

WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One feature of reports written in January is the influence of the two-faced Roman god, Janus. Perhaps this deity hovers over year-end and year-opening reports to force backward- and forward-facing views. This Society Report, like others in the past, sets out simply to look back on the previous year. As has become all too real in recent time, we no longer have the luxury of separating our views into discrete moments. Already at the start of 2025, the wildfires in Los Angeles remind us of the precarity of life on our planet. A few members lost their home in these fires, with treasured research, precious artifacts, and memories going up in flames. Further, we cannot ignore the implications of the new political administration in the United States nor the growing antipathy to higher education in various countries, which affects the recruitment and financing of students to graduate programs, the conditions under which faculty teach and are promoted, not to mention academic freedom.

Far from filling this Society Report with angst about the future, the view adopted here celebrates accomplishments in the past that point to future possibilities for engaging the challenges before us. A report on the three years of [Wabash Center](#)-funded workshops highlights the ongoing need for our members to respond innovatively to emerging trends and challenges. The article on Dan McClellan's digital scholarship indicates the growing necessity and increased opportunity for scholars to convey their work in accessible ways to the public. Our astute financial management should assure you that, even in these difficult times, with contributions from members, we can sustain our operations. This report also celebrates the immeasurable value of our volunteer members. We are inheritors of the legacy of those whose scholarly gifts continue to enrich us. Finally, we are enriched by the scholarship, inge-

nuity, and persistence of our president, Ehud Ben Zvi, knowing that he will inspire us to greater things with his counsel and his address.

The future for higher education looks grim in almost any country where our members live and work. These daunting times require renewed commitment to our mission: to foster academic scholarship in biblical studies and cognate areas across global boundaries. That renewal needs to be more than simply stubborn adherence to what has always been done. These times also require from us a new vision, innovative ideas and approaches, adaptability to nurture new audiences. When critical scholars are absent from popular digital platforms, others less qualified and less critical occupy those spaces. The generation of relevant, attractive, exciting, high-quality, critical content that can be easily discoverable is a key vision that needs to be pursued. In fact, the rapid transformation in technology with the ever-expanding world of "artificial intelligence" and what they all mean for the availability and discoverability of reliable scholarship in digital spaces makes it imperative that we rethink the delivery options for our scholarship. This Society Report consists of selected elements designed to inform but also inspire such innovative visions.



Steed Vernyl Davidson
Executive Director

YOUR SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

SBL was one of the first learned societies formed in the United States, and it is now one of the largest and most international among its peer fields and disciplines. SBL is nearly 150 years old, with a mission to foster biblical scholarship around the world.

You have witnessed firsthand SBL's vitality and relevance, whether through its commitment to international scholarship via the International Cooperation Initiative, its diversity of programs such as the Global Virtual Meeting, or its contribution to the public understanding of the Bible with innovations such as BibleOdyssey.org.

We are now approaching a major milestone: SBL's 150th anniversary in 2030. That date is not far off. We need your help ensuring that SBL will thrive in its commitments and contributions to foster biblical scholarship across disciplinary and geographical boundaries not only now but also in the future. Will you join us in this commitment?

Your work can live on in the next generation of scholars, and SBL can help extend your legacy and contribution. With this in mind, please consider joining SBL's Legacy Makers, a planned giving guild of SBL, by leaving a portion of your estate or assets to SBL's ongoing mission. Regardless of your current capacity to give to the SBL, joining the Legacy Makers is a way to make a contribution to the organization as part of your estate planning, enabling you to support future generations of biblical scholars, teachers, and researchers—and contribute as well to the public understanding of religious and culturally central texts as well as their traditions and receptions.

SBL has been your intellectual hub for many years, a community of people among whom you developed your scholarship, advanced in your career, and established lasting friendships. Given your importance to the SBL and SBL's importance to you, we hope you will become part of SBL's future.

To learn more about Legacy Makers and how you can participate, see <https://www.sbl-site.org/membership/legacymaker.aspx>.

**As SBL grows toward a significant milestone,
please help secure the path by joining SBL's Legacy Makers.**

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SBL MISSION AND STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement:

Foster Academic Scholarship in biblical studies and cognate areas across global boundaries

Strategic Vision Statement:

Founded in 1880, the Society of Biblical Literature is the oldest and largest learned society devoted to the critical investigation of the Bible from a variety of academic disciplines. As an international organization, the Society offers its members opportunities for mutual support, intellectual growth, and professional development by:

- ◆ Advancing the academic study of biblical texts and their contexts, of interpretation of the Bibles and their many traditions and contexts, as well as comparative studies that focus on other culturally-central texts
- ◆ Promoting broad, open academic cooperation and critical perspectives within and among fields of study and across global boundaries
- ◆ Collaborating with relevant educational institutions, including colleges, universities, and institutions of theological and religious education, as well as other appropriate organizations, to support academic biblical scholarship and teaching
- ◆ Facilitating the production and dissemination of new knowledge in the relevant areas by, e.g., organizing scholarly conferences, webinars, and publishing scholarship in print and online
- ◆ Developing resources for diverse audiences in multiple languages, including students and general publics across global boundaries

Core Values:

Inclusivity	Transparency
Equity	Accountability
Diversity	Critical Inquiry
Scholarly Integrity	Openness to Change

2024 Council Members	
Margaret Aymer	Yii-Jan Lin
Ehud Ben Zvi, Vice-President	Hugh Rowland Page Jr., Chair
Christian Brady	Jeremy Punt
Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder	Dalit Rom-Shiloni
Steed Vernyl Davidson, Executive Director (ex officio)	Tammi J. Schneider
Kristin De Troyer	Juan Manuel Tebes
Tamara Cohn Eskenazi, President	Alice Yafeh-Deigh
Joseph Lam	

The Society of Biblical Literature is the oldest and largest learned society devoted to the critical investigation of the Bible. The Society comprises approximately 7,000 members who represent nearly 100 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:



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. The Global Virtual Meeting provides opportunities for scholars across the world to share cutting-edge research, engage in professional development, and connect with members far and wide in the context of an all-digital platform. 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
- ◆ 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
- ◆ The Daniel Tran Foskett Hudgins Memorial Student Travel Award
- ◆ International Travel Award

ABOUT THE SBL

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 a large number of full-text books, including many SBL Press titles, via the International Cooperation Initiative books page.

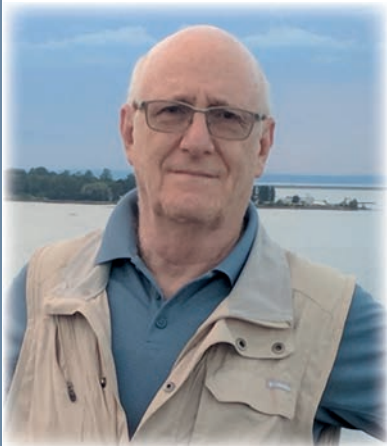
SBL Central

SBL Central is a resource hub developed 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. Finally, SBL Central offers members book publication alerts in their areas of interest.

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.



EHUD BEN ZVI, 2025 SBL PRESIDENT



Society members, meet Professor Ehud Ben Zvi, the 2025 President of the SBL, Professor Emeritus of History at the Department of History, Classics and Religion at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (or: just Ehud, as he tends to introduce himself).

In Ehud's early teens, his grandfather gave him a book to read, Spinoza's *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus*—Ehud's first encounter with the Hebrew Bible was thus a "critical" one. He would encounter more theological approaches only much later; probably not the expected sequence among Hebrew Bible scholars. Ehud's initial, unusual encounter with the Bible has grown into a thriving tree with many branches: Ehud's research, teaching, mentorship, tireless involvement in academic associations, his global network of colleagues and friends, and his family.

Born in Argentina, Ehud moved to Israel to study at the Hebrew University, graduating with a BSc in Chemistry and Biochemistry in 1975. He lived in a kibbutz for several years. He held different jobs and eventually worked as a biochemist in a hospital, while studying for a BA in Hebrew

Bible at the Open University of Israel (1985). Ehud may joke that this degree took him by far the longest to achieve, but this early shift in career trajectory testifies to Ehud's characteristic perseverance. His BA was followed by an MA at Tel Aviv University (1987) and a PhD at Emory University (1990), where he could finally study full-time without working alongside his studies. After defending his dissertation, he took a faculty position at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, where he still lives.

Perhaps unique career trajectories like Ehud's attract unique mentors, teachers, and facilitators: Gene M. Tucker, Nadav Na'aman, John H. Hayes, Gösta Ahlström, and Carol Newsom, among others, were influential during Ehud's formative educational period. In Edmonton, Ehud met Francis Landy, his counterpart at the university and conversation partner for his entire career. Later in his career, a colleague joked that, if your formative years were influenced by such a combination of scholars, you're either going to lose your mind or become "interesting."

Ehud's academic position at the University of Alberta was also uncommon: few biblicists would be accepted and flourish as a professor within a history program. Ehud taught history majors and graduate students, offering courses on social memory and history, the history of various understandings of biblical texts and their interrelation with social and historical circumstances, as well as courses in ancient history that focused on ancient empires and subalterns' responses to them. Teaching Biblical Hebrew, too, Ehud further developed Bonnie Kittel's method, resulting in a textbook coauthored with two students. Ehud argued that, since students contributed to the shaping of the course, they should be included in the authorship of the textbook. Over many years of teaching Biblical Hebrew, he kept developing the method and eventually taught others how to teach it, including spending time with scholars at Shandong University in Jinan, China.

A scholar who first encountered the Hebrew Bible "critically," then returned to it after initially training in the "sciences," might ask unexpected questions of the Bible's texts. Ehud's research is characterized by reframing fundamental questions and approaches, an example of which is his use of sociological and cultural theories of memory. Using memory as a conceptual tool is not unique in biblical scholarship. Many scholars have employed the term *memory* in relation to the compositional history of the texts (akin to how earlier generations of scholars used terms such as *tradition*). But for Ehud, theories of memory, especially of social remembering, reveal possibilities for understanding the texts' intellectual settings in antiquity. Theories of social memory are built mostly upon examinations of societies contemporary to our own era and their recent histories; Ehud's work shows that these theories can be of significant heuristic value for scholars of antiquity, too. Drawing on thinkers such as Eviatar Zerubavel, Barry Schwartz, James Wertsch, and

collaborating with Diana V. Edelman, Ehud observes “sites” of memory in the biblical texts: significant geographic locales, prominent persons or social roles, central and recurring themes related to group belonging, self-understanding, and social reproduction. His analyses are concerned with how such sites of memory might contribute to the construction of socially shared metanarratives for the implied readers in ancient Judah/Yehud. Theories of social remembering provide an atypical but sound starting point; observations built upon them lead to fresh reconstructions of both the remembering and remembered worlds of the texts’ readers (see, e.g., his volume *Social Memory among the Literati of Yehud*).

