

ba in biblical studies

****Exploring the Depths of Faith: A Comprehensive Guide to BA in Biblical Studies****

ba in biblical studies offers an intriguing academic path for those passionate about understanding the Bible, its historical context, and its impact on culture and society. Whether you're considering a career in ministry, education, or simply seeking a deeper comprehension of biblical texts, this degree provides a rich foundation. Let's dive into what a BA in Biblical Studies entails, the skills you'll develop, and the opportunities it can unlock.

What Is a BA in Biblical Studies?

A Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies is an undergraduate degree focused on the in-depth study of the Bible, theology, and related disciplines such as history, languages, and philosophy. Unlike a general religious studies program, this degree zeroes in on the Scriptures themselves, examining their origins, interpretations, and applications throughout history.

Students engage with both the Old and New Testaments, often exploring ancient languages such as Hebrew and Greek to access original texts. This academic pursuit blends critical thinking with spiritual insight, encouraging learners to analyze biblical literature through scholarly methods while appreciating its religious significance.

Core Curriculum and Areas of Study

A typical BA in Biblical Studies program covers a variety of subjects, including:

- **Biblical Languages:** Introduction to Hebrew, Greek, and sometimes Aramaic, enabling direct interaction with original scripture.
- **Old Testament Studies:** Exploration of the historical and theological themes within the Hebrew Bible.
- **New Testament Studies:** Examination of the life of Jesus, the early church, and the writings of apostles.
- **Theology and Doctrine:** Study of Christian beliefs, creeds, and systematic theology.
- **Church History:** Understanding the development of Christianity through the ages.
- **Ethics and Philosophy:** Discussions on moral issues and worldview formation based on biblical principles.

This diverse curriculum not only nurtures a comprehensive understanding of the Bible but also hones analytical and interpretative skills valuable in many professional contexts.

Why Choose a BA in Biblical Studies?

Many students are drawn to biblical studies out of personal faith or intellectual curiosity. However, the degree offers practical benefits beyond spiritual growth.

Developing Critical Thinking and Analytical Skills

Studying ancient texts requires a keen eye for detail and the ability to interpret complex narratives and symbolism. Students learn to critically evaluate sources, compare translations, and understand cultural contexts, which are transferable skills useful in research, teaching, and counseling.

Building a Foundation for Ministry and Leadership

For those aspiring to become pastors, missionaries, or church leaders, a BA in Biblical Studies is often a stepping stone. The degree provides theological grounding and equips students with the knowledge to teach, preach, and guide communities effectively.

Opening Doors in Related Fields

Beyond ministry, graduates find opportunities in education, non-profit organizations, social work, and writing. The emphasis on communication, ethics, and cultural awareness makes biblical studies graduates versatile professionals.

Choosing the Right Program: What to Look For

If you're considering enrolling in a BA in Biblical Studies, it's important to find a program that aligns with your goals and values.

Accreditation and Reputation

Ensure the institution is accredited by recognized bodies, which guarantees academic standards and can impact future employment or graduate study prospects.

Faculty Expertise

Look for programs with faculty who have strong backgrounds in biblical languages, theology, and historical research. Professors actively engaged in scholarship tend to provide richer learning experiences.

Flexibility and Delivery Format

Many schools offer online or hybrid options, which can be ideal for students balancing work or family commitments. Check if the curriculum schedule suits your lifestyle.

Opportunities for Hands-On Experience

Internships, study abroad programs focusing on biblical lands, or involvement in church ministries can enhance your practical understanding and resume.

Career Paths with a BA in Biblical Studies

The journey after graduation can take multiple routes, depending on personal interests and further education.

Ministry and Religious Leadership

Many graduates pursue seminary or divinity school to become pastors, chaplains, or missionaries. The BA serves as a solid foundation for advanced theological education.

Education and Academia

With additional qualifications, biblical studies graduates can teach religious studies in schools, colleges, or community programs. Some may also engage in academic research or writing.

