13.57%
55–64	12.25%
65–	11.29%



Overall, Nick Smolenski's analysis identified essential information concerning the people who frequent Bible Odyssey. These results also offer fruitful considerations for SBL's redesign of the Bible Odyssey site, which is currently underway.

### SUPPORT BIBLE ODYSSEY

Bible Odyssey has been fortunate to have several partners supporting its mission to make research in Bible and related fields accessible to the general public. You, too, can help Bible Odyssey grow! Support Bible Odyssey by signing up for the monthly newsletter, by following Bible Odyssey on Twitter, or by making a donation.

Home People Places Passages Bibles Tools

Add this:

## Women in Early Christianity

FIND OUT MORE »

### Bible Odyssey: People, Places, and Passages

Explore the fascinating origins of the Bible and its eventful history. On Bible Odyssey, the world's leading scholars share the latest historical and literary research on key people, places, and passages of the Bible.

ASK A SCHOLAR

Focus On Genealogies

Genealogies establish sociopolitical ties

#### Hagar

Hagar, the African mother of many nations, who saw and named God, was enslaved, impregnated, abandoned, and liberated by Sarah and Abraham.

#### Adam

Adam may be thought of as a unique collective individual who embodies the complexity and potential that characterizes the human experience.

#### Isaac

Son of Abraham and father of Jacob, Isaac is the middle of the three patriarchs of the people Israel.

#### Paul's Letters and Modern Race Relations

Love Sechrest on how later interpreters emphasized different aspects of the Pauline epistles when they thought about race relations.

## 2021 Regional Meetings

In 2021, nine of the eleven regions hosted virtual meetings, with an average attendance of 121 members. Regional meetings take place between February and May and are planned and executed thanks to the work of the regional coordinators and other volunteers. For more information, visit <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/regionalMeetings.aspx>.

## 2022 REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE

Region	Dates	Location
Central States	TBD	TBD
Eastern Great Lakes	March 17–19	Virtual Meeting
Mid-Atlantic	March 11 and 14	Virtual Meeting
Midwest	February 4–6	Virtual Meeting
New England/E. Canada	March 18–19	Virtual Meeting
Pacific Coast	February 27	Brea, California
Pacific Northwest	TBD	TBD
Rocky Mountains–Great Plains	March 25–26	Denver, Colorado
Southeastern	March 13–14	Virtual Meeting
Southwestern	March 4–6	Irving, Texas
Upper Midwest	April 1–3	Saint Peter, Minnesota

## 2021 International Meeting

The 2021 International Meeting had been set to occur in Canterbury, U.K., in July. Unfortunately, the continuing COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the meeting for the second straight year. The 2022 International Meeting is set to take place 17–21 July 2022 in Salzburg, Austria.

## 2021 Annual Meeting

Following the first virtual Annual Meeting in the Society's history in 2020, the 2021 Annual Meeting was the first dual-format meeting. This meeting consisted of some sessions that took place in-person in the host city of San Antonio, while other sessions met online. The split was almost 50/50, with SBL program units holding 202 in-person sessions and 218 virtual sessions. This provided the opportunity for 1,780 papers to be presented, along with many other panel session, reviews, and networking events. Combined with the attendees from AAR, 7,500 people participated in the dual-format meeting. In the midst of another deeply challenging year, that rate of participation signals a meeting that met the needs of members where they are.

\* The 2022 Annual Meeting is scheduled for 18–22 November in Denver, Colorado.



## SBL AWARDS

For more information, search for the following awards on the SBL website: De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History, the Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship, the A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship, the David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship, and Status of Women in the Profession Committee Mentor Award. For information on presenting at a regional meeting or applying for a Regional Scholar Award, see the webpages of the individual regional meetings.

### The Status of Women in the Profession Outstanding Service in Mentoring Awards

**Mary F. Foskett** is Wake Forest Kahle Professor at Wake Forest University, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate MA students in the Department for the Study of Religions and served as a founder and inaugural director of the WFU Humanities Institute. Her published articles, essays, monographs, and edited volumes include *A Virgin Conceived: Mary and Classical Representations of Virginity* (Indiana University Press) and *Ways of Being, Ways of Reading: Asian-American Biblical Interpretation*, coedited with Jeffrey Kah-Jin Kuan (Chalice). Foskett is an active participant in the SBL and a past member and chair of the SBL Council.

