



Society of Biblical Literature

*Journal of Biblical Literature*

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

### **1. General Information**

1.1 All articles and critical notes submitted for publication are expected to conform to the requirements set forth here. If a MS departs from these instructions in major ways, it may be returned to the author for corrections before it is considered for publication. Two hard copies of the MS should be submitted in what the author intends as its final form. JBL does not accept manuscripts submitted electronically. A diskette or CD should *not* be included with the initial submission of an article, but one will be required if the article is accepted for publication. Manuscripts will not be returned, but the confidential nature of the submission will be protected. Only one article or note may be submitted at a time. Send submissions to:

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1.2 A statement certifying that the article is not being submitted simultaneously to another journal should accompany the MS. Articles that have appeared or are to appear elsewhere, whether in English or in another language, should not be submitted.

1.3 Articles and notes should not employ the term “man” (including also “men,” “mankind,” “family of man,” “brotherhood,” etc.) generically. Instead, inclusive terms (e.g., “human being,” “human,” “humanity,” “humankind,” “people,” etc.) should be used to designate individuals and groups. Moreover, translations of texts (whether ancient or modern) should not be more gender specific than the originals are judged to be.

1.4 Save for the specific instructions given below, the directives of *The SBL Handbook of Style* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1999) are to be followed, supplemented by *The*

*Chicago Manual of Style: Fifteenth Edition* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003). The American style of spelling is to be used, and the preferred authorities on spelling are *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (10th ed.; Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 1993) and *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged* (Springfield, MA: G. and C. Merriam, 1967). When there is more than one way of spelling a word, the first one listed in these authorities should be used.

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

## **2. Form of the Manuscript**

2.1 The name and address of the author should not appear on the MS itself, but only on a detachable cover sheet.

2.2 Whether an original (preferably) or a photocopy of the MS is submitted, it should be clear and legible.

2.3 The maximum length of a submission (including footnotes) is 10,000 words. This is the equivalent of about 38–40 pages that meet the specifications in 2.4. Pages should be typed or printed on one side only, on white paper of good quality and of standard size. Legal-size paper is not to be used.

2.4 Manuscripts should be double-spaced and in 12-point font, including footnotes. Indented quotations may be single-spaced. Margins of at least 1 1/4 in. are to be left on all edges of the paper.

2.5 Words to be printed in italics (e.g., titles of books and periodicals, foreign words) may be either italicized or underlined in the MS. Words and letters to be printed in caps should appear in caps in the MS. Letters to be printed in small caps (e.g., B.C.E., C.E., MS, MSS) should either appear in that fashion in the MS or should be underlined twice.

2.6 Special material (e.g., lists, tables, charts, diagrams) should be produced on sheets separate from the main text; however, the location of such material in the main text should be indicated clearly (e.g., "insert here chart 1"). Charts and tabular material of a complex nature may be submitted camera-ready.

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

2.8 Overcapitalization is to be avoided (e.g., biblical, temple). See *The SBL Handbook of Style*, Appendix A.

2.9 End-of-line hyphens should be avoided, unless the hyphen is part of the spelling of compound nouns (e.g., scholar-poet), compound adjectives (e.g., up-to-date study), or compound expressions (e.g., Luke-Acts).

### **3. Quotations**

3.1 Quotations of five or more lines in any language will be printed as a separate indented paragraph, in smaller type than that used in the body of the article, and without opening and closing quotation marks. Quotations should appear in that fashion in the MS.

3.2 Respect for accuracy in verbatim quotations demands that the spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviations of the original be reproduced exactly, even if they differ from the style of this journal. Should a quotation contain an error, this may be indicated by [*sic*] or [?], at the author's discretion.

### **4. Footnotes**

4.1 Footnotes should be used rather than endnotes. They should be numbered consecutively and double-spaced. No period is to be placed after the number at the beginning of the footnote.

4.2 A raised arabic numeral (without punctuation or parentheses) should follow the appropriate word in the text (and its punctuation, if any) to call attention to the note. Insofar as possible, the numeral should occur at the end of the sentence.

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

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

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

### **5. Bibliographical References**

See *The SBL Handbook of Style*, §§7.1, 7.2, 7.3.

### **6. Hebrew, Greek, etc.**

6.1 Ordinarily, Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, and Coptic—whether a block of material is quoted or just a word or phrase—should not be transliterated, but given in the proper

characters. The unpointed consonantal text of Hebrew or Aramaic is to be used, unless the argument calls for the vocalized form of the words.

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

6.3 In cases where transliteration seems appropriate, the systems specified in *The SBL Handbook of Style*, §§5.1–9, should be used.

**7. Citations of Ancient Texts and Abbreviations of Ancient Texts**

See *The SBL Handbook of Style*, §§8.1, 8.2, 8.3.

**8. Abbreviations of Commonly Used Periodicals, Reference Works, and Serials** See *The SBL Handbook of Style*, §8.4. Titles not found in this list are to be written out in full.

(rev. date 6/11/09)