

Russell L. Meek
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SPECIALIZATION

Old Testament/Hebrew Bible

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (2014)	Biblical Studies (Old Testament)
	Dissertation: "The Meaning of <i>Hebel</i> in Ecclesiastes in Light of Qohelet's Inner-Biblical Use of Genesis"	
M.A.	Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (2009)	Biblical Languages
B.A.	Henderson State University (2005)	History and Spanish

AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST

Primary: Old Testament Wisdom Literature; Ecclesiastes
Secondary: Biblical Hermeneutics; Old Testament Historical Books

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Books

- Co-author with Robert Matz. *Jonah, Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk*. Kerux: A Commentary for Biblical Preaching and Teaching. Grand Rapids: Kregel (under contract).
- Co-author with William R. Osborne. *A Book-by-Book Guide to Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2019.
- Co-author with David Beldman. *A Classified Bibliography on Ecclesiastes*. London: T & T Clark, 2019.
- Co-editor with Mark J. Boda and William R. Osborne. *Riddles and Revelations: Explorations into the Relationship between Wisdom and Prophecy in the Hebrew Bible*. Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies 634. London: T & T Clark, 2018.
- Co-author with James Spencer and Bryan Babcock. *Trajectories: A Gospel-Centered Introduction to Old Testament Theology*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2018.
- Co-editor with N. Blake Hearson. *Coffee Shop Conversations: Evangelical Perspectives on Current Issues*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2013.
- Ecclesiastes: A Participatory Study Guide*. Gonzalez, FL: Energon Publications, 2013.

Articles

- “‘Was This Not My Concern?’: Jonah and (Anti-)Theodicy.” *Journal of Language, Culture, and Religion* 2 (2021): 35–49.
- “Journeying toward Justice.” *Pace* 1 (2021): 37–42.
- Co-author with Elizabeth Mehlman (student), “Sputtering at the Start Line? Examining Trends in Theological Interpretation of Scripture through Three Theological Commentaries on Ecclesiastes.” *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 31 (2021): 16–38.
- “The Gig-Economy Professor.” *Didaktikos* 4.1 (2021): 9–10.
- “The Adjunct as Scholar.” *Didaktikos* 3.4 (2020): 10
- “Reading Psalms with Survivors of Abuse.” *Criswell Theological Review* 17 (2020): 123–33.
- “O God, Break the Teeth in Their Mouths: A Sermon on Psalm 58.” *Journal for Baptist Ministry and Theology* 14 (2017): 3–12.
- “With Christ on the Road to Emmaus.” *Journal for Baptist Ministry and Theology* 14 (2017): 13–18.
- “Fear God and Enjoy His Gifts: Qohelet’s Edenic Vision of Life.” *Criswell Theological Review* 14 (2016): 23–52.
- “Truly God is Good: Suffering in Old Testament Perspective.” *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* 9.2 (2016): 151–63.
- “Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Readings of חֲכָמָה in Ecclesiastes.” *Currents in Biblical Research* 14 (2016): 279–97.
- “‘I Was King over Israel in Jerusalem’: Inerrancy and Authorial Ambiguity in Ecclesiastes.” *Journal for the Evangelical Study of the Old Testament* 4 (2015): 63–85.
- “Intertextuality, Inner-Biblical Exegesis, and Inner-Biblical Allusion: The Ethics of a Methodology.” *Biblica* 85 (2014): 280–91.
- “Wisdom Literature and the ‘Center’ of the Old Testament.” *Criswell Theological Review* 11 (2014): 63–78.
- “The Abishag Episode: Re-examining the Role of Virility in 1 Kings 1:1–4 in Light of the Kirtu Cycle and the Sumerian Folktale of the Old Man and the Young Woman.” *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 24 (2014): 1–15.
- “On the Development of Historical Criticism.” *Midwestern Journal of Theology* 13 (2014): 130–46.
- “Amos and Ecclesiastes: Toward Developing a Theological Response to Oppression.” *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology* 31 (2013): 61–74.
- Co-author with N. Blake Hearson. “Violent Christian Texts: A Response to Khalil Meek.” *Midwestern Journal of Theology* 11 (2012): 34–46.
- “Hans-Georg Gadamer: His Philosophical Hermeneutics and Its Importance for Evangelical Biblical Hermeneutics.” *Eleutheria* 1 (2011): 97–106.