Nonprofit and Social Services

Faith-based organizations often seek professionals who understand theology and ethics. Roles in counseling, advocacy, and community development are common.

Writing, Publishing, and Media

If you have a knack for communication, careers in Christian publishing, journalism, or media production focusing on religious content might be fulfilling.

Tips for Success in a BA in Biblical Studies Program

Embarking on this academic path requires dedication and an open mind. Here are some suggestions to make the most of your degree:

1. **Engage Deeply with Texts:** Don't just read passively. Take notes, ask questions, and compare different translations to enrich your understanding.
2. **Learn Biblical Languages:** Even a basic grasp of Hebrew or Greek can transform how you interact with the Bible.
3. **Participate in Discussions:** Join study groups or forums to hear diverse perspectives and challenge your interpretations.
4. **Connect Theory with Practice:** Volunteer in church ministries or community programs to see how biblical principles are applied today.
5. **Utilize Resources:** Libraries, online databases, and theological journals are treasure troves for research and deeper study.
6. **Plan for Further Education:** Many careers in theology and ministry require graduate degrees, so consider your long-term academic goals early on.

Understanding the Broader Impact of Biblical Studies

Pursuing a BA in Biblical Studies is not just an academic exercise—it's a way to engage with one of the most influential texts in human history. The Bible has shaped art, culture, law, and ethics across centuries. By studying it in depth, graduates gain insight into the values and narratives that continue to influence societies worldwide.

Moreover, biblical literacy fosters interfaith dialogue and cultural sensitivity, helping bridge gaps between communities. In a world that increasingly values diverse perspectives, such knowledge is more important than ever.

Embarking on a BA in Biblical Studies opens a window into ancient wisdom and

contemporary relevance alike. Whether your goal is personal enrichment or professional ministry, the journey promises to be intellectually rewarding and spiritually meaningful.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a BA in Biblical Studies?

A BA in Biblical Studies is an undergraduate degree focusing on the study of the Bible, including its history, languages, theology, and cultural context.

What career opportunities are available with a BA in Biblical Studies?

Graduates can pursue careers in ministry, education, counseling, missions, non-profit work, research, or continue with graduate theological studies.

What subjects are covered in a BA in Biblical Studies program?

Typical subjects include Old Testament, New Testament, biblical languages (Hebrew and Greek), theology, church history, ethics, and biblical archaeology.

How long does it take to complete a BA in Biblical Studies?

A BA in Biblical Studies typically takes about 3 to 4 years of full-time study, depending on the country and institution.

Is knowledge of biblical languages required for a BA in Biblical Studies?

Many programs require or strongly encourage learning biblical languages such as Hebrew and Greek to engage deeply with the original texts.

Can I pursue a BA in Biblical Studies online?

Yes, many accredited institutions offer online BA programs in Biblical Studies, providing flexibility for distance learners.

What skills will I develop with a BA in Biblical Studies?

Students develop critical thinking, analytical skills, understanding of ancient texts, cultural awareness, and communication skills.

Is a BA in Biblical Studies recognized outside religious institutions?

Yes, while it is often associated with religious vocations, the degree is also valued in academia, counseling, social work, and nonprofit sectors.

Can I combine a BA in Biblical Studies with other majors?

Many universities offer dual majors or minors, allowing students to combine Biblical Studies with fields like history, psychology, or education.

What is the difference between a BA in Biblical Studies and a Theology degree?

A BA in Biblical Studies focuses specifically on the Bible and its context, while Theology covers broader religious doctrines, beliefs, and systematic study of faith.

Additional Resources

BA in Biblical Studies: Exploring the Depths of Ancient Texts and Contemporary Relevance

ba in biblical studies is an academic degree that delves into the rigorous examination of the Bible, its historical context, languages, and theological implications. This program offers students a comprehensive foundation in understanding one of the most influential texts in human history, blending elements of history, literature, theology, and cultural studies. As interest in religious scholarship and theological education grows, the BA in Biblical Studies has become a pivotal gateway for those pursuing careers in ministry, education, counseling, or further academic research.

