



## INTRODUCING THE 2018 SBL SOCIETY REPORT

The month of January typically provokes us to look back and forth—reviewing where we went and resolving where we want to go. So, too, the 2018 SBL Society Report.

Many will be happy to see 2018 in the rearview mirror. The [Oxford Word of the Year 2018](#) was *toxic*. So I hope that, as you read about SBL's year in review, the acknowledgment of you and your colleagues' roles and accomplishments and the contribution of biblical scholars in education will provide a temporary reprieve from the 2018 word of the year.

For example, in the following pages you will read about "The Bible and the Humanities for All," by Daniel Fisher. An SBL member and fellow at the [National Humanities Alliance](#), Fisher asks: How do we make the case for biblical studies to students, to institutional administrators, and to broader communities? Toward that end, in 2018 SBL kicked off a three-year initiative on the future of biblical studies in undergraduate liberal arts education.

SBL is also impacting education broadly and engaging the public. In the report you will read that SBL has partnered with the Religious Freedom Institute of the Newseum in a program called [Georgia 3Rs](#) (Rights, Responsibility, Respect). The initiative promotes religious literacy and liberty and provides training for teachers, administrators, and staff, as well as information for parents in two U.S. public school districts in the state of Georgia. SBL's [Educational Resources and Review Committee](#) is producing fifteen lesson plans for teachers to enhance and deepen the understanding of the Bible in standard U.S. History, World History, and English Language

Arts high school classes. Each day [Bible Odyssey](#), SBL's NEH-funded, public-facing site, reaches five thousand visitors—including the general public, journalists, and educators. In response to this, recently two members have bequeathed support for Bible Odyssey.

In the report you will also hear about the work we do that builds on the work of our past and continues to look ahead. Adele Reinhartz, the General Editor of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, wrote in her final foreword to *JBL* (137.4) that her goal "was to maintain and improve the diversity on the editorial board, with the aim of better mirroring the diversity of SBL membership and taking into account the wide range of approaches and methods that are increasingly being deployed in our field." Adele passes the reins of *JBL* to Mark Brett, and we welcome where he will now lead the journal.

We hope you also see where SBL's strategic financial plan is leading SBL. A full report is included below (pp. 8–14).

But what about that inescapable word of the year? The work of biblical scholars provides more than a temporary reprieve. It reminds us what is at stake. Following the horrifying events of 27 October 2018, when a man murdered eleven worshipers at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, an SBL member offered a [reflection](#). Marc Brettler, Bernice and Morton Lerner Professor in Judaic Studies at Duke University, wrote about the seeds we sow in the classroom:

I do not believe that education solves all problems. But experience has taught me that

it is much harder to demonize something or someone you know. Teaching about other traditions in courses like this, in a religious studies department at a liberal arts university, is not an attempt to convert or persuade, but to encourage some knowledge of these other traditions. In particular, we highlight the complexity of religious traditions, including the beauty that they each contain—such as amazing Qur’an chanting, the gorgeous fourth century Christian Codex Sinaiticus, or an exquisite illumination of Jonah being spewed out of the big fish in a Hebrew Bible manuscript.

Marc added, “Perhaps the most important thing we can do as humanistic educators is to create empathy.” That sentiment—that experience—was echoed by novelist Tara Isabella Burton when she was working on a doctorate in theology as a Clarendon Scholar at Trinity College, Oxford. She wrote in *The Atlantic*, “To study theology well requires not faith, but empathy.”

It is doubtful that the 2019 word of the year will go from *toxic* to *empathy*, but 2019 *will* build on seeds sown by and the collective work of 8,500 sowers.

John F. Kutsko  
Executive Director

For over 130 years, SBL members have regularly given their time and money to support each other as they study the Bible, the world out of which it emerged, and the many contexts of biblical interpretation.

As an extension of these efforts, SBL established the Legacy Makers program in order to create a vehicle of support for the scholars of today and tomorrow, as well as the future of the field. By designating a planned gift or creating an endowment, members are investing in the future of SBL and creating a meaningful legacy—as an SBL Legacy Maker.

Will you consider becoming a part of SBL’s future as a Legacy Maker today? For more information, please visit <https://www.sbl-site.org/membership/legacymaker.aspx>.

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# ABOUT THE SBL

Founded in 1880, the Society of Biblical Literature is the oldest and largest international, interdisciplinary, learned society devoted to the critical investigation of the Bible. The Society has published the flagship journal of biblical scholarship, the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, since 1881 and has been a member of the American Council of Learned Societies since 1929. With a membership of over 8,400 scholars, teachers, students, religious leaders, and interested individuals from over one hundred countries, the Society is more vibrant than ever before. The mission of the SBL is a simple one: to “foster biblical scholarship.” It could not be carried out without the more than 1,000 member volunteers who donate their time and talents to this mission. This year we have more volunteers than ever before, as the Society continues to grow and flourish.

The SBL offers its members diverse resources in order to accomplish our mission. Many of these are tangible, like the diverse electronic resources that promote research and teaching. These include, but are by no means limited to, the entire backlist of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, the *Review of Biblical Literature*, and the open-access books published in our Ancient Near East Monographs and International Voices in Biblical Studies book series. Members of the Society have access to the member directory and the Program Book for our Annual and International Meetings, allowing them to link with other scholars who share common interests in the field of biblical studies. We provide an annual Jobs Report tracking employment in biblical, religious, and theological studies. The SBL Font Foundation developed specialized fonts for biblical studies that are available to individual scholars at no cost. We support women and underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities in the profession with mentoring and recruiting programs. Special tools and sessions are provided for students and those outside the academy. The Society also fosters biblical scholarship through a variety of publishing partnerships.

