

CURRENTS IN BIBLICAL RESEARCH

Guide for Authors

To ensure clarity and consistency in each issue of *Currents in Biblical Research*, we ask that all authors use the following guidelines in preparing papers. This guide comprises two main sections: (1) styling points for the text proper (i.e. the body of a paper) and (2) styling points for bibliographies. We regret that we must return to the author for revision any paper that deviates in major ways from these guidelines. In general:

Please double-space throughout the paper and the bibliography to facilitate editing.

Please use left justification only. Do not use full justification, as this disrupts spacing.

Please include:

- a. A 150 word Abstract of your article;
- b. A 10-12 word list of Keywords for use in electronic searches; and,
- c. A separate list of all Abbreviations used in your text and bibliography.

When your article and bibliography are ready, please send **an electronic copy** to the appropriate editor, who welcomes submissions prior to the deadline. Submit your article, preferably in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or Rich Text Format (.rtf). If your article contains unusual diacriticals and/or foreign fonts, we encourage you to also submit a .pdf file, as these files often better preserve these diacriticals and/or foreign fonts. **Please use the fonts** available on the SBL website (<http://www.sbl-site.org/>).

STYLING POINTS FOR TEXTS

Abbreviations

* Spell out biblical books, except when chapter and verse number(s) are given, or when used within parentheses: Genesis 4, Genesis 8–11, Gen. 2.1-5, *but* (Gen. 4).

* In references to biblical materials, abbreviate ‘chapter’ and ‘verse’, except at the beginning of a sentence: in ch.3, the writer . . . , in chs.3 and 4, the writer. . . , the imagery in v. 2 . . . , the imagery in vv. 12-18; *but* at the beginning of a sentence: Chapter 1 shows . . .

* After numbers, abbreviate units of measurement: 84 km.

* When referring to a specific figure, abbreviate ‘figure’: as shown in fig. 3.

* The following are the preferred biblical book abbreviations:

Gen., Exod., Lev., Num., Deut., Josh., Judg., Ruth, 1 Sam., 2 Sam., 1 Kgs, 2 Kgs, 1 Chron., 2 Chron., Ezra, Neh., Est., Job, Ps. (plural Pss.), Prov., Eccl. (or Qoh.), Song (or Cant.), Isa., Jer., Lam., Ezek., Dan., Hos., Joel, Amos, Obad., Jon., Mic., Nah., Hab., Zeph., Hag., Zech., Mal. Mt., Mk, Lk., Jn, Acts, Rom., 1 Cor., 2 Cor., Gal., Eph., Phil., Col., 1 Thess., 2 Thess., 1 Tim., 2 Tim., Tit., Phlm., Heb., Jas, 1 Pet., 2 Pet., 1 Jn, 2 Jn, 3 Jn, Jude, Rev.

* With dates, use BCE and CE rather than BC and AD.

Capitalization

* Capitalize the following: Bible, Christology, Epistles (in the NT), Gospel (for the four Gospels), Hellenistic, Holy Spirit, Jewish, Pentateuch(al), Psalms (meaning the book of Psalms), Scripture, Semitic, Septuagint(al).

* Lowercase the following: biblical, book (as in book of Amos), christological(ly), gospel (the preached gospel), messiah, messianic, psalm, scriptural.

* Lowercase pronouns referring to the Deity, with the exception of ‘I’.

* Treat titles of address as follows: King David, David the king, the king of Israel.

Footnotes

Currents does not employ footnotes. Please incorporate all information necessary to your subject either in your text or in your bibliography. If you use footnotes in your article, it will be returned to you for revision.

Foreign Terms

- * *Italicize* foreign terms, except those that are now part of standard English usage (e.g., ‘per se’, ‘par excellence’, ‘de jure’).
- * Present a foreign term and its translational equivalent as follows: *le cheval* (the horse).

Non-Sexist Language

- * Avoid using ‘he’ or ‘his’ when both women and men are intended. Rephrase whenever possible (e.g., Skilled interviewers follow their instincts, rather than: A skilled interviewer follows his instincts). Avoid ‘he or she’ whenever possible, and do not use ‘s/he’.
- * Use ‘humankind’ or ‘humanity’ rather than ‘mankind’.

Numbers

- * Spell out numbers ten and below, numbers that begin a sentence, centuries, and numbers that are an even hundred, thousand, million, etc.
- * Use figures for numbers over ten.
- * Write inclusive years as 1878-89, *not* 1878/89; *but* 1878-1914. *Likewise, not:* 1903-04; *but* 1903-1904.
- * Write verse numbers as follows: Gen. 1.18; 2.14-17; 3.1–4.7. **Do not use** ‘f’ or ‘ff’.
- * With inclusive numbers over one hundred, as with pages or for years CE, when the hundreds digit remains the same, use only the last two digits for the second number, *unless* that number would then begin with a zero: pp. 126-54, pp. 207-209; 450-92 CE; 303-306 CE; *but* 325-450 CE; pp. 299-321.
- * With any years BCE, give all the digits: 580-510 BCE.
- * Write percentages as: ‘a 15 percent increase’.