Understanding the Scope of a BA in Biblical Studies

The BA in Biblical Studies is designed to provide a well-rounded education on the Bible's origins, interpretations, and its impact on society throughout centuries. Students engage with both the Old and New Testaments, exploring the original languages such as Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic to gain a nuanced understanding of biblical texts. The program typically combines historical-critical methods with theological inquiry, enabling learners to analyze scripture from multiple perspectives.

Unlike more general religious studies degrees, a BA in Biblical Studies focuses specifically on the scriptures themselves, their formation, and application. This focus equips students with skills in textual analysis, hermeneutics (the study of interpretation), and exegesis (critical explanation of texts), which are essential for anyone aiming to work in pastoral roles or academic settings.

Core Curriculum and Key Learning Outcomes

Most BA in Biblical Studies programs include a blend of courses that cover:

- Introduction to the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible
- Introduction to the New Testament
- Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek
- Ancient Near Eastern History and Culture
- Christian Theology and Doctrine
- Biblical Archaeology and Geography
- Hermeneutics and Exegesis
- History of the Early Church

Through such coursework, students develop critical thinking and analytical skills, learning to interpret ancient texts in their historical and cultural settings while considering contemporary applications. The interdisciplinary nature of these studies also encourages engagement with philosophy, ethics, and comparative religion, broadening the academic rigor of the program.

Career Opportunities with a BA in Biblical Studies

One of the most significant advantages of pursuing a BA in Biblical Studies is the diverse range of career paths it opens. Graduates may find roles in religious leadership, such as pastors, chaplains, or youth ministers. The degree also serves as a strong foundation for those interested in theological seminaries or graduate studies in divinity, theology, or religious education.

Beyond ministry, careers in education, counseling, nonprofit organizations, and cultural heritage management are viable options. The analytical and communication skills developed through biblical studies are transferable to many fields, including writing, journalism, and social services.

Comparing BA in Biblical Studies with Related Degrees

To fully appreciate the unique attributes of a BA in Biblical Studies, it is useful to compare it with related programs:

- **Bachelor of Arts in Theology:** While theology covers broader doctrinal and philosophical aspects of religion, biblical studies zeroes in on the scriptures themselves.
- **Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies:** This program examines multiple religions comparatively, whereas biblical studies focuses primarily on the Judeo-Christian texts.
- **Bachelor of Divinity (BD):** Often more professional and ministry-oriented, BD programs tend to be postgraduate and vocationally focused compared to the BA's academic approach.

Understanding these distinctions helps prospective students choose the program best aligned with their academic interests and career goals.

Advantages and Challenges of Pursuing a BA in Biblical Studies

Advantages

- **Deep Scriptural Knowledge:** Students gain specialized expertise in biblical languages and texts.
- **Interdisciplinary Skills:** The program fosters critical thinking, cultural literacy, and ethical reasoning.
- **Diverse Career Paths:** Graduates can pursue ministry, education, counseling, or continue to advanced theological studies.
- **Personal Enrichment:** Many find the study personally transformative, enhancing spiritual understanding and moral reflection.

Challenges

- **Limited Direct Job Market:** While versatile, some career options may require additional qualifications.
- **Academic Rigor:** Mastery of ancient languages and complex theological concepts

can be demanding.

- **Interpretive Variance:** Navigating differing theological perspectives requires openness and intellectual flexibility.

These factors are important considerations for students weighing their commitment to this field of study.

Emerging Trends and Digital Resources in Biblical Studies

The field of biblical studies is evolving with technological advancements and interdisciplinary approaches. Digital tools such as online biblical language courses, interactive manuscript databases, and software for textual analysis have transformed how students engage with scripture. Moreover, contemporary scholarship increasingly incorporates archaeological discoveries and socio-historical research, enriching the academic landscape.