Book Chapters

- “Prophet and Sage in Dialogue: History and Methodology.” Pages 3–18 in *Riddles and Revelations: Explorations into the Relationship between Wisdom and Prophecy in the Hebrew Bible*. Edited by Mark J. Boda, Russell L. Meek, and William R.

Osborne. Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies. London: T & T Clark, 2018.

“The Meaning of *Hebel* in Ecclesiastes: An Intertextual Suggestion.” Pages 241–256 in *The Words of the Wise are Like Goads: Engaging Qohelet in the 21st Century*. Edited by Mark Boda, Tremper Longman III, and Crisitan Rata. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2013.

Co-author with William Bechtold. “Fair Trade: What Would Jesus Eat, Drink, and Wear.” Pages 20–34 in *Coffee Shop Conversations: Evangelical Perspectives on Current Issues*. Edited by Russell L. Meek and N. Blake Hearson. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2013.

Public Scholarship

Credo Magazine

[How to Read Nahum Theologically](#)

[How to Read Habakkuk Theologically](#)

[How to Read Micah Theologically](#)

[Counter-cultural Aseity: God’s Aseity in the Old Testament](#)

Fathom Magazine

[Break the Teeth in Their Mouths, O God](#)

[The Sins of Our Fathers](#)

For the Church

[Your Church Needs Biblical Theology](#)

[The True Story of Who We Are](#)

[The Original Jesus Juke](#)

[The Head Crusher Cometh](#)

[The Enduring Witness of a Normal Life](#)

[The Bible Told Us Every Girl Was Sour?](#)

[Some Hope for Disciplining Children](#)

[Porn Stars Bear God’s Image](#)

[On Remembering Well](#)

[On Micah and Religious Ritualism](#)

[On Loving My Neighbor through Email](#)

[Jonah Couldn’t Get Away](#)

[It’s Hard to Love My Foster Son](#)

[How Have I Loved You?](#)

[Foster Care and Spiritual Formation](#)

[Christ Fulfilled the Law](#)

[Three Ways Creation Impacts the Gospel](#)

[Brother, I Wish I Would Have Known](#)

[Be Countercultural and Enjoy Your Work](#)

[Angry Enough to Die](#)

[Academic Work as Spiritual Discipline](#)
[Four Reasons to Preach Imprecatory Psalms](#)
[Four Reasons to Preach Christ from the Old Testament](#)

RNS

[Cedarville’s Plan to Save Anthony Moore Abandoned Its Students—and Moore](#)
[The SBC’s Same-Sex Abuse Problem](#)
[David Raped Bathsheba, and Why That Matters](#)

Sojourners

[There’s No Statute of Limitations on Trauma](#)
[The Old Testament Law Valued People over Property](#)
[The Burden of Safety Doesn’t Lie with the Abused](#)
[Inside the Fight to Keep an Abuse Apologist Off the Church Stage](#)
[Why Social Media Is a Last Resort for Survivors of Clergy Abuse](#)
[Jules Woodson: Andy Savage “Has Disqualified Himself from the Pulpit”](#)
[Racism, Sexism, and A Lust for Power in the Southern Baptist Church](#)

Dictionary/Encyclopedia Articles

“Abandon, to,” “Able, to be,” “Accede, to,” “Account,” “Acquire, to,” “Actions,” “Add, to,” “Admonish, to,” “Adultery, to Commit,” “Adversary,” “Advice, to Give,” “Afflicted; Afflicted, to Be,” “Afraid, to Be,” “Almighty,” “Altar,” “Ancient; East,” “Anger,” “Angel,” “Animal,” “Beast,” “Bird,” “Bull,” “Calf,” “Camel,” “Cow,” “Dog,” “Donkey,” “Dove,” “Eagle,” “Flock,” “Goat,” “Horse,” “Lion,” “Ram,” and “Sheep.” In *Baker Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*. Edited by Tremper Longman III. Grand Rapids: Baker, forthcoming.