For over a century SBL has provided, through a system of congresses, a chance for its members to gather and exchange ideas, to network and form relationships. Members receive substantial discounts on registration and housing at these events. These dynamic meetings allow scholars to renew old relationships with colleagues and mentors and to meet and interact with the “great names” in biblical scholarship. The meetings are designed as forums to encompass the varying needs of our members. They include smaller, intimate regional meetings, the diverse and growing International Meeting, and the largest gathering of scholars in one single place, our Annual Meeting. Over half of SBL’s members attend the Annual Meeting. SBL’s meetings keep scholars active and up-to-date, provide them access to the latest tools and resources, and expose members to diverse subjects and ideas. Special sessions are provided for students to help prepare them for their future in biblical studies. Members are provided training and resources for creating resumes and have an opportunity to apply for job postings listed on our website, as well as apply and be interviewed at the Annual Meeting at the career center and to network with other scholars to learn about other employment opportunities.

Members of SBL have opportunities to publish papers in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, write for Bible Odyssey, write a review for the *Review of Biblical Literature*, and submit books for possible publication with SBL Press. Members receive substantial discounts on SBL Press books at the congresses and also receive substantial discounts from affiliate organizations on their journals and books. At this time these include De Gruyter, Pennsylvania State University Press, Cambridge University Press, Sage Publications, Monash University Press, and many others.

The Society offers its members opportunities to apply for many awards and travel grants.

- ◆ A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship
- ◆ Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship
- ◆ David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Biblical Scholarship
- ◆ SBL–De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History
- ◆ Regional Scholar Awards
- ◆ International Travel Awards

Besides these many tangible benefits of membership, SBL offers many other benefits that are no less important, if less concrete. The Society is the oldest academic organization dedicated to biblical scholarship. As a member of the academy, any scholar or interested individual by definition needs to be a member of SBL and to be represented. Membership in the Society allows you to be counted as a colleague with your peers in the guild. It is an important professional credential. SBL spent over a year preparing an in-depth member profile survey. With this aggregated information, we can assist departments and institutions in creating new positions or making the case for keeping faculty positions open. With this data we can approach funding agencies to develop programs and services that strengthen the field and give new opportunities to biblical scholars. Through the member survey, we can better see trends, respond to them, and more effectively allocate SBL resources to help define and shape worldwide biblical scholarship.

## THE BIBLE AND THE HUMANITIES FOR ALL

Daniel Fisher

As we in SBL look toward 2019, consider this question: How have you made the case for biblical studies to your students, to your institution's administrators, and to your broader communities?

This question has animated my professional practice over the past year, during which I completed both my doctoral work in biblical studies and my first year as a project director at the National Humanities Alliance (NHA), a coalition of organizations, including SBL, advocating for the humanities on campuses, in communities, and on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

This question is as urgent as ever, with declining enrollments and growing misperceptions about the relevance of humanities education—including biblical studies and related disciplines. NHA is working to address these misperceptions. To combat concerns about preparation for the workforce, we have created Study the Humanities (<https://www.studythehumanities.org/>) to show that studying the humanities cultivates critical skills that have led to success in a wide range of career paths—with strong earnings and high levels of job satisfaction. This success is grounded in the capabilities students in biblical studies develop: critical thinking and analytical reasoning; written and oral communication skills; and facility with foreign languages. Study the Humanities also includes resources to make the case that the benefits of studying the humanities extend beyond the market, empowering engaged citizenship and a life well lived.



NHA is also working to broaden narratives about the humanities in higher education to move beyond discussions of the “return on investment” for individual majors. We are doing this by promoting the broad public value of the humanities in higher ed. I am most directly involved in these efforts as the project director of Humanities for All, an initiative funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to document and present the last ten years of publicly engaged humanities work in US higher ed. This work has led to the creation of an online clearinghouse of more than 1,500 publicly engaged humanities projects at colleges and universities across the United States, each of which contributes to public life (<https://humanitiesforall.org>). Examples of this work abound across the humanities. In biblical studies, for example, SBL created Bible Odyssey, a website where scholars present historical and literary research on the Bible for a broad audience.



The Humanities for All clearinghouse is searchable, sortable, and illustrated with in-depth profiles and essays that explore the range of work in the field. When viewed together, these publicly engaged initiatives can help counter misperceptions about the humanities and higher ed by providing impactful and practical learning experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds, facilitating meaningful civic dialogue about a range of pressing social concerns, and advancing humanities scholarship that enriches our understanding of ourselves, our communities, and our world.

As I have built the Humanities for All clearinghouse, I have had the opportunity to reflect on the potential value of engaging the public in biblical studies. As specialists in the history of the Bible and its interpretations, we bring perspective to a text that stands at the center of religious, cultural, and social life for individuals in America and around the world. For example, whether or not one identifies with the Bible, the ancient

text influences public discourse—from the structure of the calendar to America’s self-identification with the City on a Hill (Matt 5:14–16). If we can open more opportunities for the public to engage with biblical studies, we can address some of the misperceptions that our disciplines and our institutions face. More fundamentally, we can help develop in the world all the good that we develop in our classrooms.

Over the past year, I have found that humanities advocacy can be fulfilling and rewarding work. In 2019, I invite you to join me by drawing on Study the Humanities to make the case for the value of biblical studies and the humanities more broadly for individual students. I also hope you will explore Humanities for All, with an eye toward ways you might engage your community in biblical studies to help realize the critical contribution of the humanities to public life.

**How have you made the case for biblical studies to your students, to your institution’s administrators, and to your broader communities?**

**Daniel Fisher** is a project director and postdoctoral fellow at the National Humanities Alliance Foundation. He holds a BA from McGill University, an MA from Vanderbilt University, and a PhD in Near Eastern Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, where as a graduate student he taught and cocurated a publicly engaged, research-driven exhibition.

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### SBL INVITES NOMINATIONS FOR LGBTQ+ TASK FORCE

At its October 2018 meeting, the SBL Council reviewed a proposal from the Status of Women in the Profession Committee to form an LGBTQ+ Task Force and enthusiastically approved its development.