Online degree options and hybrid programs have also made BA in Biblical Studies more accessible to a global audience, allowing students to combine traditional scholarship with modern flexibility. This democratization of theological education broadens the reach and impact of biblical studies in the 21st century.

The Role of Critical Scholarship and Interfaith Dialogue

Modern biblical studies encourages a critical yet respectful approach to sacred texts. Scholars emphasize historical context, literary form, and textual variants to foster more accurate interpretations. This scholarly rigor often intersects with interfaith dialogue, where understanding scripture within broader religious traditions promotes mutual respect and cultural sensitivity.

By integrating these perspectives, a BA in Biblical Studies prepares students not only for academic success but also for constructive engagement in increasingly pluralistic societies.

As institutions continue to adapt their curricula and methodologies, the BA in Biblical Studies remains a vital academic pursuit that bridges ancient wisdom with contemporary inquiry, equipping students to navigate complex religious landscapes with scholarly integrity and practical insight.

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ba in biblical studies: Recent Archaeological Discoveries and Biblical Research William G. Dever, 2011-10-01 Archaeology and Bible--two simple terms, often used together, understood by everybody. But are they understood properly? If so, why are both subject to such controversy? And what can archaeology contribute to our understanding of the Bible? These are the problems addressed by Professor Dever in this book. Dever first looks at the nature and recent development of both archaeology and Biblical studies, and then lays the groundwork for a new a productive relationship between these two disciplines. His "case studies" are three eras in Israelite history: the period of settlement in Canaan, the period of the United Monarchy, and the period of religious development, chiefly during the Divided Monarchy. In each case Dever explores by means of recent discoveries what archaeology, coupled with textual study, can contribute to the illumination of the life and times of ancient Israel. Given the flood of new information that has come from recent archaeological discoveries, Dever has chosen to draw evidence largely from excavations and surveys done in Israel in the last ten years--many still unpublished--concerning archaeology and the Old Testament. Dever's work not only brings the reader up to date on recent archaeological discoveries as they pertain to the Hebrew Bible, but indeed goes further in offering an original interpretation of the relationship between the study of the Bible and the uncovering of the material culture of the ancient Near East. Extensive notes, plus the use of much new and/or unpublished data, will make the volume useful to graduate students and professors in the fields of Biblical studies and Syro-Palestinian archaeology, and the seminarians, pastors, rabbis, and others. This book provides stimulating, provocative, and often controversial reading as well as a compendium of valuable insights and marginalia that symbolizes the state of the art of Biblical archaeology today.

ba in biblical studies: New Dictionary of Biblical Theology T Desmond Alexander, Brian S Rosner, 2020-05-21 In recent years our knowledge of the individual parts of the Bible has increased greatly, but our understanding of how they fit together has not kept pace. In particular, the relationship between the Old and New Testaments has been a neglected field of study. The latest in IVP's developing family of New Dictionaries, the 'New Dictionary of Biblical Theology' is an essential tool for students, preachers and ministers, as well as for scholars and others seeking a better grasp of the Bible's teaching. The aim of this prestigious dictionary is to integrate the various biblical books and themes into the overarching story of the Scriptures. The volume embodies three perspectives on biblical theology, which are reflected in its structure.

ba in biblical studies: What Can You Do with Your Bible Training? Brandon C. Benziger, Adam W. Day, 2023-06-23 Employment in the field of biblical studies has changed significantly in recent years, and the coronavirus pandemic has only exacerbated the resulting challenges. The purpose of this anthology is to inform and inspire evangelical students and graduates of biblical studies programs about the wide variety of training-related vocational paths they can pursue, both conventional and unconventional. The book does this by listing and categorizing twenty-five relevant pathways, sharing the stories and insights of insiders within each pathway, and calling for further creativity in putting one's biblical training to work. Each contributor shares (1) how they settled into their represented occupation, (2) the ways in which they have used their biblical training in that occupation, (3) the joys and trials of their work, and (4) advice for those who would like to follow in their footsteps. The volume stands in the tradition of several nuts-and-bolts-like resources within the guild (e.g., Nijay Gupta's *Prepare, Succeed, Advance* and Ben Witherington's *Is There a Doctor in the House?*), and it seeks to develop that tradition considerably.

