ETHAN C. JONES

EDUCATION AND POSITION

Visiting Fellow 2025
Magdalene College (University of Cambridge)

Associate Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew 2021–Present
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Don and Helen Bryant Chair of Old Testament and Hebrew 2022–Present
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Chair of Biblical Studies Division
Scarborough College 2020–2021

Visiting Scholar
University of Cambridge 2018–2019
Hebrew Studies Department
Sponsor: Dr. Geoffrey Khan (Regius Professor of Hebrew)

Assistant Professor of Old Testament
Scarborough College 2015–2020

Instructor of Old Testament
Scarborough College 2013–2014

PhD
Old Testament Major; Biblical Theology Minor 2016
Dissertation: "Valency of the Niphal and Hithpael:
The Contribution of Valency to Lexicography"
SWBTS
Supervisor: Dr. George Klein (Major)
Supervisor: Dr. Joshua Williams (Minor)

MDiv SWBTS 2011

BA	Mississippi College Christian Studies and Philosophy Major; Music Minor Bible Concentration	2007
	Additional Studies at Goethe Institute in Göttingen, Germany	2014

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Valency of the Hithpael: The Contribution of Valency to Lexicography in *Arbeiten zu Text und Sprache im Alten Testament* series. St. Ottilien: EOS, 2017.
Reviewed in *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*; *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*; *Carthaginesia*.

(Editor) *The Unfolding of Your Words Gives Light: Studies on Biblical Hebrew in Honor of George L. Klein*. University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns / Penn State University Press, 2018.
Reviewed in *Journal of Semitic Studies; Review of Biblical Literature*.

(Editor) *Poetry in the Hebrew Bible* in *Brill Reader in Biblical Studies*. Brill. In preparation.

Psalms in an Age of Distraction: Experiencing the Restorative Power of Biblical Poetry. Baker Academic, 2024.

Endorsed by Walter Brueggemann, Malcolm Guite, Brent Strawn, Susan Gillingham, Katie Heffelfinger, and Aaron Hornkohl.
Foreword by Elizabeth Robar.
Translation in Spanish (*Salmos en una era de distracción*, 2025)

Awards:
2024 Book Award in Discipleship / Spiritual Formation (*Southwestern Journal of Theology*)

2024 Book Award Runner-up (*For the Church*)
"This is a beautiful book about how the Psalms, as poetry, can teach, guide, shape the soul as well as shape churches." (Jason Duesing, *For the Church* Book Awards 2024)

Reviewed in
The Church Times (2025); *The Bible Today* (2025); *Evangelical Quarterly* (2025); *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* (2025); *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* (2025); *Journal of Language, Culture, & Religion* (2025).

Psalms as Poetry: The Language of Prayer and Wonder. Baylor University Press. Forthcoming, September 2026.

Finding Peace in the Lord's Prayer: Answering Anxiety with the Words of Jesus. Baker. Forthcoming, June 2027.

Joy and the Resistance of Despair: The Psalms as Witness. IVP Academic. Forthcoming 2027.

Framing the Psalms: Five Frames for Interpretation. Series editor Gary E. Schnittjer. B&H Academic. Forthcoming 2027.

Jonah in the Text of the Hebrew Bible series. Sheffield Phoenix Press. In preparation.

The Bible is a Strange Land: Interpretation, Imagination, and the Old Testament. Eerdmans. In preparation.

(Co-Editor with John Cook). *Valency Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. In preparation. Multi-year collaborative project.

Peer Reviewed Articles and Essays

"Direct Reflexivity in Biblical Hebrew: A Note on נפשׁ." *Zeitschrift fuïr die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 129 (2017): 411–26.

"Zeit, Raum und Völker: חסד ואמת in Ps 117." *Biblische Notizen* 178 (2018): 103–10. [In German]

"Bound Pronominal Objects in Biblical Hebrew: Clarification and Critique." *Journal of Semitic Studies* 64 (2019): 363–75.

"The Middle and Passive Voice: Semantic Distinctions of the Niphal in Biblical Hebrew." *Zeitschrift fuïr die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 132 (2020): 427–48.

"He May Do Harm . . . : A Note on 2 Sam. 12:18." *The Bible Translator* 71 (2020): 303–19.

"Hearing the Voice of the Niphal: A Response to Ellen van Wolde" *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 45 (2021): 291–308.

"Where Pragmatics and Grammar Meet: A Study of Predicate Adjectives in Biblical Hebrew" in *New Perspectives in Hebrew Linguistics and Philology Semitic Languages*, edited by Geoffrey

Khan and Aaron Hornkohl. Cambridge Semitic Languages and Cultures. Cambridge: University of Cambridge / Open Books, 2021, 391–430.

