

# Brent Nessler

## Doctoral Candidate

Baylor University, Department of Religion

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(972) 998-9289

## Education

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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 May 2020

Concentration: Biblical Studies and Languages

B.M. Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR December 2014

Instrumental Performance (Saxophone)

## Publications

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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

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"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**

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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**

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### 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.



### 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; 8<sup>th</sup> 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**

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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**

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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**

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

### **Selected Honors**

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