Prophetic texts and Chronicles have been central to Ehud’s scholarship. In his work he has examined prophetic books, prophetic characters, how they inform and are informed by other characters of old, and the literary corpus to which they belong. He has stressed rereading over reading, developing his own brand of form criticism (see his various commentaries on prophetic books, his programmatic articles on prophetic literature, and his engagement on matters of The Twelve).

Ehud was the only North American scholar who regularly contributed to the European Seminar in Historical Methodology (ESHM). His goal there was to change the conversation, to reflect more on actual methodology and to open new perspectives on the issues, rather than to relitigate old and well-worn claims (see, e.g., his seminar contributions [“Malleability and Its Limits: Sennacherib’s Campaign Against Judah as a Case Study”](#) and [“Clio Today and Ancient Israelite History”](#)).

Ehud’s work further includes topics such as metaphors, utopian thinking and longings, social imaginaries, counterfactual/virtual history, cultural hegemony, the “Other” and the “proximate Other,” habits of thought and epistemic cultures, asymmetrical hierarchical systems, the concept of ancient Israel (see, e.g., his essay in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to the History of Jews and Judaism*), recent constructions of the history of Jewish biblical theology, and a rethinking of center-periphery approaches. Ehud’s research encompasses much. It raises new and different questions while being built upon thoroughgoing methodological and theoretical foundations. An inherently interdisciplinary scholar, Ehud has always valued scholarly collaboration and critical exchange. His edited volumes collect work by scholars with various approaches to address a topic from multiple perspectives. In Ehud’s view, these volumes may have as much or more impact than single-authored monographs.

Ehud constantly fosters meaningful relationships among scholars from around the globe. One of his most impactful contributions has been the establishment of the SBL’s International Cooperation Initiative, a project that changed the SBL significantly. Ehud’s passion for maximizing global scholarly exchanges and undermining existing inequities in research led to the founding of the open-access publication [Journal of Hebrew Scriptures](#) and the establishment of the two open-access monograph series of the SBL. In this case, Ehud’s research informed his scholarly practice. His thinking about the role and function of utopian visions in inspiring change in the real world led him to turning visions of open access and international cooperation into a reality, when many others thought it impossible.



Gene Tucker (his doctoral supervisor, teacher, mentor, and friend) taught Ehud that professional associations provide a key medium through which individual careers and the field can prosper. These associations can never be taken for granted; they must be nourished constantly; and to serve their roles properly, they must evolve over time. Throughout his career, Ehud has served in numerous leadership roles in academic associations: he has contributed to the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies (CSBS), organizing several research groups and serving as CSBS president in 2001–2002. He was instrumental in expanding the reach of the Pacific Northwest regional meeting of the SBL, serving as chair of the Hebrew Scriptures section for many years and as president of the region in 1995–1996. Ehud has also been a constant presence at the European Association of Biblical Studies (EABS) since its second meeting, presenting papers and establishing and

cochairing research groups that provided spaces for discussions that previously lacked a home. He has served on EABS subcommittees, in the EABS Committee, and as the EABS President from 2016 to 2018.

Ehud has been active at the SBL since 1989. Aside from establishing and chairing the ICI and its various initiatives, Ehud is entering his eighth year on the SBL Council (2016–2021, 2024–2025). He was a founding member of the Deuteronomistic History program unit, founded the Prophetic Texts and Their Ancient Contexts seminar, and has served on four other steering committees. According to Ehud, the Society—and its Annual Meeting in particular—should be a space where scholars can “exchange ideas, probe conjectures, and look for conversation partners. ‘Meeting’ is an active concept, and our Meeting should be focused not on passive listening but on conversation, debate, and the like” ([“The Future of the Society,”](#) SBL Forum).

There are common threads connecting Ehud's global life, his teaching, mentoring, research, and involvement with academic associations. One of them is the conviction that there is tremendous value in learning from one another across disciplines and methodologies, alongside the pragmatic conviction that, if avenues to foster such exchanges do not yet exist, we must create them. We must expand our reach and learn from one another across and beyond geographical, cultural, social, heritage, and financial-resource boundaries. This requires openness to and sincere respect for differences and an understanding that everyone has much to contribute. We all need one another as scholars.

Another common thread is the idea of the "social," particularly when paired with "imagination." Ehud stresses that every achievement in research, teaching, and professional associations has been a collective achievement to which many contributed, and over time such collective efforts shaped environments that allowed for the imagination of new horizons.

Finally, any portrait of Ehud must include the constant presence of his wife of fifty years, Perla. As Ehud often remarks, "everything we did, we did together." Their life has been blessed with children and grandchildren, all of whom contributed to their achievements. Another constant has been the presence of close colleagues, close collaborators at multiple career stages, friends, teachers, and students. They all played and continue to play their crucial parts in anything he does.

Ehud's perspective on biblical studies is born of the unique possibilities inherent in unusual sequences of events and tireless curiosity. His research of the past is pragmatically rooted in our given present situations, and he always keeps an eye on the possibilities of the future.

—Ian D. Wilson and Frauke Uhlenbruch

REMEMBERING TWO SBL LEADERS

Although the Society grieved the loss of a number of highly regarded members during 2024 (see the In Memoriam on page 45), the recent passing of Cheryl Exum and Michael V. Fox merit special mention.

Cheryl Exum served as an SBL volunteer leader in many capacities, including on Council, as a member of the Nominating Committee, leading several program units, and on the editorial board for SBL Press's Bible and Its Reception book series. In addition to Ellen van Wolde's remembrance below, see the obituary and Francis Landy's tribute on the SBL [website](#).

Michael V. Fox likewise served the Society in numerous ways. He, too, was on Council and led several program units, and he offered his editorial expertise to both the *Journal of Biblical Literature* and SBL books. Most significantly, he was the SBL Vice-President in 2016 and SBL President in 2017. He is remembered here by Ronald L. Troxel.

Cheryl Exum

The most beautiful moments I remember sharing with Cheryl Exum were our yearly encounters and dinners at the SBL meetings. Traveling from Europe to one of the SBL conference cities gave us the opportunity to meet, greet, and eat. We discussed the papers extensively over our wine glasses and dinner plates—what interested us, what we found less attractive, new impressive young scholars, new approaches, old approaches, returning carousel-like to views on ancient texts. SBL and ISBL meetings were crucial for us, as for many biblical scholars travelling from around the globe. We met each other, we got to know people from Asia, Australia, Latin America, and the USA, of course. Feminist exegesis, the Bible and the arts, and, above all, the Song of Songs were Cheryl's



REMEMBERING SBL LEADERS

main focus points. And her sharp analytical mind in combination with her sheer joy of dealing with biblical texts and the arts always impressed me. It was such great fun to share our thoughts, to take part in our conversations, to have fun together. Anyone who has read her earlier work on women in the book of Judges or Samuel and her comments on the Song of Songs knows what I mean. Books that testify of such a profound knowledge and beautiful light style are not only attractive to read, but, above all, they made you understand the texts better.

A critical engagement with the Bible is what characterizes Cheryl Exum best. It was also the title of her Festschrift. In the introduction to that book David Clines wrote some beautiful words about her work. He knew her so well, shared with her the same fondness for biblical texts, and they founded together the risen Sheffield Academic Press under the name Sheffield Phoenix Press. Fortunately, David Clines's son and daughter-in-law, Jeremy and Louise Clines, continue this wonderful press. In the past, Cheryl often took care of the colorful and artful covers of the books. At the book exhibition of the SBL Annual Meetings, the booth of Sheffield Phoenix Press was always present, filled with many new and beautifully edited books, visible for all, loved by many of us. This is another marvelous feature of the SBL conferences, where we meet and discover new works. We will continue visiting them, enjoy the sessions, the meetings with colleagues, but without Cheryl Exum, which is, for me, a great loss.

Michael V. Fox

As the last chair of the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison before its closing, I write with sorrow to acknowledge the passing of Professor Emeritus Michael V. Fox, whom I was also privileged to call my Doktorvater. His lengthy record of accomplishments is attested in his CV, beyond which he has left an enduring mark by his influence on colleagues, his students, and academia more broadly. His service to the Society of Biblical Literature culminated in his role as its president in 2017, after a year of service as its Vice-President. Prior to that, he served as president for the Midwest region of the SBL (1998–2000), service on the Council of the Society, two terms on the editorial board for the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, and editorship of the SBL Dissertation Series from 1994 to 1999.

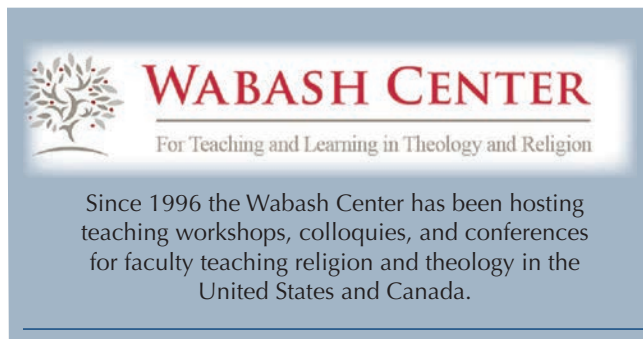
His CV is lengthy (see <https://wisc.academia.edu/MichaelFox/CurriculumVitae>), with a bibliography comprising eighty-five journal articles, eleven published books, and two books in progress, including a commentary on Job (OTL, Westminster John Knox) and a commissioned work on the “Intellectual History of Wisdom Literature,” aptly titled *From the Pharaohs to the Rabbis* (Brill). From the appearance of his first book, *The Song of Songs and the Ancient Egyptian Love Songs*, in 1989, each work instantiated keen and reflective reading of texts, as well as metacommentary on his views of what constitutes a text and its intersection with readers over time. His precise grasp of Biblical Hebrew, his wide reading in ancillary disciplines, and his pursuit of knowledge far beyond what might be considered germane for his expertise (such as the transmission of texts of Shakespearean plays) injected unanticipated delights into pointed commentary on a verse in Proverbs. His carefully honed prose was a model of clarity and a good corrective to the infelicitous compositions of his graduate students. As I wrote in the introduction to the Festschrift honoring him (Eisenbrauns, 2005), “all his students would agree that he taught us to believe in the dictum that clear verbal expression is the prerequisite for clear thinking.” His seemingly unattainable standards for his graduate students in the study of Hebrew, gathering and evaluation of sources, forging a critical understanding of reading, the ability to compose in biblical Hebrew, accurate oral reading of Hebrew, precise prose writing, the use of comparative Semitics, and a grasp of the history of the discipline, constituted a bar not simply for completing a degree but for appropriate formation as a Bible scholar.

No depiction of Michael is complete without acknowledging his integrity and humanity. Not a few visitors who clicked on a link to his photo via his web page in the early aughts were surprised to find the surly visage of Hulk Hogan, teeth bared and holding open his vest to expose a rippling pectoral. Michael's “inner scholar” was surely well represented in that photo. But it was hardly the only instance when Michael revealed a person I would not have expected. Shopping in a Madison mall and discovering that he was performing with a Scottish dance troupe, in full kilt, is one of my more striking memories of him. My more numerous recollections of deep discussions about Hebrew grammar and lexicography cannot eclipse my glimpses into his humanity. And that is why I grieve his loss so deeply.