"1 Sam. 2:6: Time and *Wayyiqtol* in Hannah's Song." *Vetus Testamentum* 72 (2022): 26–46.

"Sound and Meaning in the Hebrew Bible: Exegetical Implications." *Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages* 47 (2021): 19-36.

"Forming the Imagination: Reading Psalms with Poets." *Scottish Journal of Theology* 75 (2022): 329–346.

"Where the Centaur Walks: Psalms and the Poetic Imagination." *Irish Theological Quarterly* 88.3 (2023): 270–286.

"Viewing the Psalms through the Lens of Poetry: Recent Trends in Psalms Study," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 66.3 (2023): 439–453.
*Invited article

"A Tender Rebuke: A Note on Ruth 1:11–13." *Revue Biblique* 131.2 (2024): 290–292.

"What is Elijah Doing?: On וַיִּתְמֹדֵד in 1 Kgs 17,21 (Again)." *Revue Biblique* 131.3 (2024): 362–369.

"Ambiguity and Poetry: Psalm 62 as Witness." (Special Issue on Psalms) *Perichoresis* 22.4 (2024): 85–102, DOI: https://doi.org/10.2478/perc-2024-0029.
*Invited article.

"Prayer and (Im)politeness: Reading Psalm 7." *Old Testament Essays* 37.3 (2024): 1–22, https://doi.org/10.17159/2312-3621/2024/v37n3a3.

"A More Polite Suggestion: The Lengthened Imperative in Biblical Hebrew." in *Interconnected Traditions: Semitic Languages, Literatures, Cultures- A Festschrift for Geoffrey Khan* (vol. 1 Hebrew and the Wider Semitic World; Cambridge Semitic Languages and Cultures), edited by Aaron D. Hornkohl et al. (Cambridge, UK: University of Cambridge / Open Book Publishers): 331–358.
*Invited essay

"A Kingdom Torn: On the Agency of 2 Kgs 17.21." *Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages* 51.1 (2025): 43–62.

"Jonah, Jesus, and Nicene Christology: Exploring Textual 'Pressures'" in *Who is Jesus Christ for Us Today? Evangelical Christology Seventeen Centuries after Nicaea*, edited by Jason Sexton and Thomas Noble (New York: Routledge, 2026): 48-63.

"A Short Note on the So-Called Agentive מן." *Hebrew Studies*. Initially accepted and awaiting my corrections.

"From Text to Theory and Theory to Text: *Wayyiqtol* in Recent Scholarship" in *Tense, Aspect, and Modality in Biblical Hebrew: Recent Advances*, edited by Cynthia Miller-Naudé and Jacobus Naudé. University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns. In press.

"Psalms" in *Oxford Handbook of the Divine Attributes in Christian Theology*, edited by Tim Baylor and Tyler Wittman. Oxford University Press. Due 2026.

"Niphal and Hithpael *binyanim* in Biblical Hebrew". Essays on verbal stems (*binyanim*) in Biblical Hebrew for the revision of *Gesenius' Syntax* (*GKC*), edited and led by Geoffrey Khan. Cambridge Semitic Languages and Cultures. Cambridge University / Open Books. Forthcoming 2026.

Translator. "The Narrated World and Wayyiqtol" by Gregor Geiger, originally published in *Ἐν πάσῃ γραμματικῇ καὶ σοφίᾳ (En pāsē grammatikē kai sophiā): Saggi di linguistica ebraica in onore diAlviero Niccacci, ofm*, edited by Gregor Geiger. Franciscan Printing Press. 2012. In preparation.

Other

(Translator) "Towards the Function of the Reflexive-Passive Stems in Biblical Hebrew" by Ernst Jenni in *The Unfolding of Your Words Gives Light: Studies on Biblical Hebrew in Honor of George L. Klein*. University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns, 2018.

"More Than Before: Semantics and Syntax of לִפְנֵי." In *The Unfolding of Your Words Gives Light: Studies on Biblical Hebrew in Honor of George L. Klein*. University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns, 2018.