“Incense Altar, Biblical Texts.” Pages 1074–1075 in volume 12 of *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Edited by Hans-Josef Klauck, Bernard McGinn, Paul, Menders-Flohr, and C. L. Seow. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2016.

“Infanticide, Hebrew Bible/Old Testament.” Pages 1140–1141 in volume 12 of *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Edited by Hans-Josef Klauck, Bernard McGinn, Paul, Menders-Flohr, and C. L. Seow. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2016.

“Ecclesiastes, Introduction to.” *Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, 2012.

“Ezekiel, Introduction to.” *Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, 2012.

“1 Samuel, Introduction to.” *Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, 2012.

“2 Samuel, Introduction to.” *Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, 2012.

“Jeremiah, Introduction to.” *Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Logos

Research Systems, 2012.

Book Reviews

- Review of *The Story of Israel in the Book of Qohelet: Ecclesiastes as Cultural Memory* by Jennie Barbour. *Journal for the Evangelical Study of the Old Testament* 3 (2014): 140–42.
- Review of *Interpreting Ecclesiastes: Readers Old and New* by Katherine J. Dell. *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 14 (2014).
- Review of *Perspectives on Eternal Security: Biblical, Historical, and Philosophical Perspectives* edited by Kirk R. MacGregor and Keavaughn Mattis. *Expository Times* 124.5 (2013): 255–6.
- Review of *These are the Generations: Identity, Covenant, and the Toledot Formula* by Matthew Thomas. *Expository Times* 124.4 (2013): 199–200.
- Review of *Ecclesiastes, Lamentations: A Commentary in the Wesleyan Tradition* by Stephen J. Bennet. *Review of Biblical Literature* [<http://www.bookreviews.org>] (2012).
- Review of *Ecclesiastes and Scepticism* by Stuart Weeks. *McMaster Journal of Theology and Ministry* 13 (2011–2012).
- Review of *Existential Reasons for Belief in God: A Defense of Desires and Emotions for Faith* by Clifford Williams. *Eleutheria* 2 (2012): 94–5.
- Review of *Hip-Hop Redemption: Finding God in the Rhythm and the Rhyme* by Ralph Watkins. *Culture and Religion* 13 (2012): 133–5.
- Review of *The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes: A Translation with Commentary* by Robert Alter. *Andrews University Seminary Studies* 49 (2011): 360–61.
- Review of *Hipster Christianity: When Church and Cool Collide* by Brett McCracken. *Midwestern Journal of Theology* 10 (2011): 167–9.
- Review of *The Wisdom of Torah: Epistemology in Deuteronomy and the Wisdom Literature* by Ryan O’Dowd. *Midwestern Journal of Theology* 10 (2011): 176–9.
- Review of *The Psalms as Christian Worship: A Historical Commentary* by Bruce K. Waltke and James M. Houston. *Criswell Theological Review* 9.1 (2011): 125–6.
- Review of *Christotainment: Selling Jesus through Popular Culture* by Shirley R. Steinberg and Joe L. Kincheloe, eds. *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* 23.3 (2011): 419–20.
- Review of *Good Figs, Bad Figs: Judicial Differentiation in the Book of Jeremiah* by R.J.R. Plant. *Expository Times* 122.12 (2011): 621–2.
- Review of *Such is Life: A Close Encounter with Ecclesiastes* by Lloyd Geering. *Anglican Theological Review* 93.3 (2011): 479–82.
- Review of *Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry into the Old Testament* by Sandra Richter. *Review of Biblical Literature* [<http://www.bookreviews.org>] (2011).
- Review of *Reception Theory and Biblical Hermeneutics* by David P. Parris. *Midwestern Journal of Theology* Vol. 10 (2011): 219–22.
- Review of *Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs* by Daniel C. Fredericks and Daniel J. Estes. *Midwestern Journal of Theology* Vol. 10 (2011): 210–11.
- Review of *Ecclesiastes through the Centuries* by Eric Christianson. *Midwestern Journal*

of *Theology* 7 (2008): 53–54.