At the April 2019 meeting, Council will inaugurate the LGBTQ+ Task Force. That generative conversation will include a discussion of the task force’s terms of reference, composition, and configuration of the task force; how the task force might actively serve members of SBL, biblical and religious scholarship, and higher education; and ways in which the task force can impact the public square by promoting SBL’s core values of diversity and inclusivity. Council will also select members to serve on the task force.

In preparation for that meeting, Council invites nominations to serve on the task force and recommendations for its work. To nominate someone for the task force, please contact John Kutsko at [john.kutsko@sbl-site.org](mailto:john.kutsko@sbl-site.org).

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### SBL CREATES NEW VOLUNTEER POSITION FOR DISABILITIES AND ACCESS

In 2018, the SBL Council established an advisory position for disabilities and access and appointed Kirsty Jones and Kenneth Litwak to serve together in this role. The position will advise staff and committees and will include the following terms of reference:

- ◆ Creating and updating an Accessibility Order for the International Meeting;
- ◆ Creating and updating a Template for Vetting Venues;
- ◆ Developing materials for an Accessibility Information Kiosk in the Annual Meeting registration area;
- ◆ Liaising with the AAR working group on the Status of People with Disabilities in the Profession; and
- ◆ Working with the Professional Development Committee to develop sessions for members with disabilities.

The co-advisors also welcome input from members on the variety of disabilities members face in preventing full access to the resources of the Society and on best practices and advocacy for the our members as they foster biblical scholarship in many professional contexts.

Thanks to Kirsty and Kenneth for their leadership!

## PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT POLICY

### Policy

The Professional Conduct Policy reflects SBL's core values of Accountability and Professionalism. SBL's Professional Conduct Policy reminds us that we are in this together, that members of a guild watch out for each other. If one member experiences unprofessional behavior, we all do. We are all responsible for maintaining an atmosphere free of harassment and discrimination. We are all responsible for bringing about change by ensuring a culture in which victims know they will be heard and respected.

SBL requires members to review annually the Society's Professional Conduct Policy when they renew membership or register for the Annual or International Meeting. Please take time to review the policy now (online [here](#)).

### Report Submitted by the Professional Conduct Committee Chair

Committee Membership: Greg Carey (chair), Krista Dalton, April DeConick, Jacqueline Hidalgo, Christl Maier, Joshua Matson, and Rodney Sadler.

From September 2017 through December 2018, the Professional Conduct Committee chair received two complaints concerning potential violations of the SBL's Professional Conduct Policy. In each case the members consulted with the chair and decided not to pursue a complaint. This report summarizes the complaints and, following SBL's policy, maintains confidentiality and avoids revealing the identity of any persons involved.

1. A member raised concerns regarding the racial composition of a panel at the 2017 Annual Meeting.
2. A member asserted being threatened and later retaliated against for speaking about sexual assault during a program unit session.

Both complainants sought consultation regarding the nature and standing of their claims, SBL's procedures, possible criteria by which their cases might be adjudicated (standards of evidence), and possible resolutions. Neither complainant pursued the informal or formal process provided in the [SBL Professional Conduct Investigation Procedures](#).

The Report also notes that professional conduct issues have been discussed on social media. When these are known and where it is appropriate, the chair has posted SBL's policy and procedures and directed members to the committee to which complaints should be addressed.

## BRANDON WASON NAMED SBL ARCHIVIST

In its October 2018 meeting, the SBL Council unanimously appointed Brandon Wason as the Archivist of the Society of Biblical Literature. SBL's institutional archives were relocated to Emory University in January 2018 (see [here](#)), and work has begun on providing access to its rich record and digitizing valuable research materials, including the Annual and International Meeting Program Books.

Brandon Wason is exceptionally qualified to serve as SBL's Archivist. He has a bachelor's degree in classics (2006, California State University, Long Beach), an MTS (2009, Emory University), and a PhD in New Testament (2017, Emory University). Brandon's dissertation, "All Things to All People: Luke's Paul as an Orator in Diverse Social Contexts," looks at the way that the author of the Acts of the Apostles presented Paul in the speeches. He has a background in web programming and has worked in libraries at Emory University and Columbia Theological Seminary. Since February of 2015, Brandon has been the Curator of Archives and Manuscripts at Pitts Theology Library, Emory University. Brandon's research interests include the New Testament, reception history, history of scholarship, and ancient historiography and rhetoric. In addition to membership in SBL, Brandon also participates in the Society of American Archivists and the Society of Georgia Archivists.



SBL is delighted that its new archivist, as with its previous and now Emeritus Archivist Andrew D. Scrimgeour, has both professional experience and a deep scholarly concern for its contents. Brandon spoke of his personal interest and enthusiasm as SBL's Archivist:

One of the strengths of Emory's graduate program in New Testament is the appreciation for the history of biblical scholarship that faculty members impart on their students. It is this appreciation that I bring to my role as the archivist of the Society of Biblical Literature. Since its founding in 1880, the Society of Biblical Literature has played an important role in the progression of biblical scholarship and cognate fields. New developments, discoveries, and debates have taken place at meetings of the Society and have been discussed within its publications. I've been a member of SBL since 2005 and am indebted to the Society for my own professional development. I'm personally committed to the preservation of the Society's archives and excited about providing access to these materials to those researching the Society, its history, or the broader academic field of biblical literature.

Members and staff may access the collection for research at the Jeschke-Graham Reading Room, Pitts Theology Library. The finding aid for the collection is freely available [online](#).



## 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT AND STRATEGIC FINANCIAL PLAN

### John F. Kutsko

*The following is a version of the SBL Executive Director's report delivered at the 2018 Annual Business Meeting, 18 November 2018, in Denver, Colorado.*

Typically I take this time during the Annual Business Meeting to report on finances, then highlight developments in SBL over the course of the year. The 2018 Society Report, which we will publish in January 2019, will include a year in review. This year I will review the bigger picture—financial and strategic—in order to reflect on and reassure you of the efforts we are making and where those efforts are heading.