Testimonial: "Reading Biblical Hebrew and a Life of Slowness" in *The Rewards of Learning Greek and Hebrew*, eds Cathy McDowell and Philip Towner. Hendrickson, 2021.
*Invited contribution

Introduction and Notes for the *New English Translation* Study Bible (Thomas Nelson Bibles) for 1-2 Kings.
*Invited contribution

Poetry

"Liebe" *Ekstasis* Winter (2023)
"Sabbath" *Theology* 127.4 (2024): 284.
"Unfilled" *Theology* 127.4 (2024): 284.
"Matter(s)" *Theology* 127.4 (2024): 283.
"1912" *The Penwood Review* (2026)
"Prayer" *Ad Fontes* (2026)
"Against Contrivances" *Ad Fontes* (2026)

Reviews

D. T. Tsumura. *Vertical Grammar of Parallelism in Biblical Hebrew* (Ancient Israel and Its Literature 47, SBL Press). In *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*. Forthcoming, 2024.
*Invited review

W. Wilson. *Ancient Wisdom* (Eerdmans). In *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*. Forthcoming, 2024.
*Invited Review

T. Muraoka. *Syntax of Qumran Hebrew*. In *Revue de Qumran* (2022).
*Invited Review

Daniel J. Fuller. *A Discourse Analysis of Habakkuk*. Studia Semitica Neerlandica. In *Journal for the Evangelical Theological Society* (2020).
*Invited Review

Jan Joosten, Daniel Michiela, and Jean-Sébastien Rey (eds). *The Reconfiguration of Hebrew in the Hellenstic Period: Proceedings of the Seventh International Symposium on the Hebrew of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Ben Sira at Strasbourg University, June 2014*. In *Review of Biblical Literature* (2020).

Marie Turner. *Ecclesiastes, An Earth Bible Commentary: Qoheleth's Eternal Earth*. In *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* (2018).
*Invited Review

Robert D. Holmstedt and John Screnock. *Esther: A Handbook on the Hebrew Text*. In *Review of Biblical Literature* (2018).

Gordon Wenham. *The Psalter Reclaimed: Praying and Praising with the Psalms*. In *Southwestern Journal of Theology*, 58.1 (2015).

Allen Ross. *A Commentary on the Psalms*, vol. 2. In *Southwestern Journal of Theology*, 58.1 (2015).

Rolf A. Jacobson and Karl Jacobson, *Invitation to the Psalms: A Reader's Guide for Discovery and Engagement*. In *Southwestern Journal of Theology*, 57.2 (2015).

Konrad Schmid, *Jesaja 1-23.* In *Journal for the Evangelical Study of the Old Testament* 3.2 (2014).

Ernst Jenni. *Studien zur Sprachwelt des Alten Testaments III*. In *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 57.1 (2014).

Mark S. Gignilliat, *A Brief History of Old Testament Criticism*. In *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 56.2 (2014).

John A. Cook. *Time and the Biblical Hebrew Verb*. In *Journal for the Evangelical Study of the Old Testament* 2.2 (2013).

James Nogalski. *The Book of the Twelve: Hosea-Jonah*. In *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 56.1 (2013).

Jo Ann Hackett, *A Basic Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*. In *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 55.2 (2013).

PAPERS

"The God of Praise: The Triune God and the Psalm." Trinitarian Theology section. Evangelical Theological Society. Fall 2026.

"The God of Old Testament Theology." Old Testament Theology section. Evangelical Theological Society. Fall 2026.

"The Divine Attributes and the Psalms: A Constructive Proposal." Christian Theology and the Bible Section. Society of Biblical Literature. Fall 2026.

"Prayer in an Age of Anxiety." Student Counseling Association. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Summer 2025.

"The Intersection of Biblical Studies and Theology" (with Tyler Wittman). Co-sponsored Old Testament Study Group and Student Theological Fellowship. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Spring 2025.

"The Imaginative World of the Elohistic Psalter: Metaphor and Meaning." Book of Psalms Section. Society of Biblical Literature. Fall 2024.

"Reading Joy: A Comparative Study of Modern Poetry and Psalms." Biblical Hebrew Poetry Section. Society of Biblical Literature. Fall 2024.

"A Theology of Poetry." Old Testament Study Group. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Fall 2024.

"Ambiguity in Narrative: On Method, Theology, and Virtue." Old Testament Study Group of the Tyndale Fellowship (Cambridge, England). Summer 2024.

"Ambiguity and Poetry: Psalm 62 as Witness." Invited as paper in Special Section of Psalms and Hebrew Poetry, *Evangelical Theological Society*. Fall 2023.

"Jonah, Jesus, and Nicene Christology: Exploring Jonah's Biblical 'Pressure.'" Christian Doctrine Study Group of the Tyndale Fellowship (Cambridge, England). Summer 2023.

"Psalms as Poetry: Recent Trends." Invited paper in Themed session of Psalms and Hebrew Poetry section, *Evangelical Theological Society*. Fall 2022.

"A Divine Mockery: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal (1 Kgs 18:27–28)," in Early Historical Books Section. Institute for Biblical Research. Fall 2022.