Other Publications

Regular contributor to the blog, *For the Church: Gospel-Centered Resources from Midwestern Seminary*.

“Malachi: The Same Old Sins.” *Baptist Message*. December 12, 2016.

<http://baptistmessage.com/malachi-old-sins/>.

“Loving God with Heart, Mind, and Soul.” *Faith Matters: The Value of a Christian Liberal Arts Education 2* (2016): 1–4.

Second Samuel. Virginia Theological Seminary Bible Briefs Series. Alexandria, VA: Virginia Theological Seminary; Cincinnati, OH: Forward Movement, 2013.

Presentations

“Reading Psalms with Survivors of Abuse.” Southeast Regional Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society. Anderson, SC. March, 2020. (Cancelled)

Co-presentation with Elizabeth Mehlman (student). “Examining Trends in Theological Interpretation of Scripture through Three Theological Commentaries on Ecclesiastes.” Southeast Regional Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society. Anderson, SC. March, 2020. (Cancelled)

“‘Live Life with the Woman You Love’: Qohelet’s Edenic View of Marriage.” Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting. Atlanta. November, 2015.

“Prophet and Sage in Dialogue: History and Methodology.” Institute of Biblical Research Annual Meeting. Baltimore. November, 2014.

“The Abishag Episode: Re-examining the Role of Virility in 1 Kings 1:1–4 in Light of the Kirtu Cycle and the Sumerian Folktale of the Old Man and the Young Woman.” Society of Biblical Literature Central States Regional Meeting. St. Louis. March 2013.

“Violent Christian Texts.” International Society of Christian Apologists Annual Meeting. Kansas City. April 2012.

“Inner-Biblical Allusion in Ecclesiastes: Echoes of Genesis.” Society of Biblical Literature Central States Regional Meeting. St. Louis. March 2012.

“Brevity in Life: An Exploration of the Orthodox Theme of Ecclesiastes.” Society of Biblical Literature Central States Regional Meeting. St. Louis. March 2011.

“An Exegesis of Jeremiah 20.7–13.” Society of Biblical Literature Central States Regional Meeting. St. Louis. March 2008.

“Two Steps Forward, One Step Back: How the All American Girls Professional Baseball League was Both Progressive and Regressive.” Arkansas Undergraduate Research Conference. Arkadelphia, AR. April 2003.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2021–present Visiting Professor of Old Testament, William Tennent School of Theology

2019–present Adjunct Instructor, Louisiana State University Online

Courses taught:

Old Testament Survey
Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament
Biblical Hebrew 1
Biblical Hebrew 2

Online courses developed:

Old Testament Survey
Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament
Biblical Hebrew 1
Biblical Hebrew 2

2015–2019 Assistant Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, Louisiana College

Undergraduate courses taught:

Hebrew I
Hebrew II
Hebrew III
Old Testament Survey
The Pentateuch
The Prophets
The Writings

Online courses developed

Old Testament Survey
Christian Faith and Values

2015–Present Adjunct Instructor, California Baptist University

Undergraduate courses taught:

Foundations of Christian Thought
Overview of the Bible
Introduction to Philosophy
Pentateuch and Former Prophets

2011–Present Adjunct Instructor, Spurgeon College, Kansas City, Missouri

Graduate courses taught:

