

Curriculum Vitae

Heath A. Thomas

Current Academic Positions

Dean, Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry

Professor of Old Testament

Associate Vice President for Church Relations

Oklahoma Baptist University

500 West University

Shawnee, OK 74804

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Education

University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, UK

2008 PhD, Old Testament

2007 Thesis Defended and Accepted: "Poetry and Theology in Lamentations: An Investigation of Lamentations 1—3 Using the Aesthetic Analysis of Umberto Eco."

Supervisors: J. Gordon McConville (University of Gloucestershire)
Paul Joyce (St. Peter's College, University of Oxford)

Readers: Richard S. Briggs (Cranmer Hall, Durham University)
Knut Heim (Trinity College, Bristol)

Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, TX

2001 MA, Theology (Old Testament), *magna cum laude*

Thesis: "Yhwh as Life to Israel: A Study of the Laws of Corpse Contamination"

Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, OK

1998 BA, English Literature, *magna cum laude*

Areas of Concentration: English Literature, Critical Traditions

Minor: Religion

Additional Postgraduate Study

2004-2007 Supervised student of Dr. Paul Joyce, St. Peter's College (University of Oxford);
Participant of the Oxford Theology Faculty Seminars (Old Testament)

Professional Development

2016 Certificate: Leadership in Higher Education
Baylor University

Honors and Awards

2017 Southeastern Theological Fellowship Outstanding Academic Achievement Award
2004-2007 *Overseas Research Student Award*, Presented by Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom.
2005 Dame Janet Trotter Trust Bursary for the University of Gloucestershire.
1998 Senior Achievement Award in Philosophy for Oklahoma Baptist University

Administrative Experience

Dec 2015 – Dean, Hobbs College for Theology and Ministry, OBU; Associate Vice President for Church Relations

- Direct 10 faculty and 1 assistant
- Develop new majors/minors for growth in the college.
- Liaise with faculty, Chief Academic Officer, Institutional Effectiveness, and Curriculum Committee for the proper administration of the college.
- Develop donor relationships to establish chairs and professorships for the college.
- Develop donor relationships that will enhance the teaching and learning community of the college.
- Assess the needs of churches and serve into those needs.

2012 – 2015 Director of PhD Studies, Southeastern Seminary

- Direct 3 staff members in administration of the PhD program.
- Develop new areas of study for growth in program
- Liaise with Faculty, Dean of Graduate Studies, PhD Committee and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness in the administration of the PhD Program.
- Ensure the PhD program currently (as well as new areas of study) meets accreditation standards (ATS and SACS)
- Cultivate the ethos of Christian scholarship in the PhD program with academic excellence, uncompromising rigor, global awareness and Christian spirituality at its core.

2012 – 2015 Committee Member, Southeastern Seminary Institutional Review Board

- 2010—2011 Chair of Theological Curriculum Review Committee for Southeastern Seminary, in preparation for Association of Theological Schools site visit in Fall, 2011.
- 2010—2011 Endowed Lectureship Committee, Southeastern Seminary
- 2010 Committee Member, Southeastern Seminary PhD Review Board

Teaching Experience

Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, OK

Dec 2015 – Professor of Old Testament

Courses Taught

1. Old Testament Introduction
2. Hebrew III
3. Senior Dialogue
4. Honours Colloquium: God and Violence

Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, NC

2012 – 2015 Associate Professor of Old Testament & Hebrew

2007 – 2012 Assistant Professor of Old Testament & Hebrew

Courses Taught

1. Biblical Hebrew 1 & 2 (undergraduate / graduate level)
2. Biblical Hebrew Syntax & Exegesis (undergraduate / graduate level)
3. Old Testament Introduction 1 & 2 (undergraduate / graduate level)
4. Old Testament Theology (undergraduate / graduate level)
5. Introduction to Hermeneutics (undergraduate / graduate level) (intensive as well as traditional formats)
6. Pre-Reformation Interpretation of the Old Testament (graduate level)
7. Reformation & Post-Reformation Interpretation of the Old Testament (graduate level)
8. Sin & Remedy in the Old Testament (undergraduate / graduate level)
9. The Book of Isaiah (undergraduate / graduate level)
10. The Minor Prophets (undergraduate/graduate level)
11. PhD Seminar: “Theological Presuppositions & Old Testament Study, With a Case Study on the Function of Lament”
12. PhD Integrative Seminar: “Toward an Old Testament Theology of Mission, with Emphasis on C.J.H. Wright, *The Mission of God*”
13. PhD Independent Study: “Lament in Ancient Israel: From its Beginnings to the Post-Exilic Period”
14. PhD Seminar: History of Biblical Interpretation