#### Finance

Starting with the fiscal year (FY) 2018 audit, the independent auditor, Mauldin & Jenkins, reported a clean audit, which means: it is an unqualified opinion of SBL's financials; the internal control structure related to SBL's financial process has no material weakness or deficiencies; and there were no corrected or uncorrected misstatements. Any changes in SBL's net assets and its cash flows ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the United States. This audit was reviewed by the Finance Committee and the SBL Council.

The Statement of Financial Position (below) shows the organization's total assets at the year ended 30 June 2018 as \$8,541,134 and net worth of \$6,150,439.

	FY 2018	FY 2017
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,211,204	\$ 1,762,171
Marketable securities	3,794,985	3,117,468
Accounts receivable	253,244	151,135
Prepaid expenses and other assets	227,050	70,621
Book inventories, net of valuation reserve	94,425	97,215
Furniture and equipment, net of accum. depr.	15,865	30,485
Net share of Luce Center assets	1,944,361	1,937,756
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 8,541,134</b>	<b>\$ 7,166,851</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 359,601	\$ 233,353
Deferred revenue		
Memberships and subscriptions	559,767	512,509
Annual Meetings	893,050	917,488
International Meeting	142,648	157,752
Other	435,629	4,616
Total deferred revenue	2,031,094	1,592,365
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,390,695</b>	<b>1,825,718</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	5,237,196	4,521,267
Temporarily restricted net assets	618,613	525,236
Permanently restricted net assets	294,630	294,630
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>6,150,439</b>	<b>5,341,133</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 8,541,134</b>	<b>\$ 7,166,851</b>



# FINANCIAL RESERVES STRATEGY

SBL's Net Assets increased this year \$809,306, as shown on the FY18's Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets (below), on the Increase in Net Assets line. This is compared to \$671,239 for the prior year.

**SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE**  
**STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  
**YEARS ENDED 30 JUNE 2018 and 2017**

	FY 2018	FY 2017
<b>Revenues and gains</b>		
Congresses	\$ 1,577,053	\$ 1,425,860
Membership		
Membership fees	605,894	589,953
Marketing	44,006	43,894
Fee Income	393	
Professions		
Employment Center	75,200	78,334
Grant Revenue	127	11,629
Contract Income	5,000	-
Fonts	2,700	500
Press		
Book Sales	527,196	497,454
Subscriptions	224,370	256,340
Royalties	154,973	93,218
Marketing	12,800	26,025
Permissions	16,766	20,703
Membership	106,923	104,109
Contract Income	74,189	50,000
Grant Revenue	296	27,133
Fees	11,875	10,366
Development and fundraising	55,169	40,280
Investment Income	442,166	454,634
Rental income, net	10,329	20,263
<b>Total Revenues and Gains</b>	\$ 3,947,425	\$ 3,750,695
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program expenses		
Congresses	1,144,079	1,087,905
Membership	178,292	193,682
Professions	223,015	274,651
Press	1,239,873	1,177,409
Regions	73,862	67,644
Research and technology	60,125	67,472
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	2,919,246	2,868,763
Development and fundraising	17,184	34,056
General and administration	201,689	176,637
<b>Total Expenses</b>	3,138,119	3,079,456
<b>Increase in Net Assets</b>	809,306	671,239
<b>Net Assets-Beginning of Year</b>	5,341,133	4,669,894
<b>Net Assets-End of Year</b>	\$ 6,150,439	\$ 5,341,133

Obviously, FY17 and FY18 have been two good years in a row, with a sizable increase in total assets year over year, as shown the Audit Highlights chart (p. 10). One factor was the increase in investment income and change in market value of \$442,166. Of course, the market can fluctuate dramatically from year to year, but FY18 and FY17 have had the best year-end outcomes that SBL has tracked for twenty years.

### Audit Highlights

	FY 2018	FY 2017	Increase
Total Assets At Year End	\$8,541,134	\$7,166,851	\$1,374,283

### Revenue and Expenses by Department

Department	Revenues	Expenses	Net Increase (Decrease)
Congresses and Regions	\$1,577,053	\$1,217,941	\$359,112
Membership	650,293	178,292	472,001
Professions	83,027	223,015	(139,988)
Press	1,129,388	1,239,873	(110,485)
Development	55,169	17,184	37,985
Investments	442,166	30,330	411,836
Technology	0	60,125	(60,125)
General and Administration	0	171,359	(171,359)
Luce Center, Net	10,329	0	10,329
Total	\$3,947,425	\$3,138,119	\$809,306

While the market contributed to the increase in net assets for FY18, the contribution of staff should be noted. As one can see below, operating revenue *exceeded* budget by \$165,260, while expenses were *under* budget by \$190,980, resulting in a net gain over budget of \$356,240. SBL staff work diligently to earn revenue and control expenses.

### Comparison of Operating Revenue and Expenses to Budget

For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

	Actual	Budget	Budget Remaining
Operating Revenues	\$ 3,465,723	\$ 3,300,463	\$ 165,260
Operating Expenses	2,999,425	3,190,405	190,980
Net operating increase (decrease)	\$ 466,298	\$ 110,058	\$ 356,240

Note: this is operating revenue only and will not agree with the final net increase (decrease) for the year end.

In addition to the staff's contribution, the FY18 meetings in Boston and Germany were successful and also contributed to our overall net increase. Expenses related to an update of the SBL website were incurred in FY17, which helped reduce expenses this year. Lastly, the costs associated with SBL Central were classified as an asset on the Statement of Financial Position.

As already noted, SBL's total assets now stand at \$8,541,134. This has risen consistently over the last nine years, with a total gain in net assets of \$3,741,899, the sum of annual gains since 2010. The next two charts show a nearly two-decade picture of SBL's revenue, expenses, and net assets.