### The Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession 2021 Outstanding Mentor Award

**Randall C. Bailey** is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Hebrew Bible at Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, where he taught for thirty-five years. He has also taught as Visiting Professor in South Africa and Brazil. He has served as Co-Chairperson of the African American Biblical Hermeneutics Group of the Society of Biblical Literature, on the *Semeia* editorial board, and on the Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession. Bailey is the author of *David in Love and War: The Pursuit of Power in 2 Samuel 10–12* (Sheffield Academic), as well as many essays and articles. He is the coeditor of *They Were All Together in One Place? Toward Minority Biblical Criticism* (Society of Biblical Literature); *Yet with a Steady Beat: Contemporary U.S. Afrocentric Biblical Interpretation* (Society of Biblical Literature); *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora* (Fortress); and *The Recovery of Black Presence: An Interdisciplinary Exploration* (Abingdon). He has also edited two collections and was guest editor of volumes of the *The Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center*. As an ideological critic, his writings have focused on the intersectionalities of race/ethnicity, gender, class, sexualities, and power in the biblical texts and their interpreters. At ITC, Bailey mentored dozens of students who have been accepted into graduate programs, earned PhDs or ThDs, and are teaching in seminaries and universities around the world.



Mary F. Foskett



Randall C. Bailey



Gale A. Yee

**Gale A. Yee** is Nancy W. King Professor of Biblical Studies Emerita, Episcopal Divinity School. She is the author of *Poor Banished Children of Eve: Woman as Evil in the Hebrew Bible* (Augsburg Fortress); *Jewish Feasts and the Gospel of John* (Wipf & Stock); *Composition and Tradition in the Book of Hosea* (Scholars Press); “The Book of Hosea” commentary in *The New Interpreters Bible*, and numerous articles and essays. She is a coeditor for the Texts@Context series, the editor of *Judges and Method: New Approaches in Biblical Studies*, which is now in its second edition (Fortress), the *Fortress Commentary on the Old Testament and Apocrypha* (Fortress), and *The Hebrew Bible: Feminist and Intersectional Perspectives* (Fortress), and former General Editor of Semeia Studies. Her most recent book is *Towards an Asian American Biblical Hermeneutics: An Intersectional Anthology* (Cascade). In 2019, she was president of the Society of Biblical Literature. She was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary in 2020. She lives at Pilgrim Place, a retirement community in Claremont, California, known for its social activism.

#### **A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship**

**Luis Menéndez-Antuña** is Assistant Professor of New Testament at Boston University School of Theology. He is interested in liberation theologies, cultural studies, and critical theory. Previously he was Assistant Professor at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and served as Core Doctoral Faculty at the Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley, CA). His current research explores the queer and postcolonial afterlives of the biblical texts. He has published his research on journals such as *Estudios Eclesiásticos*, *Ilu: Revista de Ciencias de las Religiones*, *Biblical Interpretation*, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, *Early Christianity*, *Critical Research on Religion*, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, and *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (forthcoming). His first monograph, *Thinking Sex with the Great Whore: Deviant Sexualities and Empire in the Book of Revelation* (Routledge) offers an emancipatory reading of Rev 17–18 using postcolonial and queer historiographies to explore paths for identity formation in biblical texts. He is currently working on a second monograph, *New Testament Studies after the Cultural Studies Turn*, that focuses on theoretical and hermeneutical developments in New Testament studies.

#### **David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship**

**Julia Rhyder** is Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University. Her research on the Hebrew Bible embraces a broad approach to the study of biblical texts that focuses not only on the context of their composition but also on their transmission and reception in ancient Judaism. Rhyder’s first book, *Centralizing the Cult: The Holiness Legislation in Leviticus 17–26* (Mohr Siebeck) was the joint winner of the 2021 Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise. Rhyder has published articles in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Dead Sea Discoveries*, *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentlich Wissenschaft*, *Semitica*, and *Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel*. Her current book project, begun as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Basel, explores the commemoration of warfare in festivals of the Hebrew Bible and Second Temple traditions.

#### **De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History**

**Erin Galgay Walsh** (PhD Duke University, 2019) studies ancient and late antique Christianity with a focus on Syriac language and literature. Her current research focuses on the reception of biblical literature and the growth of asceticism within the eastern Roman and Persian Empires. She is working on a book project examining the *Nachleben* of unnamed New Testament women in Syriac and Greek poetry, highlighting the work of Narsai of Nisibis, Jacob of Serugh, and Romanos Melodos. She teaches and writes upon a variety of topics in New Testament literature, the history of biblical interpretation, Syriac language and literature, embodied practices, religious poetry, and multilingualism in the late antique and early Byzantine East. She is an affiliated faculty member with the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality and the Joyce Z. and Jacob Greenberg Center Jewish Studies at the University of Chicago. During the 2018–2019 academic year, she was a Junior Fellow in Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection of Harvard University. She also serves as Editor in Chief at *Ancient Jew Review*, a nonprofit web journal devoted to the interdisciplinary study of ancient Judaism.

### Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship

**Jeremiah Coogan** (PhD, Notre Dame 2020) is a scholar of the New Testament and early Christianity whose research focuses on gospel reading and material texts. His forthcoming monograph, *Eusebius the Evangelist* (Oxford University Press), analyzes Eusebius of Caesarea's fourth-century reconfiguration of the gospels as a window into broader questions of technology and textuality in the ancient Mediterranean. His current project investigates the literary and bibliographic concepts that early Christians employed to theorize similarities and differences between gospel texts. At present he is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow in the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Oxford. He is also a Fellow in the Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography at Rare Book School (University of Virginia). Jeremiah's Achtemeier paper is forthcoming from the *Journal of Early Christian Studies*. Jeremiah is also one of two SBL Regional Scholars (see next).