15. PhD Seminar: Introduction to Research and Integration
16. MDiv Independent Study: "Lament and Ethics: Old Testament and New Testament Evidence"
17. MDiv Independent Study: "Theological Interpretation of Habakkuk"
18. MDiv Independent Study: "Zion Theology & the Old Testament"

University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, UK

2005 Stipendiary Tutor in Theology and Religious Studies for the Taught Masters Course:
Old Testament Theology II

Publications

Monographs

1. *Habakkuk: A Commentary*. Two Horizons Old Testament Commentary Series. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018.
2. *Poetry & Theology in the Book of Lamentations: The Aesthetics of an Open Text*. Hebrew Bible Monographs. Sheffield, UK: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2013.
 - Reviewed in *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 38/5(2014): p. 110.
 - Reviewed in *Review of Biblical Literature* 1/2015.
3. *Until He Looks Down and Sees: The Message and Meaning of the Book of Lamentations*. Grove Biblical Studies. 53. Cambridge, UK: Grove Publishers, 2009.
4. *Faith Amid the Ruins: The Book of Habakkuk*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016.
5. *The Old Testament Minor Prophets: A Theological Introduction*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic. (co-authored with Craig G. Bartholomew. Under contract)
6. *Nahum – Malachi*. Baker Old Testament Commentary on the Prophets. Ed. Mark Boda and Gordon McConville (Baker Academic). Under contract.
7. *Exalting Jesus in 1–2 Samuel*. Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2016. (co-authored with J.D. Greear).
9. *The Gospel of Our King: Bible, Worldview, and the Mission of Every Christian*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, forthcoming 2019. (co-authored with Bruce R. Ashford)

Edited Books

1. Heath Thomas and Craig G. Bartholomew (eds.) *A Manifesto for Theological Interpretation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.
 - Reviewed in *Modern Theology* 33/3(2017): pp. 482-84.
 - Reviewed in *Review & Expositor* 114/2(2017): pp. 313-15.
 - Reviewed in *Society for Old Testament Studies Book List*
 - Reviewed in *Concordia Theological Quarterly* (2018)
 - Reviewed in *Anglican Theological Review* 99/4(2017)
 - Reviewed in *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 60/1(2017): 101-102.

2. Heath Thomas, Paul Copan, and Jeremy Evans (eds.) *Holy War in the Bible: Christian Morality and an Old Testament Problem*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2013.
 - Reviewed in *Review of Biblical Literature* 2/2014.
 - Reviewed in *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 38/1(2014).
 - Reviewed in *Theological Studies* 75/3(2014): p. 689.
 - Reviewed in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 24/2(2014).

3. Heath Thomas and Robin Parry (eds.) *Great is Thy Faithfulness? Toward Reading Lamentations as Sacred Scripture*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2011.
 - Reviewed in *Vetus Testamentum* 65/2(2015): pp. 331-33.
 - Reviewed in *Review of Biblical Literature* 2/2014.
 - Reviewed in *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 37/5(2013): pp. 148-49.
 - Reviewed in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 22/2(2012): pp. 273-74.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

1. "A Survey of Research on Lamentations (2002—2012)." *Currents in Biblical Research* 12/1(2013): 8-38.

2. "The Resurrection of Jesus: A Methodological Survey and Introduction to the Present Volume," (with Robert B. Stewart) *STR* 3/1(2012): 1-13.

3. "The Meaning of *zolela* One More Time." *Vetus Testamentum* 61.3(2011): 489-98.

4. "Building House to House (Isa 5:8): Theological Reflection on Land Development and Creation Care." *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 21.2(2011): 205-28.