# FINANCIAL RESERVES STRATEGY

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS BY FISCAL YEAR					
2000	(\$475,395)	2007	(\$17,675)	2014	\$538,910
2001	\$96,803	2008	(\$220,118)	2015	\$329,213
2002	(\$35,195)	2009	(\$561,197)	2016	\$91,616
2003	(\$125,582)	2010	\$294,954	2017	\$671,239
2004	(\$179,277)	2011	\$424,397	2018	\$809,306
2005	\$274,288	2012	\$295,893		
2006	(\$95,534)	2013	\$286,371		

FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL ASSETS	REVENUE	EXPENSES	Increase/ Decrease	Increase/ Decrease	Increase/ Decrease	BEGINNING YR NET ASSETS	Transfer of Luce Center Assets and Scholars Press Cash	END YR NET ASSETS
				unrestricted Net Assets	temprestricted Net Assets	(Decrease) Net Assets			
FY1999	2,236,030	1,507,661	- 1,705,252	= (197,591)	+ (46,725)	= (244,316)	+ 1,896,880	+ =	1,652,564
FY2000	2,098,799	2,563,887	- 2,254,922	= 308,965	+ (784,360)	= (475,395)	+ 1,652,564	+ =	1,177,169
FY2001	4,168,022	1,956,342	- 1,859,539	= 96,803	+ 0	= 96,803	+ 1,177,169	+ 2,089,858	= 3,363,830
FY2002	4,142,711	2,028,699	- 2,070,530	= (41,831)	+ 6,636	= (35,195)	+ 3,363,830	+ 5,000	= 3,333,635
FY2003	4,136,639	2,165,114	- 2,315,734	= (150,620)	+ 25,038	= (125,582)	+ 3,333,635	+ =	3,208,053
FY2004	4,066,035	2,286,041	- 2,495,249	= (209,208)	+ 29,931	= (179,277)	+ 3,208,053	+ =	3,028,776
FY2005	4,209,939	2,679,811	- 2,482,452	= 197,359	+ 76,929	= 274,288	+ 3,028,776	+ =	3,303,064
FY2006	4,313,952	2,474,061	- 2,557,873	= (83,812)	+ (11,722)	= (95,534)	+ 3,303,064	+ =	3,207,530
FY2007	4,300,180	2,874,176	- 2,931,893	= (57,717)	+ 40,042	= (17,675)	+ 3,207,530	+ =	3,189,855
FY2008	4,253,192	2,713,245	- 2,909,901	= (196,656)	+ (23,462)	= (220,118)	+ 3,189,855	+ =	2,969,737
FY2009	3,749,590	2,260,481	- 2,788,347	= (527,866)	+ (33,331)	= (561,197)	+ 2,969,737	+ =	2,408,540
FY2010	3,989,123	2,675,127	- 2,474,558	= 200,569	+ 94,385	= 294,954	+ 2,408,540	+ =	2,703,494
FY2011	4,599,009	2,940,196	- 2,568,593	= 371,603	+ 52,794	= 424,397	+ 2,703,494	+ =	3,127,891
FY2012	5,095,049	3,320,571	- 2,965,223	= 355,348	+ (59,455)	= 295,893	+ 3,127,891	+ =	3,423,784
FY2013	5,321,894	3,406,545	- 3,194,734	= 211,811	+ 74,560	= 286,371	+ 3,423,784	+ =	3,710,155
FY2014	5,971,930	3,802,198	- 3,323,724	= 478,474	+ 60,436	= 538,910	+ 3,710,155	+ =	4,249,065
FY2015	6,220,627	3,523,165	- 3,217,009	= 306,156	+ 23,057	= 329,213	+ 4,249,065	+ =	4,578,278
FY2016	6,325,791	3,116,021	- 3,087,945	= 28,076	+ 63,540	= 91,616	+ 4,578,278	+ =	4,669,894
FY2017	7,166,851	3,646,749	- 3,079,456	= 567,293	+ 103,946	= 671,239	+ 4,669,894	+ =	5,341,133
FY2018	8,541,134	3,854,048	- 3,138,119	= 715,929	+ 93,377	= 809,306	+ 5,341,133	+ =	6,150,439

The SBL executive office carefully manages cash flow, and this year it was determined that we could move \$326,984 to investments. Below is a summary of investments. It includes the permanently restricted Luce Center building fund. The total of the portfolios rose by approximately \$730,000 in FY18.

	SBL			Luce Center		Total
	Unrestricted	Restricted	SBL Only	Additions	Restricted	
FY2010	1,110,100		1,110,100		417,243	1,527,343
FY2011	1,283,463		1,283,463		454,818	1,738,281
FY2012	1,287,212	100,684	1,387,896	98,168	391,765	1,779,661
FY2013	1,644,658	109,991	1,754,649	225,000	410,967	2,165,616
FY2014	2,043,176	130,841	2,174,017	100,000	496,096	2,670,113
FY2015	2,321,760	131,806	2,453,566	200,000	519,037	2,972,603
FY2016	2,477,356	180,811	2,658,167	230,000	531,369	3,189,536
FY2017	2,982,548	202,544	3,185,092	181,315	614,224	3,799,316
FY2018	3,622,654	220,761	3,843,415	326,984	687,020	4,530,435
9/30/18	3,900,595	263,536	4,164,131	160,896	778,211	4,942,342

SBL has two major projects, and I want to describe how we report them: SBLCentral, a new research platform for biblical and religious studies; and the update to the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible on behalf of the National Council of Churches.