### Regional Scholars

**Robin Thompson** is an adjunct professor of Theology at Houston Baptist University. She is also a visiting professor at Dallas Theological Seminary. She holds a BS in Computer Science from Angelo State University and a ThM and PhD in New Testament Studies from Dallas Theological Seminary. Her research focuses on the history and culture of the first-century Mediterranean world, engaging the work of classical scholars in ancient history, and explores how this information might inform our understanding of New Testament texts. Her dissertation seeks to give voice to those who have rarely been heard: the freedpersons in the early Christian communities.

**Jeremiah Coogan** (see profile above).



Luis Menéndez-Antuña



Julia Rhyder



Erin Galgay Walsh



Jeremiah Coogan



Robin Thompson



## International Travel Awards

The SBL International Travel Awards offer opportunities to current SBL members outside North America to attend the Annual or International Meetings, to participate in the program, to enhance their professional development, and to build their network with fellow scholars. These grants help facilitate the work of Program Units and the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI). These grants are intended to support underrepresented and underresourced scholars. As such, preference will be given to women, people of historically underrepresented ethnicities, and members from ICI-qualifying countries. A key criterion is an applicant's demonstrable financial need. The International Travel Awards defray transportation, hotel accommodations, and other expenses incurred for the Annual or International Meeting.

### The 2021 SBL International Travel Recipients are:

- ♦ Jorge Cano Moreno, Catholic University of Argentina (Argentina)
- ♦ Olga Gienini, Catholic University of Argentina (Argentina)
- ♦ Godfred Nsiah, University of Ghana (Ghana)
- ♦ Caio Peres, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Brazil)
- ♦ Balu Savarikannu, Asia Graduate School of Theology–Philippines (India)
- ♦ Ekaterina Todorova, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria)

Four International Travel Award Panels administer the awards each year, serving four geographic regions: Africa and Middle East; Asia and Pacific; Eastern Europe; and Latin America and Caribbean. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all applicants and donors of the Society. Your contributions to the Society of Biblical Literature strengthen our mission to foster biblical scholarship globally.



**Jorge Cano Moreno**



**Olga Gienini**



**Godfred Nsiah**



**Caio Peres**



**Balu Savarikannu**



**Ekaterina Todorova**

For SBL Press, 2021 was a year to regain momentum following 2020's pandemic-created slowdown and to push toward the completion of several significant projects. As reported earlier in the Society Report (pages 6–11), Press staff members devoted considerable time to the thirty-year review and revision of the NRSV. After years of planning, meetings, and close work with the text, the final revisions of the NRSV Updated Edition were delivered to the National Council of Churches in September 2021.

Even while working on the NRSVue, we were devoting significant time and effort on the first SBL-sponsored product that will make use of the revised translation: a new edition of the HarperCollins Study Bible. A team of SBL members led by editors Dexter E. Callender Jr., Corrine Carvalho, Kristin De Troyer, Matthew Goff, Steven L. McKenzie, Sarah Sheckman, Shively T. J. Smith, and F. Scott Spencer, working closely with SBL Press staff members, are on target for an early 2023 publication of this important resource.

In addition to these special projects, SBL Press conducted its usual business of fostering biblical scholarship through the written word in various forms. During 2021, SBL Press published 30 volumes totaling 11,828 pages across 12 different series. In addition, our three serial publications—*Journal of Biblical Literature*, *Review of Biblical Literature*, and *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism*—generated nearly 3,000 additional pages of scholarly resources. Finally, Bible Odyssey website published 45 new articles, bringing its total to 644 articles overall, and attracted over 2.3 million readers during 2021 (see the full report on pages 18–22).

## SERIAL PUBLICATIONS

### *Journal of Biblical Literature*

For the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, 2021 was a year of transitions. In addition to the editorial changes reported above (see pages 14–15), *JBL* was presented with the challenge of relocating its online presence. That is, due to JSTOR's ending of its Journal Hosting Program in 2021, SBL Press needed to secure the services of a new hosting partner to make *JBL* issues available online to members and institutional subscribers. We selected the Scholarly Publishing Collective, a new platform managed by Duke University Press, and worked with their team to migrate all content going back to volume 1 and to create a new online home for the journal. SBL members will continue to gain access to *JBL* by logging in on the SBL website, but they will now be directed to our new page at the Scholarly Publishing Collective.

Despite the increased demands these transitions placed on the leadership team, *JBL* continued to publish quarterly issues without significant delay and to reduce both the average review time and the backlog of articles waiting to be published. Over the course of the year, the journal published thirty-seven articles plus an SBL Forum on “Social Inclusion and the Ethics of Citation.”