ba in biblical studies: American Jewish Year Book 2023 Arnold Dashefsky, Ira M. Sheskin, 2025-02-25 Across three centuries, AJYB has provided insight into major trends. Part I of the current volume contains eight chapters: The first lead chapter includes an Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in 2023 produced by the ADL, and the second chapter examines Denominational Identity and Jewish Engagement. Subsequent chapters analyze recent domestic and international events as they affect the American Jewish community, major events in the past year, and the demography and geography of the US, Canada, and World Jewish populations. Part II contains nine chapters: lists of local Jewish organizations; Jewish museums, and Holocaust museums and monuments; overnight camps; national Jewish organizations; Jewish press; Jewish academic programs; Jewish academic resources; Jewish honorees; and Jewish obituaries. This volume employs an accessible style, making it of interest to public officials, Jewish professional and lay leaders, as well as the general public and academic researchers. For more than a century, the American Jewish Year Book has served as an indispensable compendium of Jewish demographic trends, research and data. It is considered a must-read for data scientists, demographers, community leaders or anyone interested in the trends that make up the lifeblood of the Jewish experience in America. We are proud of our contributions to this essential resource. Jonathan A. Greenblatt, CEO and National Director of ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) The American Jewish Year Book is a unique resource of tremendous value to anyone interested in global Jewish life. It is critical for people today, and it will be for those who come after us. Its lists capture not only critical information about key aspects of Jewish communal life, but provide the opportunity for reflection, comparison, and analysis with other religious and ethnic communities. Riv-Ellen Prell, Professor Emerita, American Studies and the Center for Jewish Studies, University of Minnesota

ba in biblical studies: British Qualifications 2013 Kogan Page Ltd, Kogan Page Page Editorial Editorial Staff, 2013-01-01 Now in its 43rd edition, British Qualifications is the definitive one-volume guide to every qualification on offer in the United Kingdom. With full details of all institutions and organizations involved in the provision of further and higher education, this publication is an essential reference source for careers advisors, students and employers. It also includes a comprehensive and up-to-date description of the structure of further and higher education in the UK. The book includes information on awards provided by over 350 professional institutions and accrediting bodies, details of academic universities and colleges and a full description of the current framework of academic and vocational educational. It is compiled and checked annually to ensure accuracy of information.

ba in biblical studies: British Qualifications 2020 Kogan Page Editorial, 2019-12-03 Now in its 50th edition, British Qualifications 2020 is the definitive one-volume guide to every recognized qualification on offer in the United Kingdom. With an equal focus on both academic and professional vocational studies, this indispensable guide has full details of all institutions and organizations involved in the provision of further and higher education, making it the essential reference source for careers advisers, students, and employers. It also contains a comprehensive and up-to-date description of the structure of further and higher education in the UK, including an explanation of the most recent education reforms, providing essential context for the qualifications listed. British Qualifications 2020 is compiled and checked annually to ensure the highest currency and accuracy of this valuable information. Containing details on the professional vocational qualifications available from over 350 professional institutions and accrediting bodies, informative entries for all UK academic universities and colleges, and a full description of the current structural and legislative framework of academic and vocational education, it is the complete reference for lifelong learning and continuing professional development in the UK.

