

Curriculum Vitae

Heath A. Thomas

Current Academic Positions

President

Professor of Old Testament

Oklahoma Baptist University

500 West University

Shawnee, OK 74804

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Education

University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, UK

2008 Awarded Ph.D., Old Testament

2007 Thesis Defended and Accepted: "Poetry and Theology in the Book of 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 M.A., 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 B.A., English Literature, *cum laude*

Areas of Concentration: English Literature

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);
Participant of the University of Gloucestershire Theology and Religious Studies Seminar.

Professional Development

2016 Seminar: 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 and Leadership Experience

Jan. 2020–Present President, Oklahoma Baptist University
July–Dec. 2019 Interim Dean, Language & Literature/Behavioral & Social Sciences, OBU
Dec. 2015–2019 Dean, Hobbs College of Theology and Ministry, OBU
Dec. 2015–2019 Associate Vice President for Church Relations, OBU
2012 – 2015 Director of PhD Studies, Southeastern Seminary
2018 – Present Fellow, Bush Center for Faith & Culture, Wake Forest, North Carolina
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 / SACSCOC
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–Present Professor of Old Testament

Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, NC

2015 – Present Adjunctive Professor of Old Testament (Ph.D. Supervision)
2012 – 2015 Associate Professor of Old Testament & Hebrew
2007 – 2012 Assistant Professor of Old Testament & Hebrew

University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, UK

2005 Stipendiary Tutor (Instructor) in Theology and Religious Studies

Publications

Monographs

1. *The Gospel of Our King: Bible, Worldview, and the Mission of Every Christian*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019. (co-authored with Bruce R. Ashford)
2. *Habakkuk: A Commentary*. Two Horizons Old Testament Commentary Series. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018.
 - Reviewed in *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 132/1(2020): 204.
 - Reviewed in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 82/2(2020): 309-11.
 - Reviewed in *Review of Biblical Literature* 6/2019.
 - Reviewed in *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 62/1(2019): pp. 159–60.
 - Reviewed in *Ethics and Culture* (<http://www.ethicsandculture.com/blog/2018/a-review-of-a-commentary-on-habakkuk>)
 - Reviewed in *Best Bible Commentaries* (<https://www.bestbiblecommentaries.com/habakkuk-commentary-heath-thomas/>)
3. *Faith Amid the Ruins: The Book of Habakkuk*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016.
4. *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.
 - Reviewed in *Vetus Testamentum* 65/2 (2015): pp. 331-333
5. *Until He Looks Down and Sees: The Message and Meaning of the Book of Lamentations*. Grove Biblical Studies. 53. Cambridge, UK: Grove Publishers, 2009.
6. *The Old Testament Minor Prophets: A Theological Introduction*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic. (co-authored with Craig G. Bartholomew. Due February 2019).
7. *Nahum – Malachi*. Baker Old Testament Commentary on the Prophets. Ed. Mark Boda and Gordon McConville. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic. (Under contract. Due 2020).
8. *Introducing the Old Testament as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic. (co-authored with Mark Gignilliat. Under contract. Due 2020).
9. *Job: A Commentary*. Christian Standard Commentary. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic (under contract. Due 2027).

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. Heath A. Thomas and Brittany N. Melton. "Reader-Response Criticism and Recent Readers." In Katherine Dell (ed.) *The Biblical World*. Second Edition. London: Taylor & Francis (forthcoming 2022).
2. "The Fruit of Mourning: Esther Enriched by the Latter Prophets." In David Firth and Brittany N. Melton (eds.) *Reading Esther Intertextually*. Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies. London: Bloomsbury (forthcoming).
3. "The Use and Abuse of Technology: Habakkuk's Ancient Critique in a Modern World." In David Firth and Brittany Melton (ed.) *Interpreting the Minor Prophets*. Nottingham, UK: Apollos / Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic (forthcoming).
4. "Hope through Human Trafficking? Theodicy in Joel 4:4-8." In Beth Stovell, George Athas, and Daniel Timmer and Colin Toffelmire (ed.) *Theodicy in the Twelve Prophets*. Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies. London: Bloomsbury (forthcoming).
5. "Lewis on Lament." Pages 187–202. In Andrew J. Spencer (ed.) *The Christian Mind of C. S. Lewis: Essays in Honor of Michael Travers*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2019.
6. "Job's Rejection and Liminal Traverse: A Close (Re)reading of Job 42:6." Pages 155 – 74. 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.
7. "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).
8. "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).

9. "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.
10. 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.
11. "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.
12. "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.
13. "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.
14. 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.
15. "Holy Scripture and Hermeneutics." Pages 1-25. In *Great is Thy Faithfulness?* Edited by Heath Thomas and Robin Parry. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Press, 2011.
16. "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.
17. "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.
18. "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.

19. "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.
20. "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/>).
21. "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. "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.
2. "Suffering." In *Dictionary for the Old Testament: Prophets*. Edited by J.G. McConville & M. Boda. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2012.
3. "Zion." In *Dictionary for the Old Testament: Prophets*. Edited by J.G. McConville & M. Boda. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2012.

Reviews

Various Reviews in *Journal of Theological Studies*, *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).

“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 (3 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 and Leadership Experience

- Jan 2018—Present Old Testament Editor, Christian Standard Commentary Series
- Jan 2017—Present Editor, Hobbs College Library Monograph Series
- Developed and Moderate 21 volume library
 - Recruit authors
 - Edit volumes
 - <https://www.bhacademic.com/hobbscollegelibrary/>
- Dec 2014—2019 Chair, *Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar*
- Lead international committee (members from UK, Australia, Canada, USA)
 - Develop seminar annual meetings
 - Facilitated publication from seminar (*Manifesto for Theological Interpretation*).
- 2016—2019 Chair, *Old Testament Theology Group*, ETS
- 2010—Present Committee Member, *Old Testament Theology Study Group*, ETS
- 2008—Present Committee Member, *Scripture & Hermeneutics Seminar*
- 2015—2017 Fellow in Old Testament, *The St. George's Centre for Biblical and Public Theology*
- June 2011- 2015 General Editor, *Southeastern Theological Review*
(www.southeasterntheologicalreview.com)
- 2010—2015 Fellow in Old Testament Studies, *The Paideia Centre for Public Theology*
- 2009—2011 Book Review Editor, *Southeastern Theological Review*
- 2006—2007 *Society of Biblical Literature* 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/or articles for Theology Today, Walter de Gruyter Publishers, Baker Academic Publishers, Eisenbrauns Publishers, 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; Evangelical Theological Society

Research Interests

Prophecy and Lament; relationship between faith & 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.

(Letters of reference available upon request)