Punctuation

- * In a series of three or more items in which the last is preceded by ‘and’, use a comma after the item preceding ‘and’: They have studied scrolls, ancient gravesites, ritual objects, and other artifacts.
- * Use single quotation marks to enclose a quotation or the title of an article, a poem, a short story, or a song.
- * For a quotation within a quotation, use double quotation marks within single quotation marks: Smith maintains that ‘the poem “Evocations” deserves attention’ from more scholars.
- * When material within quotation marks is used, put the closing quotation mark before the closing punctuation of the sentence, unless the sentence began within the quotation: Jones contends that ‘no one has yet conducted such research’. *but* The researchers found the site ‘little disturbed by time. In fact, it had withstood exposure to extreme heat.’

Quotations

- * Reproduce quotations, as well as any accompanying citation for biblical texts, exactly

as they appear in the original text.

- * Please avoid excessive use of block quotes.

- * Use an indented (block) form for quotations over 40 words, for smaller portions of material that need emphasis, and for poetry.

- * Use square brackets around any editorial insertions.

- * Translate into English all quotes that are in foreign languages. You may, if you wish, provide the quote in the original language, followed by your English translation in parentheses: '*il n'y avait rien dans l'oeuvre*' ('there was nothing in the work'). In most cases, for quotes of more than ten words, please provide only your English translation, without the original language. If the reader needs to know a word or phrase in the original language in order to understand the nuances of the argument, you may follow your English translation of that word or phrase with the word or phrase in the original language in parentheses '... and although the methods employed may be described as deplorable (*klagenswert*), the conclusions reached are unassailable (*unangreifbar*); thus . . . '

References in the Text

- * **Be sure to cite at least one major work for every scholar mentioned in your text**, including those in disciplines outside biblical studies.

- * Rule of thumb: The purpose of a reference within the body of the paper is to point the reader to the correct entry in the bibliography and to the correct page(s) in the work cited.

- * In the body of the paper, refer to writers by their last name only, unless two or more writers have the same last name, in which case each author's first initial and surname should be used: A. Jones (1987) referred to 'casks', whereas B. Jones (1992) referred to 'flasks'.

- * In parentheses, cite the last name of the author or editor and the publication date (Smith 1991), unless the author's name has just been mentioned in the text, thus: 'Smith argues eloquently and at great length (1882) that angels do not in fact have wings.' If two or more writers have the same last name, use first initial(s) and surname in parentheses for each: (A. Jones 1987) ... (B. Jones 1992). Do not include '(ed.)' in text references; editors are listed as such in the bibliography.

- * Always cite the page(s) in the reference, unless you are referring to an entire work: (Smith 1991: 118-20).

- * If necessary for clarity, also cite the volume and page number(s), separated with a period [.] (Smith 1991: 3.118-20).

- * If the author has already been mentioned by name in the immediate context, cite only the publication date in parentheses: As Smith (1991: 118-20) verified ...

- * If, in an ongoing discussion, it is clear which writer and work are being discussed, the citation may consist of page numbers alone: As Smith noted in *Searching the Scriptures*, scholars need fresh approaches (pp. 12-18).

- * When two or more works by one writer have the same date, the works for that year should be alphabetized in the bibliography by title, and differentiated by lowercase letters immediately following the date: (Smith 1991b). See 'Styling Points for Bibliographies' below.

- * Present more than one work by an author in chronological order, separated by commas: (Hauser and Watson 1994, 2003, 2009).

- * When a work has two or three authors or editors, cite all last names: (Smith, Lee, and Jones 1991).

- * If there are more than three authors/editors, cite only the name of the first one, followed

by ‘*et al.*’: (Smith *et al.* 1991).

* If there are two or more works each with a single author/editor, present these in chronological order: (Jones 1988; Brecht 1990; and Smith *et al.* 1991). If one of the authors is more germane to the argument than the others, cite that author first, then cite the other authors chronologically.

* With indented (block) quotations, put the parenthetical citation after the last word of the quotation and the end punctuation: ‘... with fiery conviction. (Smith 1991)

* Present ‘see also’ or ‘cf. also’ as follows: (Smith 1991a; see also Jones 1971).

Spelling

* Articles by U.S. authors are styled for American spellings; those by all others, including Canadians, should use British spellings.

* Use the *-ize* spelling, rather than the *-ise* one, for words such as ‘characterize’, ‘aggrandize’, or ‘industrialize’.