WABASH CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THEOLOGY AND RELIGION WORKSHOPS

With the generous support of the [Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion](#), SBL started a series of teaching workshops on “Teaching the Bible in These Times” in 2022. After the conclusion of the first workshop on “Teaching the Bible with BLM and Other Protest Movements” (led by Eric Barreto of Princeton Theological Seminary and Kim Russaw of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary) in the spring of 2023, two more workshops were completed in the spring of 2024.



The first one, led by Renita Weems (Gammon Theological Seminary) and Greg Carey (Lancaster Theological Seminary) was a hybrid workshop on “Teaching the Bible to Multiple Publics.” Participants included persons who work in primarily secular contexts and persons who locate themselves in Christian theological contexts. The group included podcast hosts, bloggers, people who teach through social media, and experienced journalists. After a day-long, in-person gathering in November 2023 to hear participants’ aspirations and to build relationships, the workshop held three monthly online sessions in the spring of 2024 (on “Which Publics?,” “Countering ‘Bible Bullying,’” and “Writing for Specific Venues,” respectively). Through this workshop, leaders and participants were able to share their individual experiences of working with different publics and media (e.g., religious, secular, or activist), discuss the costs and benefits of engaging various publics, and talk about the need to not only know one’s audience but also to be cognizant that there could be an afterlife to whatever they did with these publics. They also named possible venues for public teaching, identified scholars whose public work they admire, mentioned possible obstacles to their work as public scholars, and developed ways to pitch and develop opinion pieces for different types of broad audiences (e.g., national or local newspapers). Participants appreciated the opportunity to connect with peers, received practical advice, and appreciated how the leaders shared their personal stories and owned their particular experiences. As one workshop participant put it, “The mixture of experience and community was very helpful.” At the same time, we also received helpful feedback from participants after the workshop, including their desire for “more practical tools” or concrete exercises (e.g., workshoping to revise an opinion piece together).

Knowing that the in-person component of a hybrid workshop would not work for all of our members for various reasons (e.g., geographical distance, financial cost, health concerns), we also held a workshop that was entirely online in 2024: “Teaching the Bible During and After COVID-19.” Led by Candice Buckner (Virginia Tech) and David Schones (Austin College), participants considered, in six 150-minute online sessions, Universal Design (UD) and different understandings of “disability”; accessibility services in higher education in general and in their respective institutions in particular; inclusive pedagogies, including grading; best accessibility practices in academic conferences; particular case studies involving disability accommodations; and how they might redesign their own syllabi in light of their workshop learning. Participants valued the opportunity to think through practical issues with others; they also appreciated the resources for assessing and improving accessibility that they learned as a result of this workshop. Some participants did wonder if the title of this workshop matches its overall emphasis on accessibility and ableism in the academy.

On the Friday before the most recent SBL Annual Meeting in San Diego, we started the in-person session of our last workshop in the series. This hybrid workshop, titled “Teaching the Bible in an Age of Interdisciplinarity and Uncertainty,” was led by Jacqueline Hidalgo (University of San Diego) and Uriah Kim (Graduate Theological Union). During the November session, participants spent the first part of the gathering discussing political and cultural divides that characterize “this era of uncertainty,” avenues for strengthening

interdisciplinarity in the face of employing uncertainties or transitions in employment, and interdisciplinary methods for teaching biblical studies. After a lunch break, participants helped one another to revise the learning outcomes of their courses in light not only of interdisciplinary thinking and practice but also of their personal commitment to justice and their institutional context. Despite a problem with lunch delivery, participants generally found the workshop helpful, with one saying that “the workshop met the moment” and another stating that “the facilitators did a great job allowing space to build intimacy and depth in a short amount of time.” This workshop will continue with three online sessions in 2025.

Overall, the series has been well received. We had over one hundred applications for the final workshop on interdisciplinarity and uncertainty. We hope, and we have plans, to continue to offer similar workshops to further support and strengthen our members’ capacity to teach the Bible.

We are grateful to the Wabash Center for the funding support and for the work of our members in these workshops as leaders and participants.

STITCH INCOMING: DAN MCCLELLAN’S MISSION TO BRING BIBLICAL SCHOLARSHIP TO THE PUBLIC

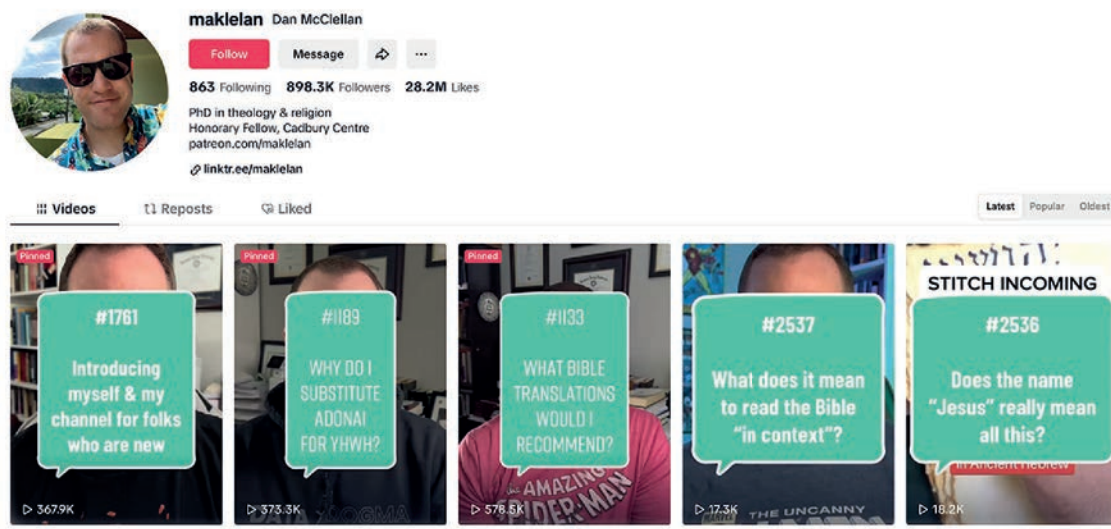
When we asked Dan McClellan why his work has been so successful in finding a robust and engaged public audience on social media, he answered without hesitation: “I have absolutely no idea.” Then he added, “It’s certainly not this,” waving his hand around his face. McClellan’s TikTok account ([@Maklelan](#)) has over 891,000 followers and over 27 million likes. These numbers are only part of a larger whole; McClellan also has large followings on Instagram, YouTube, and other social-media platforms where he publishes his short-form videos.

The form of these videos is typically one of two types. A recent video demonstrates the most common format: McClellan speaks directly into the camera and asks a question (“How many of each type of animal did Noah bring with him on the ark?”), introduces himself (“Hey everybody, I’m Dan McClellan, I’m a scholar of the Bible and religion”), and jumps straight into a discussion of the question at breakneck speed, effectively crafting a crash course on pentateuchal source criticism in under three minutes. He ends the video by holding the design on his graphic t-shirt up to the camera: “And the fit for this video has been Wolverine.” In six days, that video was viewed over 109,000 times on TikTok alone.

The other format McClellan works with involves responding to misinformation about the Bible or religion on social media. Here’s how one of these videos play out. A clip from a viral podcast plays that shows a speaker spouting misinformation about the Dead Sea Scrolls and their relationship to the Masoretic Text, behind a large text-box at the bottom of the screen that reads “Stitch Incoming.” Then comes the “stitch”: in a hard edit the video shifts to McClellan, who responds to the misinformation by giving a brief crash course on Scrolls scholarship. Partway through McClellan’s response, the cover of Eugene Ulrich’s *The Biblical Qumran Scrolls* appears on the screen, and McClellan then walks his viewers through the kind of information one might find in a critical edition of the Scrolls such as Ulrich’s. Since it was uploaded to TikTok, that video has generated over 168,000 views.

“I’m just very happy that I happened to stumble ignorantly into a way of reaching the public that has worked out for me,” McClellan tells me. But his humor and humility don’t hide what is plain to an astute viewer of his public material. The video on source criticism in Gen 6–9 may take only three minutes to watch, but the preparation necessary to pack so much content in such a small container is significant. “I’ve tried to read widely,” McClellan shares. “I take note of my colleagues and friends across the spectrum.” His TikTok videos regularly point his viewers to technical monographs or peer-reviewed articles in the field to better understand the world of biblical scholarship.

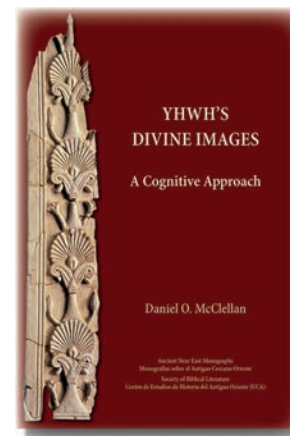




McClellan's public scholarship has not come at the expense of participation in the traditional venues for biblical scholarship. He sees a distinction between the two modes of communication—preparation for a presentation at the SBL Annual Meeting is different from preparation for a TikTok video on the same topic—but there remains a remarkable line of consistency through his work. “My concern for accessibility bridges that gap,” he tells me. McClellan published his revised University of Exeter dissertation with SBL Press's open-access ANEM series, and after honoring his contracts and moratoriums he has worked to ensure all of his peer-reviewed publications are freely available through his website. “I recall being fascinated by this work as an undergrad, being fascinated by the academic study of the Bible, and loving everything that I was learning and coming across, but also recognizing—increasingly recognizing—the gap that existed between the academic study of the Bible and public discourse about the Bible.” Through his public scholarship, McClellan is actively working to close that gap.

Discourse on religion and the Bible continues to be relevant in popular culture and politics, even as the venues for this popular discourse are increasingly moving online and into short-form, accessible content packages. While access to information is now to a large degree democratized through platforms such as TikTok or Instagram, quality information about the study of biblical texts is easily drowned out in a sea of misinformation. The innovative work of McClellan and other biblical scholars who use their platforms to engage a public audience hungry for critical scholarship in an accessible format is particularly urgent as younger generations search for quality information in the mediums with which they are familiar.

So when McClellan says he has absolutely no idea how his content found success in the public, you ought to imagine him saying that with a large text box reading “Stitch Incoming” over his face. And here's the stitch: as an active and engaged member of the SBL community, McClellan works hard to communicate the work of the Society to a broad audience in ways that are accurate, accessible, and engaging. The energetic response to McClellan's carefully crafted videos on platforms such as TikTok demonstrates not only a need for an engagement between the work of SBL's members and the public but also a tangible public desire for that engagement. “TikTok changed my life,” McClellan tells me. “And a surprising number of people have responded to my videos saying that I changed their life.” It's a reality worth reflecting on: the work of biblical scholarship can have a real and positive impact on the public when the public is invited to hear.