GAAP dictates how to record revenue and expenses. Certain revenues are deferred until earned, and expenses are recorded as assets until such time as the expense is considered incurred. Such is the case with SBL Central revenue and expenses. In FY2018, we began developing the research tool, and we raised sponsorships of \$113,000 and were awarded a grant of \$150,000 from the Luce Foundation (a second \$100,000 grant is expected in FY19). In addition, as of FY18 we incurred development expenses of \$170,927. GAAP requires us to report the sponsorships and grant as deferred revenue until the project is completed and released for member use. In addition, we are required to report the \$170,927 as a work in progress, called Prepaid Assets on the Statement of Financial Position (p. 8). Once the project is complete and we release it for use by members, we will then be required to recognize the sponsorship and grant revenue. The total cost of development will appear on the Statement of Financial Position as a fixed asset and will be expensed over a period of time, typically five to ten years. Since we expect Phase 1 to be completed in FY19, we have included the sponsorship and grant revenue as revenue in our FY19 budget.

SBL also began a project for the National Council of Churches to update the NRSV. SBL received an initial advance of \$200,000. Again, according to GAAP, SBL cannot recognize the revenue until we earn it, and we earn it as we incur expenses on the project. As of FY18, we deferred revenue of \$167,478 for the unused portion of the advance. This deferred revenue is recognized as we incur costs. Eventually the NRSV update will result in a net increase for SBL, but only when the project is complete and the remaining funds due under the contract have been received.

Requirements on how revenues and expenses are reported are in place to help make it easier for a user to understand all financial statements, not just those of SBL. SBL is required to report on an accrual basis of accounting: revenues are recorded when earned, and expenses are recorded when incurred. Individuals are used to looking at their own personal finances as cash in and cash out. SBL has to include items other than cash, for example:

- ◆ unrealized gains on investments: \$202,425 of our investment income;
- ◆ treatment of transfers to investments as asset-to-asset transfers rather than an expense to the organization: \$326,984; and
- ◆ treatment of development costs on SBL Central as an asset: \$170,927.

All these items affect the bottom line of SBL and help result in an increase on paper. But some of these increases are, you might say, spoken for, or encumbered, for the development of current or future projects. In addition, regarding unrealized gains on investments, we all know how unpredictable the investment market has been and how one month of losses can wipe out an entire year's gains.

Finally, in this financial part of my report, please consider the FY19 budget for July 2018–June 2019, which was approved by the Finance Committee and Council. It is another positive budget, but the increase in net assets should be seen in context of my prior remarks and the following.

Budget 2018–2019	
Revenues	
Administration	\$ 92,484
Congresses	1,465,200
Development	70,000
Membership	644,250
Professions	156,184
Press	1,266,430
Total Revenue	\$ 3,694,548
Expenses	
Administration	121,104
Congresses	1,153,498
Development	45,079
Membership	193,241
Professions	263,739
Press	1,382,375
Regions	52,653
Technology	69,251
Total Expense	3,280,940
Budgeted Increase in Net Assets	\$ 413,608

# FINANCIAL RESERVES STRATEGY

## Financial Strategic Plan

In the context of the above, permit me to say a few more words about SBL's financial strategy. We continue to implement a plan that builds a positive budget—that not only avoids drawing down investments but results in a net operating reserve. This has allowed SBL to build on an increasingly higher principal and boost the positive results of our investment income.

This positive trend has me wanting to defend it. First, this is not an embarrassment of riches. We have increased total assets (not including the Luce Center) from about \$1.1 million in 2010 to \$4.1 million as of 30 September 2018. While that nearly fourfold increase is of course positive, SBL has set a goal, based on a standard metric for an organization our size, to reach \$6 million in investment reserves, a number equal to two years of an operational austerity budget, along with an additional six-month emergency reserve. That goal was discussed and supported in Council and the Finance Committee. But please remember, while the last two years alone have resulted in a combined increase in investments of almost \$900,000, we cannot, quite literally, bank on consistently good returns. For example, investment income in 2016 was only \$91,616, compared to \$454,634 in 2017. Yes, we are on a path to reach the \$6 million in investment reserves, but it will continue to take discipline and focus.

This investment-reserve goal, as I note, is a standard metric, a best practice, for organizations to remain stable and sustainable long into the future, to weather unexpected storms, and to provide meaningful annual resources from an investment drawdown. For comparative purposes, the following chart shows SBL's investment position at 30 June 2017 with two peer learned societies (the American Academy of Religion and the American Historical Association) on that same date. Using a reserve benchmark that is two times each organization's operating budget, you will see that SBL had reached 53 percent of its goal, while AAR and AHA were at or exceeded that goal. While SBL's investments reached \$4.1 million on 30 September 2018, in December 2018 they slipped to \$3,886,948. While now at 64.8 percent of its strategic goal, the reserve is still short and a volatile economy is foreseeable.

<b>Fiscal Year Ending 30 June 2017</b>	<b>SBL</b>	<b>AAR</b>	<b>AHA</b>
Total Expenses	\$3,079,456	\$2,821,475	\$3,757,506
Less Depreciation	\$89,661	\$245,553	\$33,897
Operating Expenses	\$2,989,795	\$2,575,922	\$3,723,609
Rounded	\$3,000,000	\$2,600,000	\$3,800,000
Two-Years Reserve Goal	\$6,000,000	\$5,200,000	\$7,600,000
Investment Value	\$3,185,093	\$7,765,716	\$7,759,920
<b>Investments as a percentage of goal</b>	<b>53.08%</b>	<b>149.34%</b>	<b>102.10%</b>

Still, some might ask: At what expense has this reserve-building come, and are we only planning for the future? In short, no. This reserve-building has been achieved while also increasing resources and opportunities for members and widening the impact of SBL. The following list is not exhaustive.

In 2014 SBL launched Bible Odyssey three years after receiving a \$300,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In the first year the site received 30–50 visitors each day. Today it receives 3,000–5,000 visitors daily. We have four staff assigned to new content and technology improvements, though the site currently produces no revenue.

SBLCentral, a research platform that makes the most recent research discoverable at the moment of publication, is now in development, and we will launch the first phase in 2019.

SBLCentral and Bible Odyssey will be two bookends of the Society's mission, namely, scholarly research and public engagement.