### *Review of Biblical Literature*

During 2021, thanks to the cooperative efforts of our reviewers, editors, and staff, *RBL* published 455 reviews. With an average of 1,636 words per review, the past year's output would fill nearly 1,900 published pages. To take this a step further, the 11,150 reviews published since the beginning of *RBL* through the end of 2021 would fill over 150 300-page books. This is truly a monumental accomplishment, not least because it has been achieved largely through the contributions of volunteers.

Our reviewers hailed from thirty-one different countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This year approximately 44 percent of *RBL* reviews were authored by scholars outside of the United States, the same percentage reported for last year. In terms of gender distribution, 20.0 percent of our reviewers were female and 80.0 percent

male; this distribution falls short of the Society's gender representation of 24.8 percent female, 75.1 male, and 0.1 transgender, but it tracks closely the authorship of the monographs being reviewed: 21.6 percent female, 78.3 percent male, and 0.1 percent joint authorship.

### *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism*

The 2021 volume of *TC* published significantly more than in 2020, including five articles, one note, and nine reviews. The articles included:

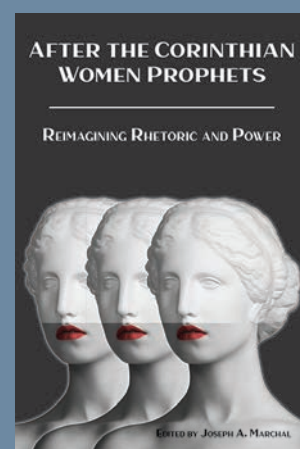
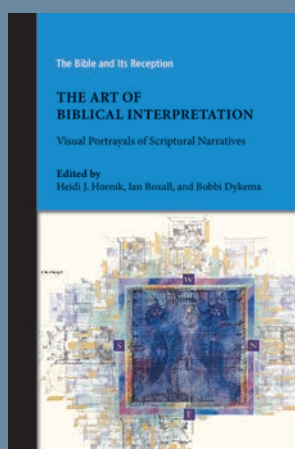
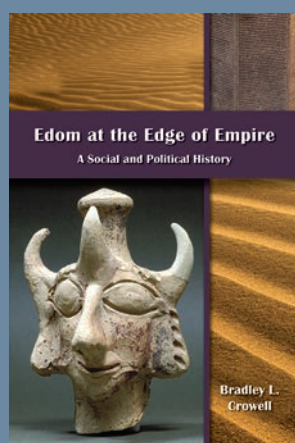
- ◆ Pasi Hyytiäinen, "The Changing Text of Acts: A Phylogenetic Approach"
- ◆ Jason Robert Combs, "Christian Anti-Sabbath Polemic and the Textual Transmission of Luke 4:16 and 23:56"
- ◆ Joey McCollum, "The Text and Margin of Gregory-Aland 274"
- ◆ Elizabeth Schrader and Brandon Simonson, "'Rabbouni,' Which Means Lord: Narrative Variants in John 20:16"
- ◆ Steven M. Bryan, "Scribal Tendencies and Name Forms: 'Mary' in the New Testament"

## 2021 BOOK AND ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Pauline Allen, *John Chrysostom, Homilies on Colossians* (Writings from the Greco-Roman World)
- ◆ Pamela Barmash and Mark W. Hamilton, eds., *In the Shadow of Empire: Israel and Judah in the Long Sixth Century BCE* (Archaeology and Biblical Studies)
- ◆ Ferdinand Christian Baur; David Lincicum, Wayne Coppins, Christoph Heilig, and Lucas Ogden, trans., *The Christ Party in the Corinthian Community* (Early Christianity and Its Literature)
- ◆ Andrea M. Berlin and Paul J. Kosmin, eds., *The Middle Maccabees: Archaeology, History, and the Rise of the Hasmonean Kingdom* (Archaeology and Biblical Studies)
- ◆ L. Juliana Claassens and Irmtraud Fischer, eds., *Prophecy and Gender in the Hebrew Bible* (Bible and Women)
- ◆ Don Collett, Mark Elliott, Mark Gignilliat, and Ephraim Radner, eds., *The Identity of Israel's God in Christian Scripture* (Resources for Biblical Study)
- ◆ Bradley L. Crowell, *Edom at the Edge of Empire: A Social and Political History* (Archaeology and Biblical Studies)
- ◆ Amanda Dillon, *Drawn to the Word: The Bible and Graphic Design* (Bible and Its Reception)
- ◆ James R. Harrison and L. L. Welborn, eds., *The First Urban Churches 6: Rome and Ostia* (Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplement Series)
- ◆ Jimmy Hoke, *Feminism, Queerness, Affect, and Romans: Under God?* (Early Christianity and Its Literature)
- ◆ Heidi J. Hornik, Ian Boxall, and Bobbi Dykema, eds., *The Art of Biblical Interpretation: Visual Portrayals of Scriptural Narratives* (Bible and Its Reception)
- ◆ Lynn R. Huber, Susan E. Hylen, and William M. Wright IV, eds., *Narrative Mode and Theological Claim in Johannine Literature: Essays in Honor of Gail R. O'Day* (Biblical Scholarship in North America)
- ◆ Jaeyoung Jeon, ed., *The Social Groups behind the Pentateuch* (Ancient Israel and Its Literature)
- ◆ Thomas Kazen, *Impurity and Purification in Early Judaism and the Jesus Tradition* (Resources for Biblical Study)
- ◆ G. Anthony Keddie, Michael Flexsenhar III, and Steven J. Friesen, eds., *The Struggle over Class: Socioeconomic Analysis of Ancient Christian Texts* (Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplement Series)
- ◆ Reuven Kiperwasser, *Going West: Migrating Personae and Construction of the Self in Rabbinic Culture* (Brown Judaic Studies)
- ◆ T. M. Lemos, Jordan D. Rosenblum, Karen B. Stern, and Debra Scoggins Ballentine, eds., *With the Loyal You Show Yourself Loyal: Essays on Relationships in the Hebrew Bible in Honor of Saul M. Olyan* (Ancient Israel and Its Literature)