ba in biblical studies: Probing the Frontiers of Biblical Studies Jay Harold Ellens, John T. Greene, 2009-02-16 Probing the Frontiers of Biblical Studies is a seventeen-chapter anthology on biblical studies. It has been crafted as an extended and respectful thank you note to one of the most insightful scholars of biblical studies, David J. A. Clines of Sheffield University in England. He is credited with providing guidance to, and shaping the thought of, two generations of scholars who

focus on essential approaches to understanding the Bible, with particular attention given to the Old Testament and allied literature. The anthology is directed toward those readers with pastoral, analytical, ancient intercultural, as well as contemporary cultural perspectives. Essays address a wide range of topics: the so-called Documentary Hypothesis, prophecy, divination, and magic, the wisdom themes in the Book of Job, the Egyptian influence on New Testament, the issue of non-sexual love between two men during combat conditions, character development in a biblical novella, rhetorical questions and their role in the Psalter, and the ways of God in the world. By combining these various topics, *Probing the Frontier of Biblical Studies* has addressed many of the outstanding issues in Old Testament study and ancillary disciplines.

ba in biblical studies: *Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics* Craig G. Bartholomew, 2015-11-10 2016 Word Guild Award - Academic category Honorable mention, Grace Irwin Prize Renowned scholar Craig Bartholomew, coauthor of the bestselling textbook *The Drama of Scripture*, writes in his main area of expertise--hermeneutics--to help seminarians pursue a lifetime of biblical interpretation. Integrating the latest research in theology, philosophy, and biblical studies, this substantive hermeneutics textbook is robustly theological in its approach, takes philosophical hermeneutics seriously, keeps the focus throughout on the actual process of interpreting Scripture, and argues that biblical interpretation should be centered in the context and service of the church--an approach that helps us hear God's address today.

ba in biblical studies: *British Qualifications 2014* Kogan Page Editorial Staff, 2013-12-03 Now in its 44th edition, *British Qualifications* is the definitive one-volume guide to every qualification on offer in the United Kingdom. With full details of all institutions and organizations involved in the provision of further and higher education, this publication is an essential reference source for careers advisors, students and employers. It also includes a comprehensive and up-to-date description of the structure of further and higher education in the UK. The book includes information on awards provided by over 350 professional institutions and accrediting bodies, details of academic universities and colleges and a full description of the current framework of academic and vocational education. It is compiled and checked annually to ensure accuracy of information.

ba in biblical studies: *Discerning Your Call to Ministry* Jason Allen, 2016-08-19 If you are considering the ministry, there are two mistakes you must avoid. The first is taking up a calling that isn't yours. The second is neglecting one that is. *Discerning Your Call to Ministry* will help you know the difference. A tool for seminary students, pastors-in-training, and even current pastors, it serves to confirm or prompt deep thought about the calling to ministry through 10 probing questions, including: Do you desire the ministry? Does your church affirm your calling? Are you willing to surrender? Author Jason Allen, a former pastor and the president of North America's fastest growing seminary, offers an honest look at the pastorate and what it takes to be in ministry. Presenting a series of diagnostic questions informed by Scripture, church history, and his own experience, he helps those seeking ordination or ministry positions make confident decisions about their service to God, one way or the other.

ba in biblical studies: *Write That They May Read* Daniel I. Block, David C. Deuel, C. John Collins, Paul J. N. Lawrence, 2020-07-11 *Write That They May Read* is a collection of essays written in honor of our mentor, friend, and fellow scholar, Professor Alan R. Millard. Respectful of his contribution to our understanding of writing and literacy in the ancient biblical world, all the essays deal with some aspect of this issue, ranging in scope from archeological artifacts that need to be read, to early evidence of writing in Israel's world, to the significance of reading and writing in the Bible, including God's own literacy, to the production of books in the ancient world, and the significance of metaphorical branding of God's people with his name. The contributors are distributed among Professor Millard's peers and colleagues in a variety of institutions, his own students, and students of his students. They represent a variety of disciplines including biblical archeology, Egyptology, Assyriology, Hebrew and other Northwest Semitic texts, and the literature of the Bible, and reside in North America, Japan, the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Germany. *Write That They May Read* contains contributions by: Section 1: Artifacts and Minimalist Literacy 1.