"A More Polite Suggestion: The Lengthened Imperative in Biblical Hebrew—Revisited," in Joint Session of Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew & the National Association of Professors of Hebrew. Society of Biblical Literature. Fall 2022.

"Where the Centaur Walks: Re-Imagining the Psalms as Poetry." Southeast Regional ASOR/SBL Meeting in session on Between God and Man: Relationships in the Biblical Text. Spring 2022.

"Integrating Divergent Approaches to Verbal Complementation: Promise or Peril?" Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew Unit. Society of Biblical Literature. Fall 2021.

"(Im)Politeness and Emotion: Psalm 7 as a Test Case." Biblical Hebrew Poetry Section. Society of Biblical Literature. Accepted and to be presented Fall 2021.

"Reading Hebrew Poetry with Poets: The Contributions of Modern Poetry on the Study of Psalms." Evangelical Theological Society. Fall 2021.

"Divine Immanence?: The Meaning of Ps. 8.5." Biblical Hebrew Poetry Section. Society of Biblical Literature. Fall 2020.

"The Contribution of Linguistics to Biblical Studies." Keynote Lecture at the North Texas Colloquium on Biblical Studies. Fall 2019.

"Where Pragmatics and Grammar Meet? A Study of Predicate Adjectives in Biblical Hebrew." Presented at the International Conference on Semitic Linguistics at the University of Cambridge. Summer 2019.

"Toward a Taxonomy of the Niphal in Biblical Hebrew." Presented to the Semitic Philology Seminar at the University of Cambridge. Fall 2018.

"The Niphal Anew?: A Critique of a Novel Proposal for the Niphal in Biblical Hebrew." Presented at the SW Regional Meeting of ETS. Spring 2018.

"Women, Foreigners, and Famine: A Theology of Work in the Book of Ruth." Presented at the Land Center Lecture Series. Fall 2017.

"Which is the Best Translation? And other Silly Questions." Presented to Southwestern Society of Biblical Studies. Spring 2017.

"More Than Before: Semantics and Syntax of לפני." Presented at SW Regional Meeting of ETS. Spring 2017.

"Hithpael: Methodological Considerations." Presented at SW Regional Meeting of ETS. Spring 2014.

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Served as Peer Reviewer:

Monographs
Cambridge Semitic Cultures and Languages series
Baylor University Press
Vetus Testamentum Supplements (Brill)

Journals
Journal of American Oriental Society
Journal of Hebrew Scriptures
Vetus Testamentum
Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society
Old Testament Essays
The Bible and Critical Theory

Professional Affiliations

Society of Biblical Literature
Evangelical Theological Society
Institute for Biblical Research
National Association of Professors of Hebrew
Tyndale Fellowship (Cambridge, England)

Languages

Research Languages –
Ancient and Modern Hebrew, Ugaritic, Aramaic, Ancient Greek, Latin, German, French, Spanish

Speaking/Writing Languages –
English and German

Grants and Awards

Research Professor of the Year – New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (2022-2023)
Lenaz Grant – awarded for research in Cambridge, England (summer 2023)
Lenaz Grant – awarded for research in Cambridge, England (summer 2022)
Professor of the Year – Scarborough College (2015-2016)

Institutional Service

Research Doctoral Committee (2021-present)
Academic Oversight Committee (2024-present)
Library Committee (2021-2023)

CLASSES TAUGHT

Phd Research Seminars:
Hebrew Language & Texts
Jonah: History, Text, and Interpretation
Psalms: Text, Poetry, and Theology
Biblical Hebrew Poetry

Graduate and Undergraduate Courses:
Biblical Hebrew I, II, III, IV
Exegesis of Amos
Exegesis of Hosea
Exegesis of Psalms
Introduction to the Old Testament I, II, III
Bible Study Methods (Hermeneutics)
The Christian Life

REFERENCES

Geoffrey Khan
Regius Professor of Hebrew
University of Cambridge (England)
gk101@cam.ac.uk

Ernst Jenni
Professor Emeritus of Hebrew and Old Testament
University of Basel (Switzerland)
ernst.jenni@unibas.ch

Ellen van Wolde
Professor of Textual sources of Judaism and Christianity
Chair of Exegesis of the Old Testament
Radboud University (The Netherlands)
e.vanwolde@ftr.ru.nl

Elizabeth Robar
Research Fellow
Tyndale House (Cambridge, England)
elizabeth.robar@tyndalehouse.com

Holger Gzella
Professor and Chair of Old Testament Theology
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Germany)
holger.gzella@lmu.de

George Klein
Senior Professor of Old Testament
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
gklein@swbts.edu