- ♦ Peter Machinist, Robert A. Harris, Joshua A. Berman, Nili Samet, and Noga Ayali-Darshan, eds., *Ve-'Ed Ya'aleh (Gen 2:6): Essays in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies Presented to Edward L. Greenstein*, 2 vols. (Writings from the Ancient World Supplement Series)
- ♦ Joseph A. Marchal, ed., *After the Corinthian Women Prophets: Reimagining Rhetoric and Power* (Semeia Studies)
- ♦ Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon and Robyn J. Whitaker, eds., *Terror in the Bible: Rhetoric, Gender, and Violence* (International Voices in Biblical Studies)
- ♦ Scott B. Noegel, "Wordplay" in *Ancient Near Eastern Texts* (Ancient Near East Monographs)
- ♦ Saul M. Olyan and Jordan D. Rosenblum, eds., *Animals and the Law in Antiquity* (Brown Judaic Studies)
- ♦ Patrick Pouchelle, G. Anthony Keddie, and Kenneth Atkinson, eds., *The Psalms of Solomon: Texts, Contexts, and Intertexts* (Early Judaism and Its Literature)
- ♦ Jeffrey L. Rubenstein, ed., *Studies in Rabbinic Narratives, Volume 1* (Brown Judaic Studies)
- ♦ David T. Runia and Michael B. Cover, eds., *The Studia Philonica Annual XXXII, 2020: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism* (Studia Philonica Annual)
- ♦ David T. Runia and Gregory E. Sterling, eds., *The Studia Philonica Annual XXXIII, 2021: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism* (Studia Philonica Annual)
- ♦ Bernd U. Schipper, *The Hermeneutics of Torah: Proverbs 2, Deuteronomy, and the Composition of Proverbs 1–9* (Ancient Israel and Its Literature)
- ♦ Michael E. Stone, *Armenian Apocrypha from Adam to Daniel* (Early Judaism and Its Literature)
- ♦ Lauri Thurén, ed., *Rhetoric and Scripture: Collected Essays of Thomas H. Olbricht* (Emory Studies in Early Christianity)



## SBL CENTRAL JOURNAL NOTIFICATIONS

Since the launch of SBL Central (<https://www.sblcentral.org/>) in 2018, we have continued adding functionality to make it an essential online resource for biblical scholars. The initial release made available a database of SBL conference paper abstracts, and in late 2020 we migrated *Review of Biblical Literature* to the new online platform, where users can now search for books, book reviews, and conference papers in one central location. One of the most exciting new features of SBL Central is the custom alert function that SBL members can set up so that they are notified weekly of newly published books and book reviews in their specific areas of interest.

In order to continue helping biblical scholars keep up with new publications in the field, we are now nearing the launch of the next phase of SBL Central: notification by email of newly published journal issues. We have selected over thirty journals that are core to SBL members' interests and cover a range of specializations and methodologies. Members can now log in with their membership on SBL Central and choose which journals they wish to be notified about. When a new issue is published by one of a member's chosen journals, SBL Central will send an email listing the contents of the issue along with links back to the journal's own online hosting site. Members can thus sign up for email notifications in one central hub. This new option is available in the dropdown menu once a member logs in.


**Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology (SAGE)**

Publication Frequency: 4 issues per year

ISSN: 0020-9643 (Print) 2159-340x (Online)

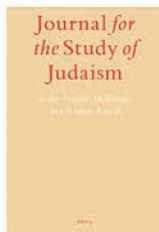
*Interpretation* has themed issues and serves the academy, church, and public square, with a special interest in biblical interpretation.