* With names of foreign cities, use the recognized English spellings, rather than those of the countries of origin: Munich, Moscow.

* Some specific spelling preferences include the following:

Preferred

among
first and second
focusing
Judaean
judgment
Matthaeian
mediaeval
Muslim

Not Preferred

amongst
firstly and secondly
focussing
Judean
judgement
Matthean
medieval
Moslem

Words as Words

* When presenting a word as a word (i.e., a term as a term), use single quotation marks: We now understand the term ‘covenant’ to mean . . .

Fonts and Foreign Languages

For Greek and Hebrew fonts, please use the fonts available on the SBL website (<http://www.sbl-site.org/>).

Miscellaneous

* Use ‘*sic*’ only to signal a significant error in a quoted passage: According to Jones, ‘The text of Psalm 157 [*sic*] is corrupt’. Simple typos, such as misspellings, can be quietly corrected in the citation without using ‘*sic*’. However, when quoting from an older text, allow outdated spellings and diction to stand.

* When referring to a block of verses as a unit, use a singular verb: According to scholars, 2.14-25 contains imagery focused on . . .

* To form the possessive of proper names ending in ‘s’ or another sibilant, add ‘s’: Jones’s, Childers’s, Josephus’s; *but* Jesus’.

* To form the possessive of ancient names ending in an *s* that is pronounced as a *z*, add

only an apostrophe: Moses', Sophocles'.

* Use 'concerning', not 're'.

* *Italicize* the full or abbreviated titles of ancient works, except for biblical, apocryphal, and Qumran writings.

STYLING POINTS FOR BIBLIOGRAPHIES

General Points

***Be sure to cite at least one major work for every scholar mentioned in your text,** including those in disciplines outside biblical studies. Also, please be sure to **include other pertinent entries that may interest readers.** Even well-known studies and the works of commonly known scholars must be cited in the text, with a complete entry for each in the bibliography. Please make sure that all necessary publication information is included for *each* entry. A primary purpose of *Currents* is to provide the reader with *complete* and *accurate* bibliographic information on the subject or biblical book being treated. Please double check all bibliographic entries for accuracy and completeness.

* Double space throughout the bibliography to facilitate any editing that may be needed. (To save space, this has not been done here.)

* Begin each bibliographic entry with the last name of the writer or editor, set on the left margin of the page, followed by a comma and the initial(s) of the writer or editor. If the person named in the entry is the editor, the name should be followed by (ed.). In the case of two or more writers or editors, the second and subsequent names should appear in the form in which they would appear in a signature, with the word 'and' appearing before the final name (see specific guidelines below).

* Place the date of publication below the writer's surname and tab-indent the date. When including two or more entries for one author or editor, place those in chronological order, earliest to latest. Do not repeat the writer's name for the second and subsequent entries; instead, cite the date as the first piece of information for each of this scholar's works.

* One tab-space to the right of the date, provide the remainder of the bibliographic material, beginning with the title of the work (see specific guidelines below).

* When two or more entries by the same writer or editor have the same date, place the entries for that specific year in alphabetical order by title, and use a lowercase letter at the end of each date: e.g. 1978a, 1978b, 1978c. In this case, separate the end of the date from the title of the work by one tab-space, so that the margins line up.

* When citing the place of publication, provide the city name and the two-letter state abbreviation (for American cities) *if* the city might not be familiar to most readers.

* Use abbreviations in the bibliography for common journals and series (e.g., *JBL*, *JSOT*, *BZAW*, *AB*, *ICC*), and for less well known items occurring more than once. Submit a separate sheet with a complete list of abbreviations and the full title to which each refers. Head the sheet 'Abbreviations', and submit it together with your article. The abbreviations from all articles will be collated and provided at the beginning of each issue of the journal.

* If you refer to a work that appeared in more than one edition, and/or was reprinted, please indicate in the bibliography the edition/reprint with which you are working, and consistently refer to the same one throughout your paper. Please do indicate the initial date of publication of the first edition in your bibliographic entry. If in your discussion you need to refer to differences between two or more editions of the work, indicate during the course of your discussion which edition you are referring to in each specific case, and make sure all editions

referred to in your text are listed in the entry in your bibliography, with their dates.

Bibliographic Form

(In some cases, two different cases have been treated together in order to reduce the number of examples needed. To save space, double spacing has not been used here, but you need to use it in preparing your bibliography, to facilitate editing.)

BOOKS:

*** Single-author entry**

Harris, W.V.

1987 *Ancient Literacy* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press).

*** Two or three authors**

Applebaum, A.F., S.G. Thummim, and A.P. Urim

1987 *Anatomy of a Condemned King* (Gilboa, VA: Endor Press).

*** More than three authors**

Absalom, I.M., *et al.*

1987 *My Friend Joab* (Strong Oaks, IA: Javelin Press).