What else has SBL accomplished to advance its mission and provide more resources and support for its members? With a Luce Foundation grant in 2012, SBL led the formation of a new independent learned society for scholars of the Qur'an. The International Qur'anic Studies Association (IQSA) was incorporated in 2014 and became a US nonprofit organization in 2015.

In 2014, SBL Publications was rebranded as SBL Press, and it increased its monograph output at a time when other publishers were reducing theirs—and we have done so with financial success.

In 2011, Travel Awards were reinstated after being suspended following the 2008 financial downturn. This year we doubled the amount of the travel grants and focused on recipients in four areas: Africa and the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to travel awards, SBL has two new awards: The SBL–De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History, and the A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship.

In 2016, annual membership rates went to a progressive system based on income, which better supports students, contingent faculty, and scholars with fewer resources. The student rate went from \$60 to \$10 and is now what the student rate was in 1980. The first income level is \$15, which is \$5 lower than it was in 1980 and \$90 less than the 2015 rate.

Two years ago SBL became a partner with the Religious Freedom Institute of the Newseum, in a program called Georgia 3Rs (Rights, Responsibility, Respect). The initiative promotes religious literacy and liberty and provides training for teachers, administrators, and staff, as well as information for parents in two Georgia public school districts. SBL's Educational Resources and Review Committee is producing fifteen lesson plans for teachers to enhance and deepen the understanding of the Bible in standard US history, world history, and English language arts high school classes.

After three years of discussion and negotiation, this year SBL kicked off a project to review and update the New Revised Standard Version, on behalf of the National Council of Churches, a project that will provide SBL revenue until 2025.

In October we began a three-year initiative on the future of biblical studies in undergraduate liberal arts education, and next June we will launch a corresponding initiative on biblical studies in theological education.

In the area of policies, SBL implemented a Policy on Scholarly Presentation and Publication of Ancient Artifacts, and a Professional Conduct Policy with Investigation Procedures, especially as it pertains to harassment and discrimination.

Following a year of negotiation, in 2018 we relocated the SBL Archives to Emory University, and we will begin the process of digitizing, among other things, the Annual and International Meeting Program Books.

Many efforts to reduce costs were also made to increase opportunities. For example, three years ago staff recommended and then implemented a major transition in technology, and SBL outsourced website, workstation, and server hosting and maintenance to a firm called Leapfrog. This transition cut costs, frees up staff to work on member resources, and increases the security of the Society's websites, applications, and data.

Allow me now to close with an appeal, because cost cutting segues to my final comment. Staff have found a myriad of ways to do more with less. But expense reductions have limits, and the next phase of SBL development will be just that: development, which includes grant raising, fund raising, and member contributions. SBL is an organization whose mission is to provide its members opportunities for mutual support, intellectual growth, and professional development. I hope SBL can look to you for your continued generosity through annual giving, estate planning, and relationship building that results in raising the profile and impact the Society of Biblical Literature as we approach our 150-year anniversary.

## WITH GRATITUDE TO AN ANONYMOUS DONOR, SBL ANNOUNCES NEW PAPER AWARD: THE A.R. PETE DIAMOND AWARD FOR INTEGRATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

**In 2018, a new award was funded in honor of A. R. “Pete” Diamond (1950–2011).**

Upon his passing in 2011, SBL member Pete Diamond (PhD, Cambridge) was described in a memorial piece as a true renaissance person: an author, poet, teacher, artist, photographer, musician, gardener, and more. He was also a biblical scholar, in particular on the prophet Jeremiah. Colleagues characterized him as “a brilliant, outside-the-box thinker whose agility and courage of intellect truly inspire” and “someone who always asked the hard questions that needed to be asked.”

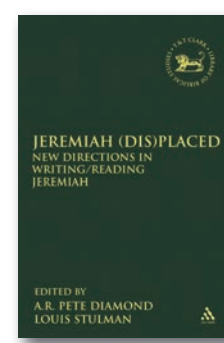
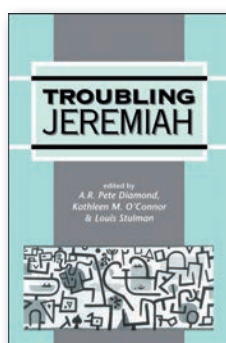
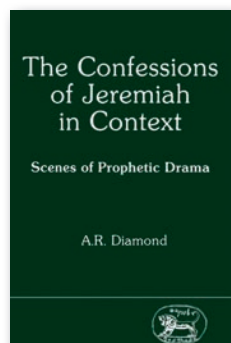
His creative and receptive approach to life led him to embrace new approaches in biblical studies, to champion the changing paradigms in the field, and to support and encourage emerging and innovative work among students. Pete did much to frame current conversations on Jeremiah research and was the architect of SBL’s Writing/Reading Jeremiah Annual Meeting program unit. Louis Stulman, who wrote the SBL tribute, noted Pete’s integration of approaches old and new: “He was a brilliant theorist who sought interpretation from new spaces opened for reading biblical texts by the postmodern turn, and while he commanded languages and historical-critical methods, he saw these as only some of the tools necessary to achieve more creative and integrative readings.”

Pete Diamond specialized in the book of Jeremiah, and, though traditionally trained, he embraced creative and innovative methods and approaches to biblical interpretation. This endowed award established in his name is a tribute to that type of scholarship. Jeremiah was his subject, but his capacious approach is a model to the entire field for what scholarship is and should become over the course of a lifetime.

As a fitting tribute to these contributions and interests, an annual award has been established as a lasting legacy of his work: The A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship. This annual paper and presentation award supports junior scholars demonstrating innovative approaches in biblical studies that advance methodological work at the intersection of historical criticism, critical theory, and cultural studies.

SBL is deeply grateful to the anonymous donor for generosity in establishing this award for a new generation of biblical scholars. Click [here](#) to learn more about the award.