5. "Relating Prayer and Pain: Psychological Analysis and Lamentations Research." *Tyndale Bulletin* 61.2(2010): 183-208.
6. "Lord, Have Mercy: Lamentations and the Gift of Prayer." *The Bible in Transmission* (Summer 2016): 5-8.

Book Chapters

1. "Job's Rejection and Liminal Traverse: A Close (Re)reading of Job 42:6," in Ethan C. Jones (ed.), *The Unfolding of Your Words Gives Light: Studies in Biblical Hebrew in Honor of George L. Klein* (University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2018)
2. "The Telos (Goal) of Theological Interpretation." Pages 197 – 217. In Craig G. Bartholomew and Heath A. Thomas (eds.) *A Manifesto for Theological Interpretation*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016).
3. "Suffering Has its Voice: Divine Violence, Pain and Prayer." Pages 91 – 111. In Blair Wilgus and M. Daniel Carroll R. (eds.) *Wrestling with the Violence of God: Soundings in the Old Testament*. BBRSup. (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2015).
4. "A Neglected Witness to Holy War in the Writings." Pages 68-83. In *Holy War in the Bible: Christian Morality and an Old Testament Problem*. Edited by Heath Thomas, Paul Copan, and Jeremy Evans. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2013.
5. Heath A. Thomas and Jeremy Evans, "Afterword: Old Testament 'Holy War' and Christian Morality – Where do we Go from Here?" Pages 332-39. In *Holy War in the Bible: Christian Morality and an Old Testament Problem*. Edited by Heath Thomas, Paul Copan, and Jeremy Evans. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2013.
6. "Hearing the Minor Prophets: The Book of the Twelve and God's Address." Pages 356-82. In *Hearing the Old Testament: Listening for God's Address*. Edited by Craig Bartholomew and David Beldman. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.
7. "Life & Death in Deuteronomy." In *Interpreting Deuteronomy: Issues and Approaches*. Pages 177-193. Edited by Philip Johnston and David Firth. Nottingham, UK: Apollos / Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.
8. "I Will Hope in Him: Theology and Hope in Lamentations." Pages 203-21. In *A God of Faithfulness: Essays in Honour of J. Gordon McConville on His 60th Birthday*. Edited by G. J. Wenham, J. Grant, and A. Lo. Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. 538. London: T & T Clark, 2011.

9. Heath Thomas and Robin Parry. "Introduction." Pages xi-xiv. In *Great is Thy Faithfulness?* Edited by Heath Thomas and Robin Parry. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Press, 2011.
10. "Holy Scripture and Hermeneutics." Pages 1-25. In *Great is Thy Faithfulness?* Edited by Heath Thomas and Robin Parry. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Press, 2011.
11. "Lamentations in the Patristic Period." Pages 113-19. In *Great is Thy Faithfulness?* Edited by Heath Thomas and Robin Parry. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Press, 2011.
12. "Reception of Lamentations in Rembrandt van Rijn: 'Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem'." Pages 154-60. In *Great is Thy Faithfulness?* Edited by Heath Thomas and Robin Parry. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Press, 2011.
13. "Feminist Interpretation(s) and Lamentations." Pages 166-74. In *Great is Thy Faithfulness?* Edited by Heath Thomas and Robin Parry. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Press, 2011.
14. "Justice at the Crossroads: The Book of Lamentations and Feminist Discourse." Pages 246-73. In *Tamar's Tears: Evangelical Engagement with Feminist OT Hermeneutics*. Edited by Andrew Sloane. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Press, 2011.
15. "The Old Testament, 'Holy War,' and Christian Morality." Pages 22-25. In *How and Why we should Read the Old Testament for Public Life Today*. Comment Magazine Special Series. Edited by Ryan P. O'Dowd. Hamilton, Canada: Cardus, 2011. Online version downloadable at: <http://www.cardus.ca/comment/article/2991/> .
 * *How and Why we should Read the Old Testament for Public Life Today* won First Place Award for "Cause of the Year: Making the Bible Accessible" from the Evangelical Press Association 2012 Higher Goals Awards (<https://www.evangelicalpress.com/epa2012-hg/>).
16. "The Liturgical Function of the Book of Lamentations." Pages 137-47. In *Thinking Towards New Horizons. Collected Communications to the XIXth Congress of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament, Ljubljana 2007*. Edited by Matthias Augustin and Hermann Michael Niemann. Beiträge zur Erforschung des alten Testaments und des antiken Judentums. 55. Frankfurt am Main: Lang Verlag, 2008.