ANNUAL MEETING COMMUNITY SERVICE

As part of the Annual Meetings 2024, SBL and AAR staff and members partnered with Ocean Connectors, a nonprofit organization addressing environmental issues in underserved communities of San Diego County and Riviera Nayarit. This collaboration offered our attendees a unique opportunity to contribute to environmental preservation while connecting with the local community. The overall mission of this collaboration was to foster meaningful connections and empower our attendees with a means to give back to the community.

A group of ten dedicated volunteers from SBL and AAR participated in this meaningful project. Guided by Ocean Connectors, the group kayaked through the wetlands of South Bay to collect litter in areas inaccessible by foot. Together, they removed over 100 pounds of trash, significantly contributing to the restoration of this vital habitat. The volunteers also raised over \$200 in donations to support Ocean Connectors' continued efforts in environmental education and conservation.

Building on the success of this year's project in San Diego, SBL and AAR are excited to make plans for another impactful initiative during the Annual Meetings 2025 in Boston, Massachusetts. Inspired by the enthusiasm and results from San Diego, we hope to engage even more volunteers in Boston to make a lasting difference in the local community. This upcoming event aims to expand participation, increase donations, and establish a community service project as a cherished tradition at every Annual Meeting.



ANNUAL MEETING MEMBER INTERVIEWS

Throughout the 2024 SBL Annual Meeting in San Diego, various members agreed to sit for video interviews. The topics discussed were wide-ranging, but many of the conversations focused on how members understand the role of SBL in the humanities, how the Society has evolved, and how they would like to see it evolve in the near and distant future. SBL staff captured more than eight hours of interviews, all of which will be transcribed and preserved alongside the original videos within the SBL Archives. In anticipation of conducting similar interviews on a regular basis, we decided to share a few of the many insights that our members offered.

Collin Cornell, Assistant Professor of Bible and Mission, Fuller Theological Seminary

“The mission of the Society to maintain a nonconfessional, nonpartisan space for conversations about the Bible is all the more urgent and jeopardized.... Having a commons, a sort of space that’s shared between various perspectives—not just rehousing the Bible into one’s worshiping community but maintaining a space where various confessional and nonconfessional scholars can meet and talk about a shared subject—this is a phenomenon that we are losing in our culture.... So with respect to the Bible, it is all the more important that a place like the Society would exist.”



Meghan Henning, Associate Professor of Christian Origins, University of Dayton

“All of those lenses and perspectives that we bring to the study of the Bible in the Society of Biblical Literature are driven by the fundamental need to think about the questions that we’re asking of these texts—and the questions the texts are asking of us—in different eras of history. And if we have a static idea of what those questions might be, we will miss the point entirely.”



Angela Parker, Associate Professor of New Testament and Greek, Mercer University

“The Society has afforded me opportunities to be in collegiality with my colleagues who are colleagues of color. The Society has afforded opportunities to publish together. When I think about SBL Press, I think about Mary Foskett, I think about Stephanie Buchanon Crowder, who’ve afforded opportunities for me to submit book chapters. I think about Gay Byron, who afforded opportunities for myself as a womanist scholar to publish with her. I think about those scholars of color who have been in the Society before me and who opened up doors for me.”



Dalit Rom-Shiloni, Professor of Biblical Studies, Tel Aviv University

“SBL is a global society of biblical literature. It’s not confined only to the United States or only to American issues. ... If we’re speaking about evolvment, this is the thing that’s on the move. ... It’s really an organization that includes people and biblical scholars from all over.”



Eric Barreto, Associate Professor of New Testament, Princeton Theological Seminary

“One of the distinctive things that SBL does is to create a space for lots of different approaches and beliefs and possibilities about these texts, everywhere from folks who read these texts as historical documents to those who read them as faith documents. There’s a way in which a space like this creates rigor and demands the best of us.”



SBL TURNS 150 IN 5 YEARS

In an office at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, Frederic Gardiner of Berkeley Divinity School in Middletown Connecticut met with Philip Schaff and Charles Augustus Briggs, who were on the faculty at Union Theological Seminary. They discussed the need for a group that would bring together scholars from different schools to advance scholarship in what was being seen in the United States as the scientific study of the Bible. Their early conversations led to a further meeting on 2 January 1880 with five other persons: three academics and two clergy. From that meeting came plans to form the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis. With the drafts of a constitution and bylaws in hand, they held the first meeting of the Society on 4–5 June 1880 in the study of Rev. Dr. E. A. Washburn, Rector of Calvary Church 103rd East 21st Street, New York. Eighteen persons attended the meeting and engaged in discussions of six papers.

This brief origins story indicates that in 2030, SBL will turn 150. A sesquicentennial celebration is a huge milestone. Apart from the fact that word *sesquicentennial* is difficult to pronounce, we live in times when institutional survival cannot be taken for granted. A celebration of this magnitude requires more than trips down memory lane. With such a long history, there are many roads to cover to recall and commemorate the history. The anniversary presents important opportunity to ensure survival into unknown futures and in times known not to be generous to aging institutions. Although the sesquicentennial is five years away, SBL has already begun to plan for the event.

The Sesquicentennial Task Force was launched at the Annual Meeting in 2024. The task force has three major objectives:

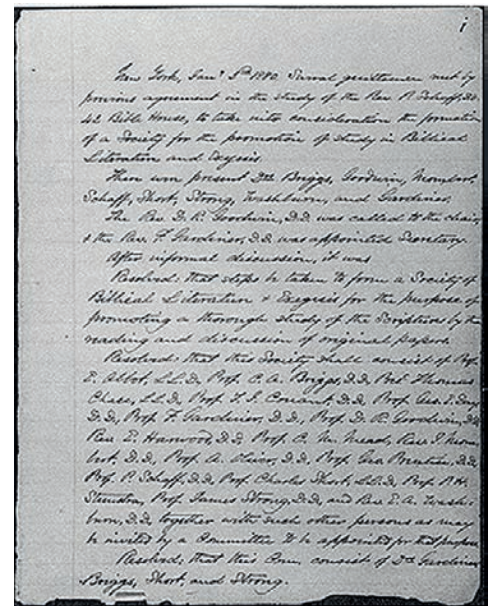
1. To provide opportunity for reinvention of SBL as a future-facing Society.
2. To commemorate and recognize the story of 150 years as inspiration.
3. To facilitate the injection of capital to sustain Society’s mission.

Various initiatives, activities, and events will emerge in the coming years to take advantage of this milestone to instill enthusiasm, engagement, and vision for SBL’s futures. The development of a strategic plan by Council will be key to the work of the task force. The strategic plan will mark the next iteration of SBL.

SBL members are encouraged to become involved in the work of the taskforce by sharing your ideas and input with members of the task force. The Sesquicentennial Task Force comprises:

Ehud Ben Zvi (SBL President)
Joseph Lam (Council)

Nina Muller van Velden
Jacqueline Hidalgo



Manuscript record of SBL’s organizational meeting, 2 January 1880

Christian Brady
 Dalit Rom-Shiloni (Council)
 Margaret Aymer (Council)
 Francis Borchart
 Donghyun Jeong

Brandon Wasson (SBL Archivist)
 Monica Melanchton
 Steed Davidson (SBL Staff)
 Bob Buller (SBL Press)
 Nicole Tilford (SBL Press)

AMENDMENTS TO THE SBL CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Constitutions by their nature are meant to adapt to changing realities. Since the last substantial amendment to the SBL Constitution in 2004, changes in technology and Society operations forced the current changes. At the Annual Business Meeting on 24 November 2024, SBL approved new amendments to its Constitution and By-Laws.

One change removes the voting rights from the President and the Vice-President. The President and Vice-President serve two-year roles on Council (sequential one-year appointments, first as Vice-President and then as President). In that capacity they were full members of Council with voting rights. The brief time on Council makes it difficult for them to gain sufficient knowledge of Council business to participate meaningfully in decision making. Their roles are honorary and important, aimed mainly at delivering an annual presidential address. Selected for their leadership in the field, years in the profession, and knowledge about academic life and life in general, they play key roles as elders and wisdom keepers. The amendment maintains their membership on Council as nonvoting members. In this capacity, they can make useful contributions to discussions. With this change, the Chair of Council occupies a lead role as one of the officers of the Society.

A change in language regarding short-term committees would see the elimination of the “ad hoc committees.” Instead, all committees that are not standing committees will be referred to as a task force. Task forces will be created by Council when necessary and will operate for a stated period or the duration of their charge. A slight change of an article from “the” to “an” allows Council to designate an Annual Business Meeting to occur at any of the current meetings of the Society. This change enables an expedited window to effect amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws.

The operations of Council have also changed. The Executive Committee as a subcommittee of Council has been removed. This body, necessary before video conferencing and cell phones, used to be convened in person in Atlanta for emergency decision making. The entire Council now convenes by video conferencing when there is a time-sensitive matter.

The full text of the updated Constitution and By-laws can be viewed [here](#). The Governance Task Force of Council has worked on these amendments over the past several years. Thanks are due to former Council members Laura Nasrallah and Christian Brady, who led the task force. The task force now turns its attention to revising the SBL Policy Manual. You can contact any of the current members of the task force with your suggestions: Jeremy Punt, Tammi Schneider, Joseph Lam, Juan Manual Tebes.

2024 Global Virtual Meeting

The second year of the Global Virtual Meeting took place in 2024. The live portion of the meeting occurred from 1 April through 4 April and included thirty-six sessions, including nineteen preplanned sessions. The meeting also included ten asynchronous poster presentations and three networking sessions. Almost three hundred members, representing thirty-nine different countries, attended the meeting and participated in sessions.

2024 International Meeting

The 2024 International Meeting was held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 28 July to 1 August. More than 550 scholars from around the world attended. The meeting hosted 142 sessions, which included 430 papers as well as many panel discussions and presentations. Two particularly notable events were the presentation and launch of the *Brill Encyclopedia on Early Christianity* and a conversation with Christl Maier sponsored by SBL's Status of Women in the Profession Committee. Special thanks are due to the faculty of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, especially Bert Jan Lietaert Peerbolte, for all their help organizing the meeting and putting together a rich array of locally sponsored programming.

2024 Annual Meeting

The 2024 Annual Meeting was hosted in San Diego, California. The program included 434 SBL sessions, plus an additional 107 sessions hosted by SBL affiliates. Over 1,900 people participated by reading more than 1,650 papers, participating in panel discussions and reviews, hosting meetings and social gatherings, and presiding over the many sessions. The exhibit hall included booths from 106 exhibitors, showcasing the latest publications and scholarship. Tamara Cohn Eskenazi delivered the 2024 Presidential Address, which will be published in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*.