**Journal for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies (Sheffield Institute for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies)**

Publication Frequency: 2 issues per year

ISSN: 2633-0695 (Print)

*JIBS* is a peer-reviewed, open access journal dedicated to cutting edge articles that embody interdisciplinary, social justice-oriented, feminist, queer, and innovative biblical scholarship.


**Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Period (Brill)**

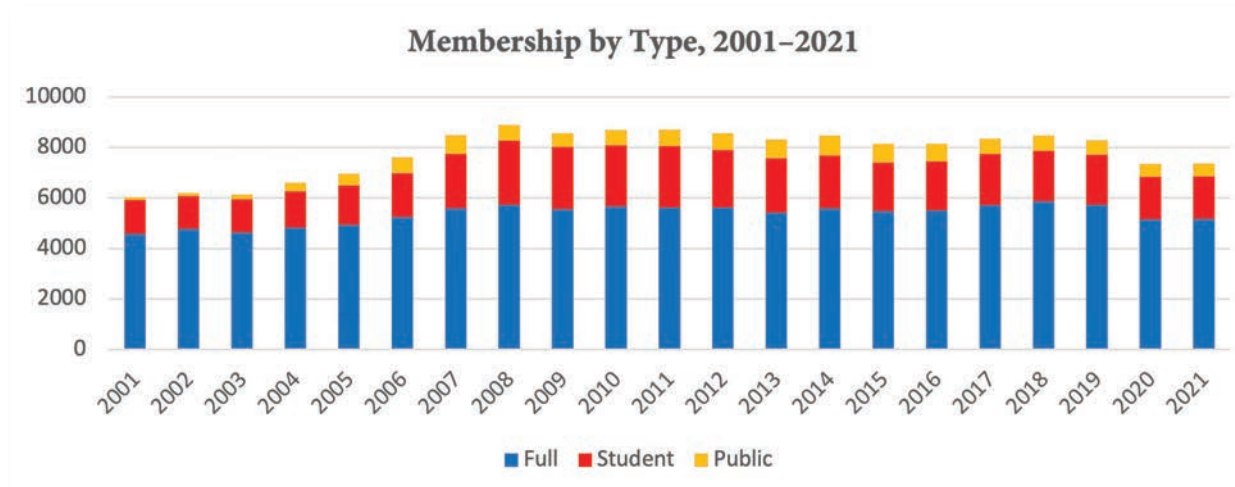
Publication Frequency: 5 issues per year

ISSN: 0047-2212 (Print) 1570-0631 (Online)

A leading international forum for scholarly discussions on the history, literature and religious ideas of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman period.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

After a decline in membership in 2020, the overall membership number stayed relatively steady in 2021.



The largest category of membership continues to be the full membership, at 5,178 (70%). Student membership totaled 1,679 (23%), while 507 were public memberships (7%). Each category of membership was essentially the same as last year.

The percentage of members living outside of the United States declined slightly to 34 percent, down from 36 percent in 2020. However, that percentage is higher than the 31 percent of members that resided outside of the United States in 2019 and considerably higher than the 21 percent in 2001. The 2020 and 2021 percentages are particularly remarkable, given that they have occurred in years when the International Meeting, which often is a significant driver of membership outside of the United States, could not be held. They likely point to the opportunities opened by virtual participation in SBL meetings in each of those years.

Members currently reside in 93 countries, which is down slightly from the 96 countries represented in 2020. It continues to be the case that about 5 percent of members reside in each of the United Kingdom and Canada. Outside of the United States (66%), other countries with large numbers of members include Germany (4%), Australia (3%), Israel (2%), Italy (1%), South Africa (1%), Switzerland (1%), and the Netherlands (1%).

### ICI Countries and SBL Membership

SBL currently has 402 members who reside in 61 different countries that are a part of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI). South Africa, the Philippines, Brazil, Nigeria, Poland, and Argentina are the ICI countries with the highest numbers of members.

### Help Us to Better Serve Our Members

#### By updating your member profile ...

The member profile allows the Society to understand the needs of members and to develop resources and program to meet those needs. Please make it a yearly habit to update your member profile.