Dictionary/Encyclopedia Articles

1. "Zion." In *Dictionary for the Old Testament: Prophets*. Edited by J.G. McConville & M. Boda. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2012.

2. "Suffering." In *Dictionary for the Old Testament: Prophets*. Edited by J.G. McConville & M. Boda. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2012.
3. "Lamentations, Book of; Christianity Modern Europe and America." Columns 755–57. In *Encyclopedia for the Bible and its Reception*. Volume 15. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2017.

Reviews

Various Reviews in *Journal of Semitic Studies*, *Theology*, *European Journal of Theology*, *Southeastern Theological Review*, and *Bulletin for Biblical Research*.

Academic Presentations

- "Hope through Human Trafficking? Theodicy in Joel 4:4-8." (Invited paper Institute for Biblical Research Annual Meeting / Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts, 17 November 2017).
- "On Fishing and Cities: Habakkuk's Ancient Critique for a Modern World." (Invited paper at the Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting: Old Testament Prophetic and Apocalyptic Books Group, Providence, Rhode Island, 16 November 2017).
- "'The Kingdom of God is Among You': Retrieval of the Kingdom of God for Today." (Invited paper at the Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar Annual Meeting / Institute for Biblical Research Annual Meeting / Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas, 20 November 2016).
- "Vocabulary for Family in Old Testament Theology." (Invited paper at the Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting: Old Testament Theology Group, Atlanta, GA, 19 November 2015).
- "Unveiling the Mystery: The Goal of Theological Interpretation and the Son of Man." (Invited paper at the Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar Annual Meeting / Institute for Biblical Research Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, 21 November, 2014).
- "Centering the End of Habakkuk: Reading Eschatology Theologically." (Invited paper at the Tyndale Study Fellowship: Old Testament Group, Cambridge, UK, 1-3 July, 2013).
- "I Despise Dust and Ashes: Mourning and Repentance in Job 42:6." (Paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature International Congress, St. Andrews Scotland, 8 July 2013).

“Divine Violence in the Writings” (Invited paper at the Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting: Old Testament Theology Group, Minneapolis, MN, November 2012).

“Life & Death in Deuteronomy.” (Invited paper at the Tyndale Study Fellowship: Old Testament Group, Cambridge, UK, 7 July, 2011).

“The Meaning of Mourning in the Book of Job.” (Paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature International Congress, London, UK, 3 July 2011).

“Justice at the Crossroads: The Book of Lamentations and Feminist Discourse.” (Invited paper at the Evangelicalism and Feminism Symposium, Worcester, England, 2-4 July 2010).

“The Open and Closed Text: Umberto Eco’s Aesthetic Analysis and the Old Testament.” (Invited Paper at the Christian Scholars’ Conference, Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tennessee, 5 June 2010).

“Building House to House (Isa 5:8): Theological Reflection on Land Development and Creation Care.” (Paper presented at Institute for Biblical Research Creation Care Section / Society of Biblical Literature North American Congress, New Orleans, Louisiana, 21 November 2009).

“Engaging the Divine Warrior: A Response to Divine War from Lamentations 2.” (Invited Paper presented at Southeastern Socratic Club ‘Old Testament Holy War and Christian Morality’ Colloquium, Wake Forest, North Carolina, 20 April 2009).

“A Relational Theology for All of Scripture: From Augustine to the Present.” (Invited Paper presented at the SHAPE & Higher Education Meeting for Church of God Educators, Austin, Texas, 3 April 2009).

“Developing a Relational Hermeneutic in (and out of) the Classroom.” (Invited Paper presented at the SHAPE & Higher Education Meeting for Church of God Educators, Austin, Texas, 4 April 2009).

“Reading Lamentations with Daniel Berrigan, SJ.” (Paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature North American Congress, Boston, Massachusetts, 20 November 2008).