See That You May Understand: Artifact Literacy--The Twin-cup Libation Vessels from Khirbet Qeiyafa Gerald Klingbeil, Research Professor of Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Andrews University Martin Klingbeil, Professor of Biblical Studies and Archaeology, and Associate Director, Institute of Archaeology Southern Adventist University 2. Ketiv-Qere: The Writing and Reading of EA 256 and Its Place in Reflecting the Realia of Power and Polity in the LBA-IA Golan and Peripheries Timothy M. Crow, Senior Lecturer in History, University of Akron; Professional Fellow Old Testament, Ashland Theological Seminary 3. Another Inscribed Arrowhead in the British Museum Terrence C. Mitchell†. Former Keeper of Western Asiatic Antiquities, The British Museum, London, England 4. Earliest Literary Allusions to Homer and the Pentateuch from Ischia in Italy and Jerusalem Paul J. N. Lawrence, Translation Consultant, Summer Institute of Linguistics International 5. The Etymology of Hebrew *lōg* and the Identity of Shavsha the Scribe Yoshiyuki Muchiki, Professor of Biblical Theology, Japan Bible Seminary, Tokyo Section 2: Artifacts and Official Literacy 6. The Writing/Reading of the Stone Tablet Covenant in the Light of the Writing/Reading/Hearing of the Silver Tablet Treaty Gordon Johnston, Professor of Old Testament, Dallas Theological Seminary 7. For Whose Eyes? The Divine Origins and Function of the Two Tablets of the Israelite Covenant Daniel I. Block, Gunther H. Knoedler Professor Emeritus of Old Testament, Wheaton College 8. Write That They May Judge? Applying Written Law in Biblical Israel Jonathan Burnside, Professor of Biblical Law, Law School, University of Bristol. 9. And Samuel Wrote in the Book (1 Samuel 10:25) and His Apology in First Samuel 1-15 Wolfgang Ertl, Dozent am Bibelseminar Bonn, Bornheim/Germany; Associate Professor of Old Testament, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary 10. For the one who will read it aloud will be able to run with it (Habakkuk 2:2c) David Toshio Tsumura, Professor of Old Testament, Japan Bible Seminar Section 3: The Rise of Literary Literacy 11. The History and Pre-History of the Hebrew Language in the West Semitic Literary Tradition Richard E. Averbeck, Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School 12. Divine Action in the Hebrew Bible: Borrowing from Ancient Near Eastern Cultures and Inspiration C. John Collins, Professor of Old Testament, Covenant Theological Seminary 13. Encoding and Decoding Culture Jens Bruun Kofoed, Professor of Old Testament, Fjellhaug International University College, 14. No Books, No Authors: Literary Production in a Hearing-Dominant Culture John H. Walton, Professor of Old Testament, Wheaton College 15. The Discovery of the Book of the Law in 2 Kings 22:8-10 in the Light of the Literary Renaissance of the Eighth to Seventh Centuries in the Ancient Near East James K. Hoffmeier, Emeritus Professor of Old Testament and Near Eastern Archaeology, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School 16. Read This Torah (Deuteronomy 31:11): The Importance and Function of Israel's Primary Scripture in Early Spiritual Growth David C. Deuel, Academic Dean Emeritus, The Master's Academy International 17. What is a Messianic Text? The Uruk Prophecy and the Old Testament Ernest C. Lucas, Vice-Principal Emeritus, Bristol Baptist College, UK 18. Joshua 24 and Psalm 81 as Intertexts Cheryl Eaton, PhD Candidate, Trinity College, Bristol 19. Much Study is a Weariness of the Flesh: To Read or not to Read in Ecclesiastes 12:11-12 Knut Heim, Professor of Old Testament, Denver Seminary Section 4: Metaphorical Literacy 20. Belonging to YHWH: Real and Imagined Inscribed Seals in Biblical Tradition Carmen Joy Imes, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Prairie College, Three Hills, Alberta 21. Reading the Eye: Optic Metaphorical Agency in Deuteronomic Law A. Rahel Wells, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, Andrews University 5. Epilogue 22. Literacy and Postmodern Fallacies Richard S. Hess, Distinguished Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages, Denver Seminary Abstract: 23. In Praise of a Venerable Scribe: A Tribute to Alan R. Millard Edwin M. Yamauchi, Professor of History Emeritus, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio [with contributions from Daniel I. Block and Paul J. N. Lawrence]