# MEMBERSHIP

## Where SBL Members Reside

Country	Members	Country	Members	Country	Members
ARGENTINA	19	GREECE	8	PARAGUAY	1
AUSTRALIA	227	GREENLAND	1	PERU	12
AUSTRIA	45	GUATEMALA	1	PHILIPPINES	27
BARBADOS	1	HONDURAS	1	POLAND	21
BELGIUM	44	HONG KONG	23	PORTUGAL	6
BERMUDA	1	HUNGARY	10	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	30
BOLIVIA	1	ICELAND	1	ROMANIA	14
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	2	INDIA	11	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	5
BOTSWANA	1	INDONESIA	13	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	1
BRAZIL	23	IRELAND	24	SAMOA	3
BULGARIA	7	ISRAEL	127	SERBIA	2
CANADA	340	ITALY	85	SINGAPORE	14
CHILE	3	JAMAICA	1	SLOVAKIA	9
CHINA	8	JAPAN	38	SOUTH AFRICA	70
COLOMBIA	7	KENYA	7	SPAIN	23
COSTA RICA	1	LATVIA	2	SRI LANKA	2
COTE D'IVOIRE	2	LEBANON	3	SWEDEN	41
CROATIA	4	LITHUANIA	2	SWITZERLAND	69
CURAÇAO	1	LUXEMBOURG	2	TAIWAN	7
CZECH REPUBLIC	9	MALAWI	1	THAILAND	1
DENMARK	26	MALAYSIA	9	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	1
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	3	MALTA	4	TURKEY	1
ECUADOR	1	MEXICO	5	UGANDA	3
EGYPT	5	MYANMAR (BURMA)	2	UKRAINE	2
ESTONIA	5	NETHERLANDS	68	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	4
ETHIOPIA	4	NEW ZEALAND	32	UNITED KINGDOM	383
FINLAND	38	NICARAGUA	1	UNITED STATES	4,859
FRANCE	41	NIGERIA	22	VANUATU	1
GEORGIA	3	NORWAY	50	VIETNAM	1
GERMANY	265	PAKISTAN	1	ZAMBIA	2
GHANA	8	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	4	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,319</b>



## SUMMER WEBINAR SERIES

In the summer of 2021, the Society released four prerecorded webinars on pressing issues in the field. Each webinar featured a diverse group of panelist who engaged in intimate conversations concerning their introduction to biblical studies, the state of the field, and ways to engender change. All of these webinars are available on the SBL website at <https://www.sbl-site.org/membership/webinars.aspx>.

### Globalizing Biblical Studies in the Twenty-First Century

Chauncey Handy  
 Laura Carlson Hasler  
 Johnathan Jodamus  
 Tat-siong Benny Liew (presider)  
 Robert J. Myles  
 Philippa Townsend  
 Sonia Kwok Wong

### Disabilities Studies and the Bible

Candace Buckner  
 Chris de Wet  
 Louise Gosbell  
 Eric Harvey  
 Candida R. Moss (presider)  
 Isaac Soon

### Africana Biblical Hermeneutics

Margaret Aymer  
 Michael Joseph Brown  
 Herbert R. Marbury (Presider)  
 Funlola O. Olojede  
 Justin Reed  
 Eric A. Thomas  
 Annie Tinsley

### Horizons of LGBTIQ+ Hermeneutics

Sarah Emanuel  
 Lynn R. Huber (presider)  
 Minenhle Nomalungelo Khumalo  
 Ken Stone  
 Max Strassfeld  
 Manuel Villabos Mendoza



## MEMBER REVIEW

The Member Review is a biweekly communication for the Society's membership. Announcements, honors, and resources are included to alert members of opportunities for research, writing, and professional development. Member interviews are featured in this communication to illustrate the diversity of identity, approaches, and interests among the Society's membership.

To send announcements and resources for the Member Review, email SBL Services at [sblservices@sbl-site.org](mailto:sblservices@sbl-site.org).



## SBL STAFF

### Nick Smolenski, Bible Odyssey Summer Intern

Summer 2021, the Society welcomed Nick Smolenski as the Bible Odyssey Assistant. Nick Smolenski is a PhD Candidate in Musicology, Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Duke University. His dissertation investigates the effect of sonic and acoustical concerns on the rebuilding and reception of St Paul's Cathedral in London (1666–1697). As an intern for Bible Odyssey, Nick used his extensive experience in digital humanities to assess the effectiveness of Bible Odyssey and offer considerations for a future redesign of the site. We are immensely thankful for the work of Nick Smolenski and we wish him well in his current and future endeavors. Learn more about Nick by watching his interview on the SBL's Member Spotlight page and reading his blog!



## STAFF LIST

Bob Buller, Director of SBL Press  
 Trisha Cousino, Student Intern, Congresses and Professions  
 Glory Emekeme, Executive Assistant and Manager of Development  
 Courtney Godwin, Student Intern, Membership  
 Christopher Hooker, Director of Membership and Programs  
 Sharon Johnson, Manager of Web Design  
 Pam Kennemore, Director of Finance and Administration  
 Trista Krock, Director of Global Conferences  
 John F. Kutsko, Executive Director

LaToya Leary, Manager of Communications and Member Relations  
 Lindsay Lingo, Graphic Design, SBL Press  
 Heather McMurray, Marketing and Sales Manager, SBL Press  
 Chris O'Connor, Director of Information Technology  
 Pamela Y. Polhemus, Accounting Assistant  
 Jonathan M. Potter, Serials Manager, SBL Press  
 Christópher Abreu Rosario, SBL Press Assistant  
 Paige Schmidt, Manager of Programs  
 Leigh Ann Simpson, Manager of Registration and Housing  
 Samantha Spitzner, Meetings Coordinator  
 Nicole L. Tilford, Production Manager, SBL Press

