

**2014 MIDWEST REGION SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE
SECTION DESCRIPTIONS**

February 7-9, 2014

Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois

The 2014 Midwest Region Society of Biblical Literature meeting offers twelve program units spanning the broad range of biblical studies. The overall theme for the meeting is “Empire,” but papers on other topics are also welcome in most sections.

Please submit proposals for papers by email to the appropriate section coordinator as indicated below. **Proposals must include one’s name, institutional affiliation (and academic level if a student; please list city and state if unaffiliated) and, the paper title, and a 100-word paragraph abstract.** Abstracts will be printed in the conference program and for that reason they may not exceed 100 words, but one may also include an additional, longer description alongside (not on place of) the 100-word abstract in order to explain more fully the paper being proposed.

The region has revised its policy on requirements for proposals by graduate students. As in the past, graduate students who have not previously presented at the Midwest Region meeting must send a full manuscript in addition to the abstract. Those who have presented at this meeting previously, however, are no longer required to submit the full paper but must indicate in the proposal email message the year and name of the section in which the previous presentation occurred.

One may submit proposals to multiple sections, but please inform the section coordinators if this is the case. The region’s policy is that non-students may present a maximum of two papers at the meeting and students may present one paper.

All proposals are due on December 10, 2013, and program decisions will be communicated by January 10, 2014. If you are uncertain about the best section to which to submit a proposal, please contact Eric F. Mason (MWSBL.Regional.Coordinator@gmail.com). Presenters must be national members of SBL, AOS, or ASOR and must be registered for the regional meeting by January 15. (Please see the call for papers letter for registration information.)

Please also encourage your students (undergraduates through pre-dissertation doctoral students) to participate in the Student Religious Studies Conference on Friday, February 7, 2014. For details, see the region’s website at http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/rm_midwest.aspx or contact Jeremy Miselbrook (Midwest.SBL.SRSC@gmail.com). Students presenting at the SRSC do not have to be members of a national association. The proposal deadline (with full paper) is January 10.

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APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE: This section involves presentations on Jewish and Christian apocalypses and related literature from the “dawn of apocalyptic” through the early Christian church. We also invite papers that deal with later appropriations of ancient texts. The theme for the 2014 meeting, “Empire,” is particularly important for our section (since almost at any given time our texts had to deal with some sort of imperial power) and provides ample subject matter for presentations. While all proposals will receive due consideration, the ones dealing with “Empire” will receive a special one. To propose a paper, please contact Edmondo Lupieri (elupier@luc.edu), with “MWSBL” as subject.

APOCRYPHA AND COGNATE LITERATURE: The section seeks papers dealing with religion and empire in the intertestamental period and in the Greco-Roman world. General papers dealing with apocrypha and cognate literature are also welcome. Please contact Russell Sisson (rsisson@unionky.edu) for more information or to propose a paper.

BIBLE MEANING THROUGH TIME AND TRADITION: Papers on the women in the book of Job (Job's wife and/or his daughters) are sought. Theological, literary, artistic, or any other interpretations are welcome. The section strives to demonstrate the variety of ways in which the Bible has been understood, adapted, or used through time and in different traditions. Generally, papers covering any interpretation of the passage up to roughly ten years ago should be fine. We welcome submissions from biblical scholars as well as from others with specialized interests. Submissions may be sent to Stacy Davis (lieblingbi@aol.com) or Lowell Handy (lhandy@atla.com).

EARLY CHRISTIAN GOSPELS: The aim of this section is: (1) to encourage scholarly investigation of the NT and extra-canonical gospels in the Midwest Region; (2) to support scholars of the Midwest Region by providing an annual forum for critical discussion of their work; and, (3) to promote discussion on a wide range of topics on the Gospels for the benefit of all present. In 2014, this section is open, that is, dedicated to any new work scholars in the region wish to bring forward. Essays on the theme of "Empire" in early Christian gospel literature or the ancient world in general are encouraged. Please submit proposals to section chair Clare K. Rothschild (ckrothschild@gmail.com).

EARLY CHRISTIANITY/PATRISTICS: In keeping with the focus of this year's conference, the primary theme of the Early Christianity/Patristics section will be "Church and State 100-400 CE" and papers on any aspect of this broad topic will be given first consideration. Papers on other topics will also be considered for a general session. Please submit proposals/papers to Nancy Pardee (npardee@ctu.edu).

GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND POST-MODERN BIBLICAL METHODOLOGIES: This section welcomes papers that engage in critical discussions of gender, sexuality, hermeneutics, and critical theory using creative, interdisciplinary methodologies. These discussions may encompass such themes as gender identity, gender/sexuality and the social sciences, gender/sexuality and cultural studies, feminist/womanist/mujerista perspectives, and queer theory. Cultural, post-colonial, ideological, and social science methodologies around the theme of Empire are especially welcome. Contact Ann Fritschel (afritschel@wartburgseminary.edu) for further information or to propose a paper.

HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT AND EARLY INTERPRETATIVE LITERATURE: This section welcomes proposals on any facet of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and early post-biblical interpretive literature. Presenters are encouraged to submit proposals that address this year's theme, "Empire," but papers on all topics pertinent to the section will be considered. Session groupings will be determined later. Please submit proposals to George C. Heider (george.heider@valpo.edu).

HEBREWS AND CATHOLIC EPISTLES: This year Hebrews and Catholic Epistles will hold two sessions. For one, we welcome any proposal engaging any topic concerning Hebrews or any of the Catholic Epistles. For the other, in association with the theme of the conference, we invite

proposals about Hebrews or the Catholic Epistles that focus specifically on the topic of empire. Please send proposals to Amy Peeler (HebrewsCatholicEpistles.MWSBL@gmail.com).

PAUL: This section invites paper proposals on any topic dealing with Paul. Papers addressing the theme of the 2014 meeting (“Empire”) will be given special consideration, but this theme may be broadly engaged. All topics relevant to Paul will be considered. Please direct proposals and inquiries to P. Richard Choi (choir@andrews.edu).

PSALMS AND WISDOM LITERATURE: This section invites proposals for papers related to the study of the Psalter or the Wisdom material in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, including proposals on specific exegetical problems, theology, hermeneutics, and methodology. Please submit proposals to Robert E. Wallace (rwallace@JudsonU.edu).

TEACHING THE BIBLE: Presentations are invited on multi-modal approaches to teaching and learning. Please direct proposals and inquiries to Holly Hearon (hhearon@cts.edu).

TEXTUAL CRITICISM AND POPYROLOGY: This section involves presentations that investigate the history of manuscript transmission and help understand text types, variants, corruption, and adaptation of the texts in relation to Jewish, Christian, and Greco-Roman social and religious contexts. The section invites paper proposals on all biblical and related literature. All submissions will be considered, but papers that deal specifically with the theme of the 2014 MWSBL meeting (“the Empire”) are of special interest. Proposals with interdisciplinary content are also welcome. Send proposals to Sylvie Raquel (sraquel@tiu.edu).