SBL AWARDS

The Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession 2024 Outstanding Mentor Award

Tat-siong Benny Liew is the Class of 1956 Professor in New Testament Studies at the College of the Holy Cross, USA. He has an extensive list of publications as an author: *Politics of Parousia* (Brill, 1999) and *What Is Asian American Biblical Hermeneutics?* (University of Hawaii Press, 2008). He also collaborated as editor on *They Were All Together in One Place? Toward Minority Biblical Criticism* (with Randall Bailey and Fernando Segovia, Society of Biblical Literature, 2009), *Colonialism and the Bible: Contemporary Reflections from the Global South* (with Fernando Segovia, Lexington, 2018), *Reading Biblical Texts Together: Pursuing Minoritized Biblical Criticism* (with Fernando Segovia, SBL Press, 2022), *Race and Biblical Studies: Antiracism Pedagogy for the Classroom* (with Shelly Matthews, SBL Press, 2022), and *Reading in These Times: Purposes and Practices of Minoritized Biblical Criticism* (with Fernando Segovia, SBL Press, 2024), among others. Liew is also the series editor of T&T Clark's Study Guides to the New Testament (Bloomsbury). As well as having served on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Religion and on the Council of the Society of Biblical Literature, he received the Excellence in Mentoring Award from the Forum for Theological Exploration in 2021 and served as the Interim Executive Director of the Society of Biblical Literature for six months in 2023.

Renita Weems is not only a former professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School (1987–2004) but also taught at Spelman College, Howard University Divinity School, and Memphis Theological Seminary. She recently served as the Crump Visiting Profes-

son and Black Religious Scholars Group Scholar-in-Residence at Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. Her 1995 volume *Battered Love: Marriage, Sex, and Violence in the Hebrew Prophets* brought her dissertation work to a wide audience, with powerful hermeneutical reflection on implications for contemporary understandings of God and of marriage. *Just A Sister Away: A Womanist Vision of Women's Relationships in the Bible* (1989), along with a host of other writings, sealed her legacy as a trailblazer in the field of womanist biblical scholarship. Finally, Weems is a biblical scholar, a minister, and an author whose scholarly insights into modern faith, biblical texts, and the role of spirituality in everyday lives has made her a highly sought after writer and speaker for more than four decades.

The 2025 Status of Women in the Profession Mentor Award

Katherine E. Southwood is an Associate Professor at the University of Oxford and Fellow of St John's College, Oxford. Her research is characterized by interdisciplinary engagement between biblical texts and the social sciences. Katherine's research interests include Job, pain, the body, death, Judges, Ezra-Nehemiah, Ahiqar, Tobit, exile, and gender. Katherine has published five books, including the monograph *Job's Body and the Dramatized Comedy of "Moralising"* (Routledge, 2021) and two recent articles: "Trauma, Brokenness, and Pain in the Book of Lamentations: Empathetic Attention as a Hermeneutic for Thinking about Rehabilitation of Health," in *Jews and Health: History, Tradition, and Practice* (Catherine Hezser, Brill, 2023), and, with James W. Southwood, "Job as a Work of Laughtears and Learning: Comedy, Pain, and Audience Empathy," *Bible and Critical Theory* 18/2 (2022): 1–16. As part of this research, Katherine convened several conferences with NHS chaplains, funded by a Wellcome Institutional Public Engagement with Research grant.

Tina Pippin is the Wallace M. Alston Professor of Bible and Religion at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. She was a member of The Bible and Culture Collective (*The Postmodern Bible*, Yale University Press, 1995), is the author of *Death and Desire: The Rhetoric of Gender in the Apocalypse of John* (Westminster John Knox, 1999; reprint Cascade, 2021) and *Apocalyptic Bodies: The Biblical End of the World in Text and Image* (Routledge, 1999), and is the coeditor with Cheryl Kirk-Duggan of *Mother Goose, Mother Jones, Mommie Dearest: Biblical Mothers and Their Children* (Society of Biblical Literature, 2009), along with other publications on apocalyptic and the Bible and film studies. Her forthcoming book (Cascade, 2025) is *The Actual Jesus*. Tina is the first recipient of the American Academy of Religion's Excellence in Teaching Award. She is an activist-educator and also cohosts a radical pedagogy podcast with Lucia Hulsether, Nothing Never Happens, at <https://nothingneverhappens.org/>.

A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship

Jeremiah Coogan was awarded for his paper entitled "Synoptic Work: Compositional Practices, Invisible Labor, and the Synoptic Problem." Jeremiah Coogan is Assistant Professor of New Testament at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. He is a historian of religion and textuality in the Roman Mediterranean. His current research centers on gospel literature, early Christian philology, and the history of enslavement. Coogan is the author of *Eusebius the Evangelist: Rewriting the Fourfold Gospel in Late Antiquity* (Oxford University Press, 2023).

Bernadette J. Brooten Award for Scholarship in Gender, Sexuality, and Embodiment

Rikki Liu was awarded for her paper entitled "Scripting Pain, Distributing Affect: P.Mich.inv.1190 and the Gendered Labor of Ritual." Rikki Wenxin Liu is a doctoral student in Religious Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Liu pursues two interrelated threads of research interests. The first examines Coptic texts, with a focus on healing, ritual texts, magical papyri, and gender and the body in late antiquity. The second, forming the topic of their dissertation, focuses on the Nag Hammadi Library, intellectual histories surrounding the concept of Gnosticism, and uses of Nag Hammadi texts in American art and literature. Liu is

AWARDS

interested in the relationship between human bodies and text in its many different forms from antiquity to the present, as well as the relationship between academic knowledge production and popular culture. Outside of academic interests, she engages in creative pursuits, including pottery and fiber arts, and enjoys the friendship of an orange cat named Poeik.

Daniel Tran Foscett Hudgins Memorial Student Travel Award

Yuya Ono grew up in a non-Christian household in rural Japan and became a Christian during his college years. His encounter with *Ministering in Honor-Shame Cultures* (IVP Academic), which examines honor-shame missiology, inspired him to explore alternative approaches to biblical interpretation, evangelism, ecclesiology, and discipleship that address the honor-shame dynamics prevalent in Japanese culture. In 2022, Yuya, accompanied by his wife, began pursuing a Master of Arts in New Testament Studies at Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary in Fresno, California, under the mentorship of Dr. Mark Baker, one of the book's authors. He aims to earn a PhD in New Testament studies and ultimately to serve as a professor at seminaries and universities in Japan.

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

Pauline Paris Buisch was awarded for her paper entitled "From Childless Heroes to Barren Women: The Biblical Transformation of an Ancient Near Eastern Motif." Pauline (PhD, University of Notre Dame, 2021) is Assistant Professor of Old Testament at United Theological Seminary. Her research focuses on the literary intersections between the Hebrew Bible and the ancient Near East, inner-biblical allusion, and early Jewish interpretation. Her first book (under review) analyzes the literary and theological development of the biblical motif of the woman facing the threat of childlessness. Her second project will examine the development of the relationship between the David and Joseph traditions in the Hebrew Bible and early Jewish texts.



Tat-siong Benny Liew



Renita Weems



Katherine E. Southwood



Tina Pippin



Jeremiah Coogan



Rikki Liu



Yuya Ono



Pauline Paris Buisch

De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History

Gregory E. Lamb was awarded in the category of Textual Culture and Reception of the Bible for his paper entitled “Reception, Rediscovery, and Reimagination: Codex Bezae Cantabrigiensis and Luke 16:19–31.” Gregory completed his PhD (New Testament, 2021) from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary under the supervision of L. Scott Kellum. His dissertation is titled “Living and Dying Well in Philippians: A Comparative Analysis of Ancient Sources” and is currently being published within Mohr Siebeck’s WUNT 2 series. Gregory’s research interests are wide-ranging, with three additional book contracts in place with Bloomsbury (Lukan parables) and Wipf & Stock (New Testament backgrounds and a biblical theology of single parenting). Gregory also has three forthcoming chapters within edited anthologies from T&T Clark (animal studies), Fortress Academic (liberation theology), and Cascade (New Testament pseudepigrapha). Gregory is also a pastor serving at-risk families and homeless tent communities through a 501(c)3 nonprofit he and his wife, Tamara, founded in 2007.

Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship

Alexander Chantziantoniou was awarded for his paper entitled “The Politics of Paul’s Image Parodies: Material Epiphany, Human-Divine Reciprocity, and Social Power.” Alexander (PhD, Cambridge University, 2024) is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Crandall University. His research explores the intersections between divinity, materiality, and ethnicity, especially as it relates to images of gods. His first book (under review) focuses on Jewish polemics against images of gentile gods (so-called idols), while his current project reexamines mythmaking about images of the Jewish god (so-called icons), such as gendered human bodies, iconic books, and the celestial materiality of Paul’s messiah. He has forthcoming articles in the *Journal for the Study of Judaism* and the *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, and he is coeditor (with Paula Fredriksen and Stephen L. Young) of a forthcoming volume entitled *Paul within Paganism*, which contextualizes the Jewish apostle within the wider world of ancient Mediterranean religion.

Richards Award for Public Scholarship

Martien A. Halvorson-Taylor (PhD, Harvard University; Associate Professor, University of Virginia, Department of Religious Studies) is a scholar of the Hebrew Bible and Second Temple Judaism. She has published on exile, forced migration, and diaspora and is currently working on a commentary on the Song of Songs (IEKAT/IECOT, Kohlhammer). An award-winning teacher at UVA, Martien offers a body of work that translates deep biblical scholarship for a wider audience, bringing the best of our field beyond the academy. She has written on formations of the Hebrew Bible in *Writing the Bible* (Audible/Great Courses) and, as the Hebrew Bible editor for Bible Odyssey, has designed a series on the Bible and the environment. As



Gregory E. Lamb



Alexander Chantziantoniou



Martien A. Halvorson-Taylor

AWARDS

codirector of UVA's Religion, Race, and Democracy Lab (2018–2024), Halvorson-Taylor cohosts the Lab's ongoing podcast, Sacred & Profane (iTunes). Most recently funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Sacred & Profane lends historical depth to public interest in the legacies of the Bible and religions on current political, social, and environmental movements.

International Travel Awards

The SBL International Travel Awards offer opportunities to current SBL members outside North America to attend the Annual or International Meeting, to participate in the program, to enhance their professional development, and to build networks 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 is 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 2024 SBL International Travel Recipients are:

- ◆ Montuma Amante
- ◆ Sheurl Davis
- ◆ Charles Dufour
- ◆ Karl Kepler
- ◆ Pek Kim Oon
- ◆ Maria Yurovitskaya

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.



Montuma Amante



Sheurl Davis



Charles Dufour



Karl Kepler



Pek Kim Oon



Maria Yurovitskaya

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION 30 JUNE 2024 AND 2023

	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,291,712	\$ 1,684,791
Marketable securities	6,983,346	5,865,492
Accounts receivable	224,525	233,274
Prepaid expenses and other assets	204,767	159,465
Book inventories, net of valuation reserve	37,733	54,103
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	19,673	24,517
Capitalized software, net of accumulated amortization	547,227	691,351
Net share of Luce Center assets	<u>2,199,528</u>	<u>2,040,856</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$11,508,511</u>	<u>\$10,753,849</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 325,605	\$ 288,009
Deferred revenue		
Memberships and subscriptions	561,170	550,673
Annual meetings	984,103	907,756
Other	<u>48,789</u>	<u>123,491</u>
Total deferred revenues	<u>1,594,062</u>	<u>1,581,920</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,919,667</u>	<u>1,869,929</u>
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions		
Undesignated	228,419	640,722
Designated by Board for operating reserve	6,498,097	5,564,031
Invested in Luce Center	<u>880,882</u>	<u>952,143</u>
	7,607,398	7,156,896
With donor restrictions	<u>1,981,446</u>	<u>1,727,024</u>
Total net assets	<u>9,588,844</u>	<u>8,883,920</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$11,508,511</u>	<u>\$10,753,849</u>

Comment:

- ◆ SBL staff continue to manage operations within budget. FY2024 revenues were under budget by \$208,615, while expenses were under budget by \$259,570, resulting in an operational net increase over budget by \$50,955.