Introduction to Hermeneutics
Old Testament Survey 1: Pentateuch and Historical Books
Old Testament Survey 2: Wisdom, Poetry, and Prophets
New Testament Survey 1: Gospels and Acts
New Testament Survey 2: Romans to Revelation

Undergraduate Courses Taught

Biblical Interpretation

The Gospels
 Old Testament Theology
 Old Testament Wisdom and Poetic Books
 The Pentateuch
 Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament 1: Major Prophets
 Prophetic Literature of the Old Testament 2: Minor Prophets
 Online courses developed:
 Old Testament Wisdom and Poetic Books
 Biblical Interpretation

2013–Present Adjunct Instructor and Faculty Mentor, Moody Bible Institute–Distance Learning

Undergraduate courses taught:
 Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament
 Applying Scripture in the Contemporary World
 Interpreting Scripture
 Genesis
 The Old Testament and Theology
 Reading the Old Testament
 Graduate courses taught:
 Biblical Interpretation Capstone: Use of the Old Testament in the New Testament
 Daniel and Revelation
 Exegesis in the Hebrew Old Testament
 Hermeneutics
 Interpreting Apocalyptic Literature
 Interpreting Old Testament Poetry and Wisdom Literature
 Interpreting Old Testament Prophetic Literature
 Interpreting Psalms
 New Testament History, Literature, and Theology
 Old Testament History, Literature, and Theology
 Studies in Psalms
 Studies in the Prophets
 Wisdom and Poetic Literature of the Old Testament
 Online courses developed:
 Interpreting the Old Testament II
 Reading the Old Testament

SERVICE

2013–2015 Co-Chair, IBR Research Group, “Wisdom and Prophecy in the Hebrew Bible”
 2012–2018 Assistant Book Review Editor, [*Journal of Hebrew Scriptures*](#)
 2011–Present Co-Founder and Associate Editor, [*Journal for the Evangelical Study of the*](#)

Old Testament

HONORS AND AWARDS

Online Faculty Member of the Year, Moody Bible Institute, 2020
Evangelical Press Association First Place Award in Biblical Exposition, 2020
Acton University Oikonomia Fellow, 2017
SBL Central States Region Student Paper Award for “The Abishag Episode:
Re-examining the Role of Virility in 1 Kings 1:1–4 in Light of the Kirtu
Cycle and the Sumerian Folktale of the Old Man and the Young Woman,”
2013
J.J. Owens Hebrew Award, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2010

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Institute of Biblical Research
Evangelical Theological Society
Society of Biblical Literature

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

2015–2021 The Gathering Place West, Alexandria, LA
Children’s Sunday School Teacher
Small Group Host

2015 Ordained to the Gospel Ministry, Emmaus Church, Kansas City, MO

2014–2015 Emmaus Church, Kansas City, MO
Pastoral Candidate
Core Member of Church Plant Team
New Member’s Class Teacher and Curriculum Developer
Children’s Ministry Volunteer
Expository Listening Guides Developer

2012–2014 Northland Baptist Church, Kansas City, MO
Member of Ministry Placement Team (2013–2014)
Member of By-Laws Revision Task Force (2013–2014)
Discipleship Training Teacher (2013–2014)
Children’s Sunday School Teacher (2012–2014)

2010–2012 Pleasant Valley Baptist Church – KCI, Kansas City, MO
Children’s Sunday School Teacher

2003–2005 Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Henderson State University
Student Leader and Teacher

1998–2005 Family Church, Pine Bluff, AR
 College Sunday School Teacher (2001–2005)
 Small Group Pastor (1998–2003)
 Children’s Sunday School Teacher (1998–2001)

REFERENCES

Jason K. Allen, President, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
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 Kansas City, MO 64118
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Jeffrey Audirsch, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies and Associate Dean of Online
 Learning, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College
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 Kansas City, MO 64118
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 Disability Ministry, Moody Bible Institute – Distance Learning
Address: 4 Stetson Dr.
 Bloomington, IL 61701
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