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION 30 JUNE 2021 AND 2020

	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,613,577	\$1,533,481
Marketable securities	6,216,630	4,628,992
Accounts receivable	192,704	229,996
Prepaid expenses and other assets	164,243	464,554
Book inventories, net of valuation reserve	76,710	55,772
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	6,375	10,721
Capitalized software, net of accumulated amortization	773,342	229,340
Net share of Luce Center assets	<u>2,178,605</u>	<u>1,943,968</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$11,222,186</u></b>	<b><u>\$9,096,824</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$372,134	\$260,204
Notes payable	286,961	281,600
Deferred revenue		
Memberships and subscriptions	540,242	497,013
Annual meetings	517,044	435,669
Other	<u>7,940</u>	<u>326,527</u>
Total deferred revenues	<u>1,065,226</u>	<u>1,259,209</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,724,321</u>	<u>1,801,013</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Without donor restrictions		
Undesignated	792,038	430,256
Designated by Board for operating reserve	5,802,328	4,325,486
Invested in Luce Center	<u>1,113,436</u>	<u>1,160,251</u>
	7,707,802	5,915,993
With donor restrictions	<u>1,790,063</u>	<u>1,379,818</u>
Total net assets	<u>9,497,865</u>	<u>7,295,811</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b><u>\$11,222,186</u></b>	<b><u>\$9,096,824</u></b>

**Comments:**

1. SBL continues growing, with twelve consecutive years of increases in net assets. The increase for FY 2021 was \$2,202,054, as shown on the Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets.
2. SBL staff continue to manage operations within budget. FY2021 revenues were under budget by \$66,739, while expenses were under budget by \$270,786, resulting in an operational net increase over budget by \$204,047.

# FINANCES

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>
<b>REVENUES AND GAINS</b>		
Congresses		
Congresses	\$513,456	\$1,465,415
Grant revenue	150,000	—
Membership		
Membership fees	573,014	605,963
Marketing	23,300	20,900
Fee income	—	40
Professions		
Career center	42,890	61,585
Grant revenue	62,279	697
Sponsorship income	23,025	—
Fonts	3,350	—
Press		
Book sales	445,906	401,407
Subscriptions	176,154	239,403
Royalties	133,453	118,473
Marketing	18,807	14,497
Permissions	17,030	11,901
Membership fees	101,170	106,935
Contract income	51,107	107,500
Grant revenue	133,651	1,603
Sponsorship income	53,725	—
Fees	11,829	11,675
Subvention income	—	5,920
Contributions—PPP forgiveness	281,600	—
Regional meetings revenue	14,003	8,895
Development and fundraising	41,794	297,907
Investment income, net	1,897,789	239,355
Rental income, net	63,399	48,428
<b>Total revenues and gains</b>	<b>\$4,832,731</b>	<b>\$3,768,499</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program expenses		
Congresses	\$654,895	\$1,167,818
Membership	191,580	198,142
Professions	280,310	286,622
Press	1,282,508	1,381,078
Regional meetings	13,578	35,324
Research and Technology	46,252	39,481
<b>Total program expenses</b>	<b>2,469,123</b>	<b>3,108,465</b>
Development and fundraising	7,346	17,591
General and administration	154,208	155,492
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$2,630,677</b>	<b>\$3,281,548</b>
<b>Increase in Net Assets</b>	<b>2,202,054</b>	<b>486,951</b>
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	<b>7,295,811</b>	<b>6,808,860</b>
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$9,497,865</b>	<b>\$7,295,811</b>

## BUDGET 2021–2022

<b>Revenues</b>	
Administration	\$475,961
Congresses	844,415
Development	30,000
Membership	640,500
Professions	48,108
Press	1,276,870
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,315,854</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Administration	\$142,586
Congresses	1,014,331
Development	8,189
Membership	195,914
Professions	325,671
Press	1,403,930
Regions support	28,445
Technology	40,279
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$3,159,345</b>
Net budget surplus before amortization	156,509
Amortization	189,615
<b>Net budget deficit</b>	<b>(\$33,106)</b>
Revenue includes one-time revenue as follows:	
PPP Loan forgiveness	\$286,961
NRSV revenue	200,000
HarperCollins revenue	30,000
	<b>\$516,961</b>

The financial information summarized here was derived from the Society's audited financial statements. The independent auditor's report by Mauldin & Jenkins, dated 7 December 2021, states that the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Society. Please see the full audit report at the SBL website.



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## **Postcolonial Studies**

Sung Uk Lim

## **Prophets**

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Pieter van der Zwan

## **Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls**

Angela Kim Harkins  
Hanna Tervanotko

## **Quran and Islamic Tradition in Comparative Perspective**

Abdulla Galadari

## **Rethinking Biblical Written Tradition through Slavonic Interpretations**

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## **Return Migration in Biblical Literature**

John Ahn

## **Ritual in the Biblical World**

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