FINANCES

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2024 AND 2023

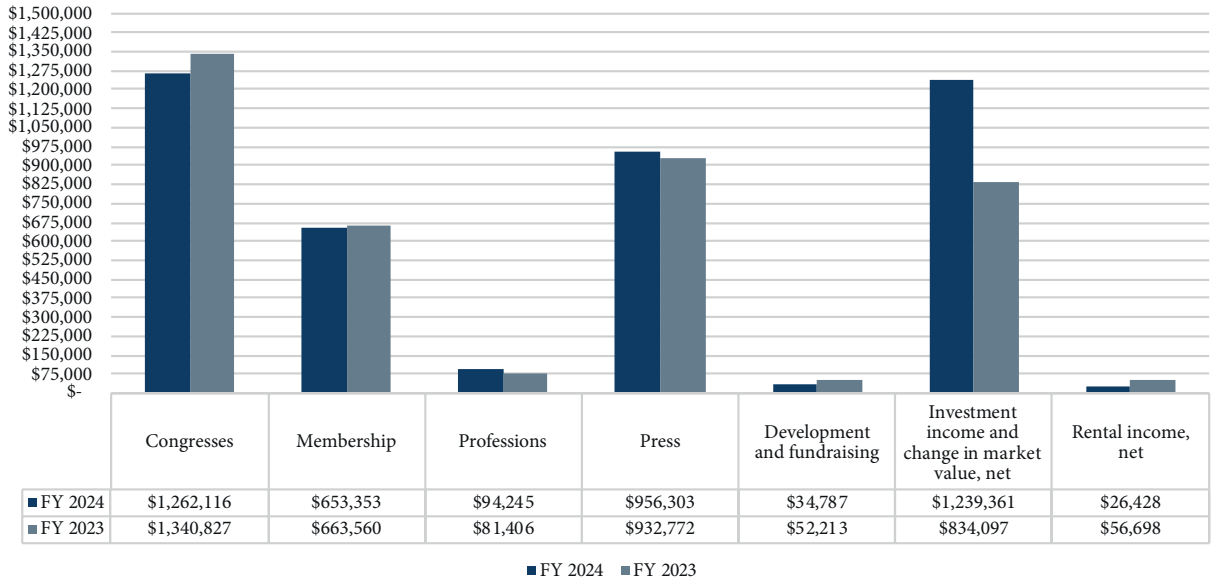
	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>
REVENUES AND GAINS		
Congresses		
Congresses	\$1,242,696	\$1,310,247
Grant revenue	19,420	30,580
Membership		
Membership fees	627,803	624,820
Marketing	25,550	38,740
Professions		
Career center	45,300	58,883
Contract income	45,745	21,273
Grant revenue	2,000	—
Fonts	1,200	1,250
Press		
Book sales	424,805	432,859
Subscriptions	208,902	178,551
Royalties	111,362	123,974
Marketing	25,478	25,502
Permissions	37,583	19,554
Membership fees	110,792	110,262
Contract income	—	15,000
Book processing fees	24,875	19,100
Fee income	12,506	7,970
Development and fundraising	34,787	52,213
Investment income (loss), net	1,239,361	834,097
Rental income, net	26,428	56,698
Total revenues and gains	4,266,593	3,961,573
EXPENSES		
Program expenses		
Congresses	1,168,960	1,152,340
Membership	214,309	220,285
Professions	428,617	418,816
Press	1,534,550	1,528,229
Regional meetings	—	9,123
Research and Technology	38,093	35,773
Total program expenses	3,384,529	3,364,566
Development and fundraising	6,575	8,524
General and administration	170,565	165,263
Total expenses	3,561,669	3,538,353
Increase in Net Assets	704,924	423,220
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	8,883,920	8,460,700
Net Assets at End of Year	\$9,588,844	\$8,883,920

BUDGET 2024–2025

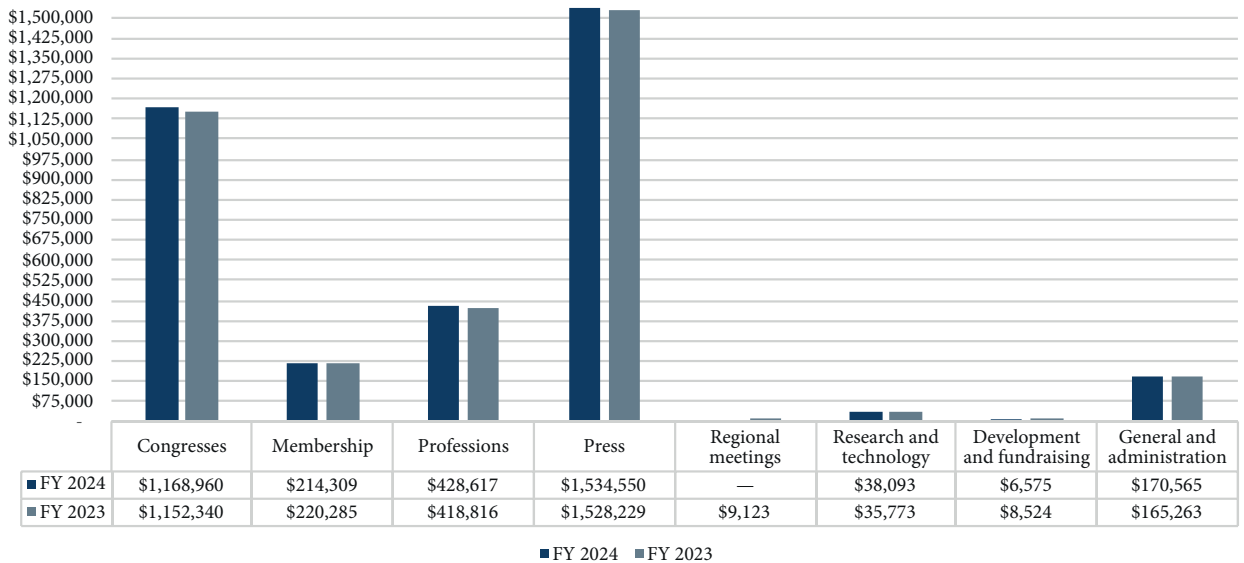
Revenues	
Administration	\$ 216,500
Congresses	1,327,650
Development	70,000
Membership	778,250
Professions	92,200
Press	1,042,935
Total Revenue	3,527,535
Expenses	
Administration	142,953
Congresses	1,225,064
Development	9,655
Membership	196,472
Professions	478,280
Press	1,475,891
Technology	50,126
Total Expense	3,578,441
Net budget deficit before amortization	(50,906)
Amortization (noncash expense)	273,941
Net budget deficit	\$ (324,847)

The financial information summarized here was derived from the Society's audited financial statements. The independent auditor's report by Mauldin & Jenkins, dated 16 January 2025, states that the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Society. Please see the full audit report at the SBL website.

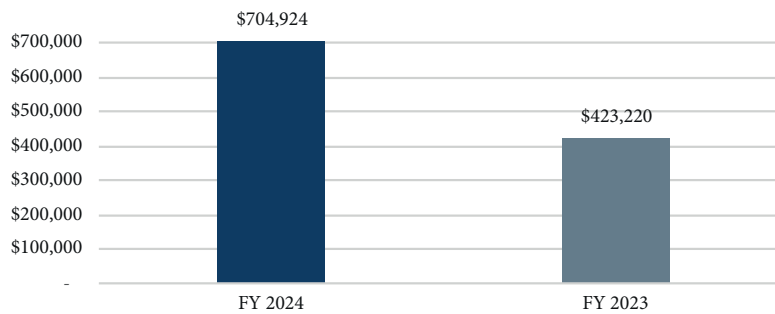
Comparison of FY24 and FY23 Revenue



Comparison of FY24 and FY23 Expenses



Increase in Net Assets



SBL Press provides a variety of resources for a number of interested audiences. The *Journal of Biblical Literature*, which is made available freely to members and by subscription to libraries, is widely regarded as the flagship journal in the field. Other SBL Press serial publications include *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism* (open access) and the *Review of Biblical Literature* (open to members). SBL Press also publishes volumes in twenty-two active book series—two of which are open access—that extend across and beyond the biblical literature and its ancient and modern contexts (see the list [here](#)). SBL Press produces and distributes all Brown Judaic Studies volumes and serves as the North American distributor for Sheffield Phoenix Press. In addition to these scholar-oriented products, SBL Press makes the perspectives and insights of our members available to the wider public through our Bible Odyssey website, as well as through resources developed under SBL Press management, such as the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition, and the *SBL Study Bible*.

SERIAL PUBLICATIONS

Journal of Biblical Literature

For the Society's flagship journal, 2024 notably brought the conclusion of two Associate Editors' terms: those of Hindy Najman and Eric Barreto.

Hindy joined the editorial team in the fall of 2021 and invigorated engagement with the areas of Dead Sea Scrolls, Hellenistic Jewish literature, and philology. The fall issue of this year's volume (143.3) was especially indicative of her involvement, including articles such as "Alter-Altars" (Naphtali Meshel), "Embracing the Jewess: Reading Gender and Ethnicity in Judith with the *Belle Juive*" (Caryn Tamber-Rosenau) and "Colonizing Frank Moore Cross: The Dead Sea Scrolls in 1950s Popular Media" (Charles Hughes-Huff). We are deeply grateful to Hindy for the energy she brought to the editorial enterprise and for the many new voices she elevated, both as authors and reviewers.



Eric took on the Associate Editorship for New Testament in 2022 after having already served on the editorial board since 2019. Eric's broad embrace of an array of texts and methodologies ensured that every New Testament submission during his term received a generous reading, and the pieces subsequently accepted were undoubtedly improved by his careful and insightful feedback. Under his editorship during the past year alone, *JBL* published such wide-ranging New Testament pieces as "Demons Seeking Identity? The Psychic Life of New Testament Exorcisms" (Joseph L. Kimmel), "Phoebe, a Host of Christian Travelers: The Meaning of Προστάτις in Romans 16:2" (Jason Borges), and "Courtroom Theatrics in the Letter of James" (Alicia J. Batten). Thank you, Eric!



Although we will certainly miss both Hindy and Eric, we are happy to report that both vacancies on the editorial team have been filled.