“Towards a Christian Theology of Lament” (Invited Paper presented at the University of Gloucestershire TRS Seminar, Cheltenham, UK, 4 December 2008).

“Reading the Writings: Method and Message (Lamentations)” (Series of 3 Invited Lectures on Lamentations given at the Miqra Institute, Lincoln, Nebraska, 26 July 2008).

“Indicting God? Evidence for Divine Indictment in the Old Testament” (Short Presentation at the Tyndale Study Fellowship, Tyndale House, Cambridge, UK, 2 July 2007).

“The Liturgical Function of the Book of Lamentations” (Paper presented at the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament XIX Congress, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 15-20 July, 2007).

“Current Trends in the Psychological Analysis of the Book of Lamentations: Prospects and Pitfalls” (Paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature International Congress, Vienna, Austria, 22-26 July, 2007).

“Aesthetic Theory of Umberto Eco and Lamentations Interpretation” (Paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature International Congress, Edinburgh, Scotland, 3 June 2006).

Supervisory / Doctoral Evaluation Experience

2012—Present	Supervisor for PhD Students (2 at present), SEBTS PhD Program
2011—2015	Primary supervisor for ThM Students
2011—2015	Second Examiner in Viva Voce Examinations, SEBTS PhD Program
2010—2015	PhD Prospectus Reader, SEBTS PhD Program

Related Academic Experience

Jan 2018—Present	Old Testament Editor, Christian Standard Commentary Series
Jan 2017—Present	Editor, Hobbs College Library Monograph Series
Dec 2014—Present	Chair, Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar
2016—Present	Chair, Old Testament Theology Group, ETS
2010—Present	Committee Member, <i>Old Testament Theology Study Group</i> , ETS
2008—Present	Committee Member, <i>Scripture & Hermeneutics Seminar</i>
2015—2017	Fellow in Old Testament, <i>The St. George's Centre for Biblical and Public Theology</i>
June 2012-2015	Director of PhD Studies, Southeastern Seminary
June 2011- 2015	General Editor, <i>Southeastern Theological Review</i> (www.southeasterntheologicalreview.com)
2010—2015	Fellow in Old Testament Studies, <i>The Paideia Centre for Public Theology</i>
2009—2011	Book Review Editor, <i>Southeastern Theological Review</i>
2006—2007	<i>Society of Biblical Literature</i> on-site Representative for the University of Gloucestershire

- 2004—2007 Participant of the Oxford Theology Faculty Seminars (Old Testament), as a supervised student of Dr. Paul Joyce.
- 2004—2005 Invited Observer, Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar 7th & 8th International Consultations: - Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, Italy (23-25 June 2005); - Jesus College, Oxford UK (2-4 September 2004)

Publisher Peer Review

I have peer-reviewed books and articles for Theology Today, Walter de Gruyter, Baker Academic, Eisenbrauns, Pennsylvania State University Press, Journal of the ETS, Southeastern Theological Review.

Languages

English – native language.

Biblical Hebrew & Biblical Aramaic – able to read and teach with proficiency.

Biblical Greek (NT/OT) – able to read and teach with proficiency.

Ugaritic – able to read with competence.

German and French – able to read with competence.

Memberships

Society of Biblical Literature; Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar; Tyndale Fellowship; Institute for Biblical Research; ETS

Research Interests

Lament, relationship between faith & law, Jewish and Christian conceptions of law; Lamentations, Habakkuk, the Twelve, Job. Hebrew poetry, and Old Testament literature of the exilic period. I aim to relate the implications of the Hebrew lament tradition to a Christian theology of suffering.

References

Prof. J. Gordon McConville, Professor of Old Testament Theology
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GL50 4AZ
UK
gmconville@glos.ac.uk

Dr. Paul M. Joyce, Samuel Davidson Professor of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible
King's College, London
Room 3.32, Virginia Woolf Building
22 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6NR
UK
paul.joyce@kcl.ac.uk

Rev. Dr. Craig G. Bartholomew
Director
Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics
Tyndale House
36 Selwyn Gardens
Cambridge
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UK
klice.director@tyndalehouse.com

(Letters of reference available upon request)