*** One volume from an edited series**

Gershevitch, I. (ed.)

1985 *The Cambridge History of Iran. II. The Median and Achaemenian Periods*
(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

*** Translated multivolume work**

Gath, C.E.

1986 *A Dictionary of Biblical Heroes* (4 vols; trans. W.W. Wordfinder; Chicago: Plushbottom Press).

*** Second or subsequent edition, edited book**

Rabshakeh, H.A. (ed.)

1989 *How to Negotiate with a City: A Collection of Essays* (What Cheer, IA: Sennacherib Press, 2nd edn [1975]).

*** Reprint**

Worthy, I.M.

1986 *The Ego of Israelite Kings* (repr.; New York: Vanity Press [1912]).

ARTICLES:

***Journal Articles:**

Gath, C.E.

1982 'Samson: Hero and Villain', *Journal Maximus* 19: 23-37.

*** Article, essay, or chapter from a volume by a single author**

Clines, D.J.A.

1990 'The Nehemiah Memoir: The Perils of Autobiography', in *What Does Eve Do to Help? and Other Readerly Questions to the Old Testament* (JSOTSup, 94; Sheffield: JSOT Press) 124-64.

*** Article, essay, or chapter from an edited book**

Baskin, J.R.

1992 'Rabbinic Interpretations of Job', in L.G. Perdue and W.C. Gilpin (eds.), *The Voice from the Whirlwind* (Nashville: Abingdon Press) 101-10.

*** Article, essay, or chapter from a translated book**

Theissen, G.

1992 'Sociological Theories of Religion and the Analysis of Early Christianity', in *Social Reality and the Early Christians: Theology, Ethics, and the World of the New Testament* (trans. M. Kohl; Minneapolis: Fortress Press) 231-56.

*** Article, essay, or chapter from an edited book listed elsewhere in your bibliography** (note: list *separately* each edited volume from which two or more articles are cited)

Magdalen, M.

1989 'The Sacking of a Reputation,' in Rabshakeh (ed.) 1989: 698-718.

*** Article, essay, or chapter in a translated volume in a series**

Polag, A.

1986 'The Text of Q', in *Q: The Sayings of Jesus* (trans. I. Havener; Good News Studies, 19; Wilmington, DE: Michael Glazier) 109-65.

*** Article, essay, or chapter in a volume of collected essays, two or three editors**

Halpern, B.

1990 'A Historiographic Commentary on Ezra 1-6: A Chronological Narrative and Dual Chronology in Israelite Historiography', in W.H. Propp, B. Halpern, and D.N. Freedman (eds.), *The Hebrew Bible and Its Interpreters* (BJS; San Diego: University of California Press) 81-142.

*** Article, essay, or chapter in a volume of collected essays, more than three editors**

Sisera, D.O.A.

1987 'Jael's Tentpeg', in M.T. Head *et al.* (eds.), *Bedouin Women* (Jezreel: Pinpoint Press) 79-107.

MISCELLANEOUS:

*** Paper delivered at a professional meeting**

Adan-Bayewitz, D., M. Aviam, and D. Edwards

1992 'The University of Rochester Excavations at Yodefat, Israel: The 1992 Season' (paper delivered at the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in San Francisco).

*** Book in a series, joint publication by two publishers**

Smith, J.Z.

1990 *Drudgery Divine: On the Comparison of Early Christianities and the Religions of Late Antiquity* (Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion, 14; London: The School of Oriental and African Studies/Chicago: University of Chicago Press).

*** Dissertation**

Vaage, L.E.

1987 'Q: The Ethos and Ethic of an Itinerant Intelligence' (Ph.D. dissertation, Claremont Graduate School).

*** Article in a special volume in a journal**

Fuchs, E.

1988 'For I Have the Way of Women: Deception, Gender, and Ideology in Biblical Narrative', in J.C. Exum and J. Bos (eds.), *Reasoning with the Foxes: Female Wit in a World of Male Power* (*Semeia* 29; Atlanta: Scholars Press) 68-83.

*** Book review in a journal**

Barrick, W.B.

1986 Review of *Ezekiel 1-20: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, by M. Greenberg, *JBL* 105: 142-44.

*** SBL seminar paper references**

Carr, D.M.

1992 'What Can We Say about the Tradition History of Isaiah? A Response to Christopher Seitz's *Zion's Final Destiny*', in E.H. Lovering, Jr (ed.), *Society of Biblical Literature 1992 Seminar Papers* (SBLSP, 31; Atlanta: Scholars Press) 583-97.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

When your article, abstract, list of keywords, list of abbreviations, and bibliography are ready, send your electronic copy to the editor, who welcomes submissions prior to the deadline, preferably in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or Rich Text format (.rtf).

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