In the fall, Christian Stadel (PhD, Hebrew University of Jerusalem), who had been on the *JBL* board since 2020, began serving as Associate Editor covering late Hebrew Bible texts and early Judaism. Christian, Associate Professor in the Department of Hebrew Language at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, is a specialist in ancient Semitic languages and has broad expertise in the Dead Sea Scrolls, Samaritanism, and early Judaism. He is the author of two books, *Hebraismen in den aramäischen Texten vom Toten Meer* and *The Morphosyntax of Samaritan Aramaic* (Hebrew), along with dozens of journal articles, book chapters, and reference entries (for example, in *Theologisches Wörterbuch zu den Qumrantexten*).



For the New Testament Associate Editorship, we are joined by Davina Lopez (PhD, Union Theological Seminary), who is Professor of Religious Studies at Eckerd College (St. Petersburg, Florida). Davina's broad research and teaching interests include Pauline studies; the Greek, Jewish, and Roman imperial contexts of the New Testament writings; and art and performance as critical modes of interpreting biblical texts and traditions. Most recently, Davina coauthored *Deintroducing the New Testament* (with Todd Penner), and she is also the author of *Apostle to the Conquered: Reimagining Paul's Mission* (2008). Although new to *JBL's* editorial team, Davina is a familiar face to SBL Press, having previously served on the board of *Review of Biblical Literature* and as general editor of the book series Resources for Biblical Study.



We welcome Christian and Davina to the busy editorial team, also including Susan Hylen, General Editor, and Stacy Davis, Associate Editor for Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel, which last year oversaw the review of 200 manuscript submissions and publication of 37 new articles. As always, we invite all Society members to take full advantage of the online *JBL* archive at the Scholarly Publishing Collective, where SBL members and *JBL* institutional subscribers continue to have access to the full range of *JBL* content, from volume 1 to the most recent issues. Members can read *JBL* by logging in on the [SBL website](#).

Review of Biblical Literature

During 2024, *RBL* published 472 new reviews, bringing the total number of reviews published since the beginning of *RBL* through the end of the year to 12,422—or nearly two million words. This year’s output included papers presented in an Annual Meeting review session held for Francis Landy’s *Poetry, Catastrophe, and Hope in the Vision of Isaiah* (Oxford University Press, 2023). In addition, *RBL* incorporated five reviews originally published in *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism* and eight from the *Studia Philonica Annual* into the *RBL* collection.

Reviewers in 2024 hailed from thirty-five different countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Germany, Ghana, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malawi, Malaysia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, and the United States. This year approximately 45 percent of *RBL* reviews were authored by scholars outside of the United States, a slight increase over the average for the last three years. In terms of gender distribution, 27.6 percent of our reviewers were female and 72.4 percent male; this distribution tracks reasonably closely to the Society’s last-reported gender distribution of 24.8 percent female, 75.1 male, and 0.1 transgender.

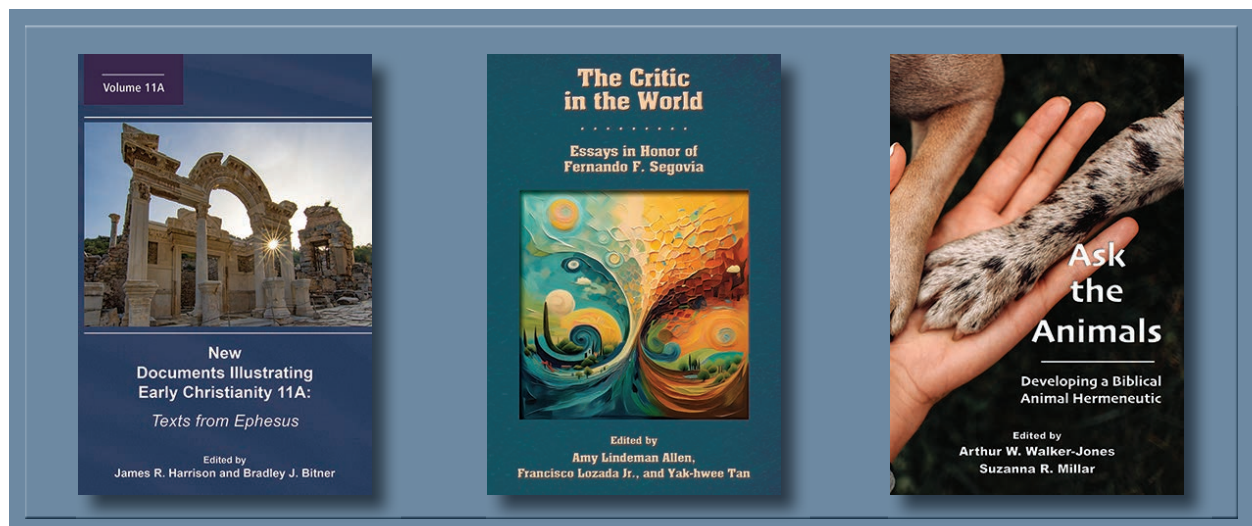
TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism

In addition to two open-access book series, SBL Press publishes *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism*, an open-access journal devoted to text-critical discussions of Jewish and Christian scriptures. The journal has been publishing full-length articles, short notes, project reports, and book reviews since 1996. This year, the journal published five full-length articles, five briefer notes, and six book reviews. The volume can be freely accessed on the journal’s homepage (<http://jbtc.org>).

2024 BOOK AND ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Amy Lindeman Allen, Francisco Lozada Jr., and Yak-hwee Tan, eds., *The Critic in the World: Essays in Honor of Fernando F. Segovia* (Resources for Biblical Study)
- ◆ Pauline Allen, *John Chrysostom, Homilies on Titus and Philemon* (Writings from the Greco-Roman World)
- ◆ Paul N. Anderson, Felix Just, S.J., and Tom Thatcher, eds., *John, Jesus, and History, Volume 4: Jesus Remembered in the Johannine Situation* (Early Christianity and Its Literature)
- ◆ Risto Auvinen, *Philo’s Influence on Valentinian Tradition* (Studia Philonica Monographs)
- ◆ Carol Bakhos and Alyssa M. Gray, eds., *Making History: Studies in Rabbinic History, Literature, and Culture in Honor of Richard L. Kalmin* (Brown Judaic Studies)
- ◆ Alicia J. Batten, ed., *Review of Biblical Literature, 2024*
- ◆ Adam H. Becker, *Isaac of Antioch: Homilies on Moral and Monastic Reform* (Writings from the Greco-Roman World)

- ◆ Angela Berlis and Christiana de Groot, eds., *Nineteenth-Century Women's Movements and the Bible* (The Bible and Women)
- ◆ Naftali S. Cohn and Katrin Kogman-Appel, eds., *Beloved David—Advisor, Man of Understanding, and Writer: A Festschrift in Honor of David Stern* (Brown Judaic Studies)
- ◆ Johann Cook, Wolfgang Kraus, and Martin Rösel, eds., *Septuagint Theology and Its Reception: Stellenbosch Congress on the Septuagint, 2022* (Septuagint and Cognate Studies)
- ◆ Nathan A. Esala, *Biblical Translation as Invasion in Postcolonial Northern Ghana* (International Voices in Biblical Studies)
- ◆ Israel Finkelstein, *Jerusalem the Center of the Universe: Its Archaeology and History (1800–100 BCE)*
- ◆ Albert C. Geljon and David T. Runia, *Philo of Alexandria, On Cultivation: Introduction, Translation, and Commentary* (Philo of Alexandria Commentary Series)
- ◆ Albert C. Geljon and David T. Runia, *Philo of Alexandria, On Planting: Introduction, Translation, and Commentary* (Philo of Alexandria Commentary Series)
- ◆ Carlos Gracia Zamacona, *Los Textos de los Ataúdes del Egipto antiguo: Variabilidad, legitimación y diálogo* (Ancient Near East Monographs)
- ◆ James R. Harrison and Bradley J. Bitner, eds., *New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity 11A: Texts from Ephesus*
- ◆ Roy R. Jeal, *Exploring Colossians: Living the New Reality* (Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity)
- ◆ Roy R. Jeal, ed., *Exploring Sublime Rhetoric in Biblical Literature* (Emory Studies in Early Christianity)
- ◆ Grammatiki A. Karla and David Konstan, *Life of Aesop the Philosopher* (Writings from the Greco-Roman World)
- ◆ Alexander T. Kirk, *Agur's Wisdom and the Coherence of Proverbs 30* (Ancient Israel and Its Literature)
- ◆ Brian Fiu Kolia, *Carrying Qoheleth's Maota (House): An Australian-Samoan Diasporic Reading* (International Voices in Biblical Studies)
- ◆ Jacob Lauinger, *The Labors of Idrimi: Inscribing the Past, Shaping the Present at Late Bronze Age Alalah* (Ancient Near East Monographs)
- ◆ Tat-siong Benny Liew and Fernando F. Segovia, eds., *Reading in These Times: Purposes and Practices of Minoritized Biblical Criticism* (Semeia Studies)
- ◆ Sivan Nir, *Characterization in Midrash and Medieval Jewish Bible Commentaries* (Bible and Its Reception)
- ◆ Martti Nissinen and Jutta Jokiranta, eds., *Changes in Sacred Texts and Traditions: Methodological Encounters and Debates* (Resources for Biblical Study)



- ◆ David T. Runia and Gregory E. Sterling, eds., *Studia Philonica Annual XXXVI, 2024: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism* (Studia Philonica Annual)
- ◆ Martin Shedd, Sean Tandy, and Jeremy M. Schott, *Remembering Nicaea: The Ecclesiastical History of Anonymous Cyzicenus* (Writings from the Greco-Roman World)
- ◆ Soo Kim Sweeney, David Frankel, and Marvin A. Sweeney, eds., *Theology of the Hebrew Bible, Volume 2: Texts, Readers, and Their Worlds* (Resources for Biblical Study)
- ◆ Arthur W. Walker-Jones and Suzanna R. Millar, eds., *Ask the Animals: Developing a Biblical Animal Hermeneutic* (Semeia Studies)
- ◆ Korinna Zamfir, Uta Poplutz, eds., *Reading Women in the New Testament Letters* (The Bible and Women)

SBL CENTRAL

SBL Central (<https://www.sblcentral.org>) is the digital resource discovery platform where SBL Press hosts *Review of Biblical Literature*. In 2024 our focus was on continuing to refine the platform through software development on the backend and increasing participation of both publishers and members.

The development of SBL Central was supported by the Henry Luce Foundation, Atla, and eight publishers: Baker Academic, Baylor University Press, Bloomsbury Publishing, Brill Publishers, De Gruyter, Mohr Siebeck, Penn State University Press, Westminster John Knox Press, and Wipf & Stock Publishers. Since launch, more and more publishers are taking advantage of this opportunity to engage with their readership.