ba in biblical studies: Theology through Community Richard A. Pruitt, 2019-02-14 Since the 1980s, renewal scholars have given considerable attention to the role of the believing community in the interpretive process. A broad consensus has emerged that a triad involving Scripture, the Spirit, and the believing community forms a cooperative relationship resulting in theological development, followed by commensurate action--identified in this research as theological creativity. In the context

of this research, to be creative with theology is to take an existing theological assumption and broaden or adapt it to current circumstances, given the Spirit's evidential work and a consensual understanding of Scripture. But how does the community negotiate between Spirit and Scripture without subsuming either into its own predilections? For Luke, the first-century community of believers in Acts functions as an indispensable character in the formation of theological creativity. This work will demonstrate how Luke positions the community as a character in story form, between Spirit and Scripture, functioning as a bridge through which its testimony of the Spirit's evidential work and its application of Scripture interact. In order to illustrate this balancing act, we will use a modified configuration of the triadic notion: Spirit-Community-Scripture.

ba in biblical studies: *Miracles : 2 Volumes* Craig S. Keener, 2011-11-01 Christianity Today 2013 Book Award Winner Winner of The Foundation for Pentecostal Scholarship's 2012 Award of Excellence 2011 Book of the Year, Christianbook.com's Academic Blog Most modern prejudice against biblical miracle reports depends on David Hume's argument that uniform human experience precluded miracles. Yet current research shows that human experience is far from uniform. In fact, hundreds of millions of people today claim to have experienced miracles. New Testament scholar Craig Keener argues that it is time to rethink Hume's argument in light of the contemporary evidence available to us. This wide-ranging and meticulously researched two-volume study presents the most thorough current defense of the credibility of the miracle reports in the Gospels and Acts. Drawing on claims from a range of global cultures and taking a multidisciplinary approach to the topic, Keener suggests that many miracle accounts throughout history and from contemporary times are best explained as genuine divine acts, lending credence to the biblical miracle reports.

ba in biblical studies: *Maternal Grief in the Hebrew Bible* Ekaterina E. Kozlova, 2017-05-19 Setting out from the observation made in the social sciences that maternal grief can at times be a motor of societal change, Ekaterina E. Kozlova demonstrates that a similar mechanism operates also in the biblical world. Kozlova argues that maternal grief is treated as a model or archetype of grief in biblical and Ancient Near Eastern literature. The work considers three narratives and one poem that illustrate the transformative power of maternal grief in the biblical presentation: Gen 21, Hagar and Ishmael in the desert; 2 Sam 21: 1-14, Rizpah versus King David; 2 Sam 14, the speech of the Tekoite woman; Jer 31: 15-22, Rachel weeping for her children. Although only one of the texts literally refers to a bereaved mother (2 Sam 21 on Rizpah), all four passages draw on the motif of maternal grief, and all four stage some form of societal transformation.

ba in biblical studies: *Encyclopedia of Martin Luther and the Reformation* Mark A. Lamport, 2017-08-31 The Encyclopedia of Martin Luther and the Reformation is a comprehensive global study of the life and work of Martin Luther and the movements that followed him—in history and through today. Organized by a stellar advisory board of Luther and Reformation scholars, the encyclopedia features nearly five hundred entries that examine Luther's life and impact worldwide. The two-volume set provides overviews of basics such as the 95 Theses as well as more complex topics such as reformational distinctions. Entries explore Luther's contributions to theology, sacraments, his influence on the church and contemporaries, his character, and more. The work also discusses Luther's controversies and topics such as gender, sexuality, and race. Publishing at the five hundredth anniversary of the Reformation, this is an essential reference work for understanding the Reformation and its legacy today.

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