# **Brent Nessler**

#### **Doctoral Candidate**

Baylor University, Department of Religion
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### Education

Ph.D. Baylor University, Waco, TX

Expected May 2025

Religion, Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Advisor: Deirdre Fulton, Ph.D.

Dissertation: The Character of All-Israel in Chronicles: A Narrative and Rhetorical Analysis

M.Div. George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University, Waco, TX

Concentration: Biblical Studies and Languages

May 2020

B.M. Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR Instrumental Performance (Saxophone)

December 2014

#### **Publications**

- Nessler, Brent. "Becoming Undone: The Shifting Identities of the *Pilegeš* as Narrative Logic and Rhetorical Key in Judges 19." *Under review*.
- Nessler, Brent. "'Restructuring the Symbolic Universe': Resilience through Literary and Ideological Reframing in Isaiah 2.2-4(5)." *JSOT* 47 (2023): 259-76.
- Nessler, Brent. "Tracing Bathsheba's Metamorphosis through the Lens of Trauma and Recovery." *JBL* 142 (2023): 91-109.

#### **Conference Presentations**

- "Tracing Bathsheba's Metamorphosis through the Lens of Trauma and Recovery." Presented at: The National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion National Meeting. Nashville, TN. May 25, 2022.
- "Bathsheba, Archetype of a Voice Reclaimed: Tracing Bathsheba's Metamorphosis through the Lens of Trauma and Recovery." Presented at: The Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Regional Society of Biblical Literature Conference. Irving, TX. March 5, 2022.
- "Restructuring the Symbolic Universe': Resilience through Literary and Ideological Reframing in Isaiah 2.2-4(5)." Presented at: The Society of Biblical Literature National Conference. San Antonio, TX. November 21, 2021.

"Out of the Silent Land: Post-traumatic Resilience in Psalm 115." Presented at: The Southwest Commission on Religious Studies Regional Society of Biblical Literature Conference. Irving, TX. March 9, 2019.

### **Editorial Assistance**

Eskenazi, Tamara Cohn. *Ezra: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2023.

Fulton, Deirdre N., Kenneth A. Ristau, Jonathan S. Greer, and Margaret E. Cohen eds. *The Formation of Biblical Texts: Chronicling the Legacy of Gary Knoppers*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, *forthcoming* (in page layout).

# **Teaching Experience**

## Course Co-instructor

Baylor University Department of Religion; w/ Dr. Deirdre Fulton

REL 1302: Introductory Hebrew II

January 2023–May 2023

Course entailed the instruction of beginner-level Hebrew students (mostly freshman; approx. 14), transitioning them from pure fundamentals to translating longer texts. By the end of the semester, students were led through all of Jonah and Genesis 1 in addition to learning new concepts (e.g., weak verbs, syntactical nuances). Responsibilities included syllabus/lesson planning, weekly lectures, leading in-class translations, leading in-class reviews of homework assignments, creating graded assessments, and facilitating a safe, fun, and inclusive environment.

### **Guest Lecturer**

Baylor University Department of Religion

REL 3305: Interpreting the Old Testament

November 16-18, 2022

Lectures given focused on the hermeneutical lenses of trauma and resilience studies and disability studies (mostly juniors; approx. 20). In addition to defining these approaches, lectures aimed at encouraging an appreciation for hermeneutical lenses as well as sensitive to the subject matter. Time was allotted for small peer groups to discuss provided case studies and practice engaging the material with a biblical-critical eye, creativity, and empathy.

REL 1301: Introductory Hebrew I

November 16-18, 2022

Lectures given entailed "tips and tricks" for parsing verbs of various stems—a new challenge at the time for first-semester Hebrew students (mostly freshmen; approx. 20). Student participation was encouraged by modeling an openness to mistakes, praising effort, and fostering a low-stakes environment in which the goal is growth rather than perfection.

REL 1310: The Christian Scriptures (2x) October 15, 2018; November 12, 2018 Two lectures were given on separate occasions to an introductory Bible survey course

(mostly freshmen; approx. 60). The first lecture constituted an introduction to Isaiah as part of a larger introduction to biblical prophetic literature. The second lecture was an introduction to the Gospel of John. While the class sizes were large, I allotted time in each lecture for students to pair up and discuss specific passages within these texts, so as to formulate and articulate personal opinions and engage the broader elements of the lecture presentation with specific examples.

## Graduate Assistant

Baylor University Department of Religion

Dr. Deirdre Fulton

June 2020; August 2022–present Responsibilities included in-class assistance with undergraduate courses (taking

attendance, grading, filling in) as well as volume editing (Fulton et al., forthcoming). Courses included Introductory Hebrew and Interpreting the Old Testament (i.e., biblical methods and hermeneutics).

Dr. James Nogalski

August 2021–May 2022

Responsibilities entailed planning events for Baylor University's Department of Religion, including the department's preview weekend for prospective student finalists and a panel discussion for professional development on the subject of writing presentation- and publication-worthy papers.

Dr. Deirdre Fulton and Dr. James Nogalski

January 2021-May 2021

Responsibilities for Dr. Deirdre Fulton entailed volume editing (Fulton et al., forthcoming) and grading. Responsibilities for Dr. James Nogalski entailed compiling a comprehensive bibliography for studies of Judges from various methodological and hermeneutical angles.

Dr. James Kennedy (online only)

August 2020–December 2020

Responsibilities entailed grading weekly assignments and digital aid to students (approx. 180, or three sections of 60), whether concerning course assignments or accessing course materials in Canvas. Courses included three sections of The Christian Scriptures (i.e., Bible survey).

# George W. Truett Theological Seminary

Dr. Jared Alcantara

August 2018–May 2019

Assisted Preaching I courses as a preaching coach. Responsibilities entailed aiding a group of seminary students (approx. 4 students per coach) in the preparation of in-class sermons, directing students to reputable secondary sources, and rehearsing rhetorical strategies for conveying biblical-theological points in manners both persuasive and compassionate. Additionally, preaching coaches were tasked with grading the preparation phase of in-class sermons during the span of the semester-long course.

#### Interim Music Instructor

Texas High School (Texarkana, TX)

January 2015-May 2015

Woodwind Ensemble; High School Jazz II

Served as a long-term interim band director. Student ages ranged from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Responsibilities included rehearsal planning, graded assessments, preparation for various band competitions, and fostering a challenging, yet encouraging environment for continued artistic development.

Texas Middle School (Texarkana, TX)

2015-May 2015

Beginner Woodwinds; 8th Grade Jazz Band

In conjunction with service at Texas High School (see above), served as a long-term interim band director at Texas Middle School as well. Student ages ranged from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Responsibilities included rehearsal planning, graded assessments, and creating a fun, safe environment for new musicians.

#### **Research Interests**

Hebrew Bible/Old Testament; Biblical narrative; Postexilic literature; Character in biblical literature; Writings (Chronicles; Psalms); Former Prophets (Judges; Samuel-Kings); Hermeneutical lenses; Trauma Studies; Resilience Studies; Speech Act theory

#### **Academic Affiliations**

The Society of Biblical Literature	2018-present
Baptist College and University Scholars	2021-present
The National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion	2022-present

# **Language Proficiencies**

Biblical Hebrew – advanced Koine Greek – advanced Ugaritic – reading Proto-Hebraic script – reading German – academic reading French – academic reading Spanish – intermediate

# **Selected Honors**

Zondervan Outstanding Student in Hebrew Award	2020
Ernest & Elberta Rogers Scholarship	2019
Burt and Julie Burleson Scholarship	2019
Corn-First Baptist Hearne Scholarship	2019