African Sun Media	ATF Press
Baker Academic	Baylor University Press
Bloomsbury/T&T Clark	Brill Publishers
Brown Judaic Studies	Cambridge University Press
Concordia Publishing House	Corpus Biblicum Catalanicum
De Gruyter	Droz
Eerdmans	Eisenbrauns
Equinox	Evangelische Verlagsanstalt
Fortress Press	Foundation for Pentecostal Scholarship
German Bible Society	GlossaHouse
Gorgias	Hendrickson
Indiana University Press	James Clarke
Jewish Publication Society	Kohlhammer
Langham Partnership	Mohr Siebeck
Oxford University Press	PALNI
Peeters	Pennsylvania State University Press
Pitchstone	Routledge
Saint Paul Seminary Press	SBL Press
Sheffield Phoenix Press	Westminster John Knox
William Carey Publishing	Wipf & Stock
	Yale University Press

BIBLE ODYSSEY

Bible Odyssey (<https://www.bibleodyssey.org>) is a public-facing resource whose purpose is to increase the accessibility of the academic study of the Bible. Since its launch in 2014, the website has attracted a broad audience, including students, educators, and the general public. With its publication of short articles, videos, maps, and timelines, Bible Odyssey is increasingly becoming a primary resource in K–12 and university classrooms.

ARTICLES

Bible Odyssey currently provides access to a broad-ranging collection of 849 articles, 47 of which were published in 2024.

Hebrew Bible/Old Testament 14 New Testament 15 Extracanonical/Other 18

2024 Published Articles

- | | |
|---|---|
| Agrippa I | Isaiah and the Environment |
| Agrippa II | John Brown and His Jailhouse Bible |
| Ancient Biographies | Judean Pillar Figurines |
| Assyria | LGBTQ+ Biblical Interpretation |
| Aware-Settler Hermeneutics | Martyrdom in Maccabees |
| Barnabas | Mephibosheth |
| Beer in Ancient Israel | Music in the Ancient Near East |
| The Bible and Manifest Destiny | Nephilim |
| The Bible and Native Americans in Early North America | Onesimus |
| The Bible and the American Revolution | Phoebe |
| The Bible and the Emancipation Proclamation | The Primeval History |
| The Bible in the Antebellum South | The Quakers and the Bible in Early America |
| Bibles in Early America | The Rabbis |
| Crime and Punishment in the Roman Empire | The Sayings Gospel Q |
| Demons and Unclean Spirits | Smyrna |
| Ethiopian Eunuch from a Disability Perspective | The Talmud |
| Gender in the Parables of Jesus | The Watchers |
| The Good Shepherd in the Catacomb of Priscilla | Where Did Hebrew Come From? |
| Household Gods | Wine in Ancient Israel |
| How Did Biblical Authors View the Natural World? | The Woman’s Bible by Elizabeth Cady Stanton |
| How Do New Testament Writers Use the Old Testament? | The Women in Matthew’s Genealogy |
| How Is Modern Hebrew Related to Biblical Hebrew? | Yahweh |
| Ignatius of Antioch | |



RESOURCES

Bible Odyssey offers a variety of resources for the Hebrew Bible, Deuterocanonical, and New Testament texts, including articles, maps, videos, and timelines. The following table lists the most-consulted resource of each type in 2024.

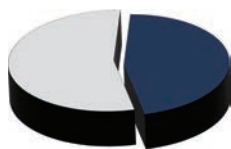
Most Popular Resource	
Articles	“What are the Earliest Versions and Translations of the Bible?” (22,989 views)
Maps	“Israel and Judah” (10,350 views)
Timeline	“The History of the English Bible” (2,283 views)
Video	“Origins of Baptism” (5,827 views)

CONTRIBUTORS

Bible Odyssey is committed to advancing the representation of persons of diverse genders, ethnicities, nationalities, and institutional appointments. Of 2024’s 50 authors (authors of multiple pieces are counted separately for each article), 46 percent identify as women, 85 percent were new authors, and 14 percent live outside of the United States.

2024 Authors by Gender

23 women
27 men



2024 Authors by Location

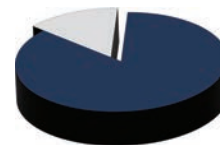
2024’s authors represent a number of countries, including Australia (1), Canada (2), Israel (1) Netherlands (1), South Korea (1) United Kingdom (1), and the United States (43)

2024 Authors by Institution

Bible Odyssey authors work at a variety of institutions, including US public universities (10), US private universities (33), and universities outside North America (7).

2024 New versus Repeat Authors

43 new authors
7 repeat authors



READERS

From 1 January to 31 December 2024, readers from around the world generated 1,710,948 Bible Odyssey page views. The ten countries with the most visitors are listed in the table below.

	Country	Visitors
1	United States	671,953
2	United Kingdom	44,174
3	Canada	37,907
4	India	31,371
5	Australia	31,127
6	Philippines	22,058
7	South Africa	20,669
8	Nigeria	17,898
9	Kenya	12,833
10	Indonesia	10,143

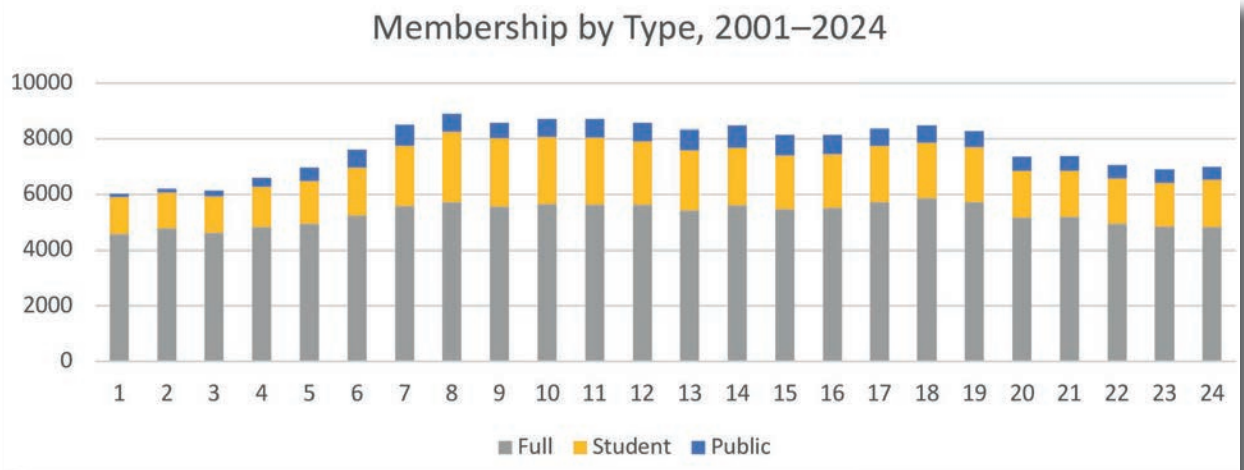
HIGHLIGHTS

Bible Odyssey gathers select articles into curated reading collections, which help readers discover articles on more narrow topics. The most extensive reading collection to date is that on The Bible and US History, which features sixteen articles on the impact the Bible has had on people and events in US History. Topics include “The Women’s Bible by Elizabeth Cady Stanton,” “The Bible in the Antebellum South,” “Quakers and the Bible in Early America,” “John Brown and His Jailhouse Bible,” and the “Bible and the American Revolution.”



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Total membership in 2024 was 6,995, an increase of about 2 percent from 2023.



The largest category of membership is full membership, at 4,836 (69%). Student membership totaled 1,689 (24%), and there were 470 public members (7%). The proportion of student memberships rose relative to full membership in 2024, while public members were about the same.

The percentage of members living outside the United States was 35 percent, an increase of almost 2 percent from 2023. This is near the all-time high proportion of 36 percent in 2020 and much higher than the 21 percent in 2001.

Members currently reside in 97 countries, five more than in 2023. The United States is home to 65 percent of SBL members. About 5 percent of members continue to reside in the United Kingdom and in Canada. Other countries with large numbers of members include Germany (4%), Australia (3%), Israel (2%), Italy (1%), the Netherlands (1%), South Africa (1%), Switzerland (1%), Sweden (1%), Norway (1%), Belgium (1%), the Republic of Korea (1%), Japan (1%), and France (1%).



■ = countries where members reside

ICI Countries and SBL Membership

SBL currently has 399 members who reside in 62 different countries that are a part of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI). South Africa, Poland, Brazil, India, the Philippines, Romania, Nigeria, Czechia, Slovakia, Ghana, Indonesia, Peru, China, Hungary, and Kenya are the ICI countries with the highest numbers of members.

MEMBERSHIP

Where SBL Members Reside

Country	Members	Country	Members	Country	Members
Argentina	8	Guatemala	1	Peru	10
Australia	180	Honduras	1	Philippines	15
Austria	34	Hong Kong	35	Poland	29
Barbados	1	Hungary	9	Portugal	4
Belgium	44	Iceland	2	Republic of Korea	42
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	India	17	Romania	15
Brazil	23	Indonesia	7	Russian Federation	4
Bulgaria	4	Iran	1	Rwanda	1
Burkina Faso	1	Ireland	25	Samoa	2
Cambodia	1	Israel	128	Serbia	3
Cameroon	1	Italy	95	Singapore	12
Canada	345	Jamaica	1	Slovakia	11
Chile	2	Japan	36	Solomon Islands	1
China	9	Kenya	9	South Africa	69
Colombia	5	Latvia	1	Spain	22
Costa Rica	1	Lebanon	2	Sri lanka	2
Cote d'Ivoire	2	Lesotho	1	Sudan	1
Croatia	3	Lithuania	1	Sweden	56
Curaçao	1	Luxembourg	2	Switzerland	69
Czech Republic	10	Madagascar	1	Taiwan	5
Denmark	33	Malaysia	8	Tonga	1
Dominican Republic	2	Malta	3	Trinidad and Tobago	1
Ecuador	1	Mexico	8	Turkey	2
Egypt	2	Moldova, Republic of the	1	Uganda	3
Estonia	3	Myanmar (Burma)	1	Ukraine	3
Ethiopia	6	Netherlands	94	United Arab Emirates	2
Finland	32	New Zealand	23	United Kingdom	351
France	35	Nicaragua	1	United States	4539
Georgia	2	Nigeria	14	Vatican City	1
Germany	284	Norway	55	Zambia	1
Ghana	10	Pakistan	1	Zimbabwe	1
Greece	9	Palestinian Territory	1		
Greenland	1	Papua New Guinea	2		

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 Dalit Rom-Shiloni
 Tammi J. Schneider, Secretary
 Juan Manuel Tebes
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 Mark Goodacre
 Karina Martin Hogan
 Jeremy Hutton, chair
 Joseph A. Marchal
 Cynthia Shafer-Elliott
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 David L. Eastman, chair
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Charlotte Hempel
 Matthias Henze
 Koog P. Hong
 Martti Nissinen, chair
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 Shelley L. Birdsong
 Joseph A. Marchal, chair
 Melissa Harl Sellew
 Eric A. Thomas
 Charlene Van der Walt

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 Mahri Leonard-Fleckman
 Margaret Aymer, chair
 Christopher A. Rollston
 Althea Spencer Miller
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 Ekaputra Tupamahu
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 Bernard M. Levinson
 Susanne Scholz
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 Christine Roy Yoder

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