The donor also committed support to Bible Odyssey. The A. R. Pete Diamond Endowment for Innovations in Biblical Interpretation will support the development of new content that advances the public’s understanding of the innovative methods of interpreting the Bible that reflect his commitment to the relevance of the Bible in the modern world.



### 2018 Regional Meetings

In 2018, ten regional meetings were hosted in North America with over 1,300 attendees. Regional meetings take place between February and May and are planned and executed by the regional coordinators and other volunteers. The regional meetings function as one entry point for scholars and teachers into the Society and the field. For more information, including links to regional meeting programs and participation directions, visit <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/regionalMeetings.aspx>.

## 2019 REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE

Region	Dates	Host Institution	Location
Central States	March 17–18	Eden Theological Seminary	St. Louis, MO
Eastern Great Lakes	March 14–15	Cambria Hotel and Suites	Akron, OH
Mid-Atlantic	February 27–March 1	Hyatt Regency Hotel	New Brunswick, NJ
Midwest	February 8–10	Saint Mary's College	Notre Dame, IN
New England/E Canada	March 22	Tufts University	Medford, MA
Pacific Coast	March 10	Hope International University	Fullerton, CA
Pacific Northwest	May 3–5	Central Washington University	Ellensburg, WA
Rocky Mountains – Great Plains	March 29–30	Creighton University	Omaha, NE
Southeastern	March 8–10	East Carolina University	Greenville, NC
Southwestern	March 8–10	Marriott Hotel DFW Airport North	Irving, TX
Upper Midwest	April 6	University of St. Thomas	St. Paul, MN

### International Meeting

The 2018 International Meeting was held in Helsinki, Finland, in partnership with the European Association of Biblical Studies (EABS). Second in attendance only to the 2017 International Meeting in Berlin, the 2018 International Meeting was again quite large: 850 papers were presented among the 225 programming sessions; 60 EABS program units, and 51 SBL program units sponsored those sessions. Special thanks are due to Dominika Kurek-Chomycz, Executive Director of EABS, and Outi Lehtipuu, the chair of the local planning committee, whose dedicated work made this meeting such a success.

The 2019 International Meeting will be held in Rome, Italy. This meeting will undoubtedly provide a unique opportunity to reflect both on the history of biblical studies as an international discipline and look into its future. The local planning committee in Rome, chaired by Peter Dubovsky, is planning a number of different session and activities that will highlight how Rome has been an important center of the field.



### International Travel Awards

The new International Travel Awards also went into effect in 2018. Four regions awarded a total of eight awards, which can now be used to attend either the Annual or International Meeting. Please see the Awards section of this Society Report for more information on the new awards and the 2018 recipients.



2018 International Meeting: Number of Attendees by Country			
United States	182	Romania	4
Germany	112	South Korea	4
United Kingdom	104	Argentina	3
Finland	100	Greece	3
Israel	66	Hungary	3
South Africa	37	Ireland	2
Netherlands	28	Lebanon	2
Canada	27	Estonia	2
Sweden	27	Lithuania	2
Switzerland	23	Malaysia	2
Belgium	22	New Zealand	2
Italy	21	Portugal	2
Norway	21	Singapore	1
Australia	15	United Arab Emirates	1
Denmark	15	Ethiopia	1
Poland	15	Greenland	1
Austria	11	Guatemala	1
France	11	India	1
Japan	10	Latvia	1
Spain	10	Malta	1
Czech Republic	9	Nigeria	1
Bulgaria	6	Peru	1
Russia	6	Philippines	1
Brazil	4	Serbia	1
China	4	Slovakia	1
Hong Kong	4	Taiwan	1
Korea	4	Turkey	1

### Annual Meeting

2018 was another successful year for the Annual Meeting. Attendance was down compared to 2017 but was comparable to the attendance in 2016, at about 9,500. Proposals, however, were up, at 3,068 compared with 3,001 in 2017, though still down from the 3,233 in 2016.<sup>1</sup> There were 2,239 unique participants in 2018, down slightly compared to the 2,285 in 2017. There were 169 program units in 2018. SBL program units and affiliate organizations sponsored 525 sessions, and a total of 1,838 papers were presented in those sessions. The trend toward cooperative session sponsored by multiple program units continued in 2018.

1. The proposal numbers from 2017 and 2016 differ from the Society Reports from those years. The report used to calculate those numbers in previous years erroneously double counted proposals with multiple presenters.

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION 30 JUNE 2018 AND 2017

	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,211,204	\$1,762,171
Marketable securities	3,794,985	3,117,468
Accounts receivable	253,244	151,135
Prepaid expenses and other assets	227,050	70,621
Book inventories, net of valuation reserve	94,425	97,215
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	15,865	30,485
Net share of Luce Center assets	<u>1,944,361</u>	<u>1,937,756</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$8,541,134</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,166,851</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$359,601	\$233,353
Deferred revenue		
Memberships and subscriptions	559,767	512,509
Annual meetings	893,050	917,488
International meeting	142,648	157,752
Other	<u>435,629</u>	<u>4,616</u>
Total Deferred Revenues	<u>2,031,094</u>	<u>1,592,365</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>2,390,695</u>	<u>1,825,718</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	5,237,196	4,521,267
Temporarily restricted net assets	618,613	525,236
Permanently restricted net assets	<u>294,630</u>	<u>294,630</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>6,150,439</u>	<u>5,341,133</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b><u>\$8,541,134</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,166,851</u></b>

**Comments:**

1. SBL continues to grow, with nine consecutive years of increases in net assets. The increase for FY 2018 was \$809,306, as shown on the Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets.
2. SBL transferred \$326,984 from cash flow to investments in fiscal year 2018. SBL continues to grow the investment account to build long-term organizational stability and to balance the budget with a Net Operating Reserve.
3. SBL staff continue to manage operations within budget. FY2018 revenues were over budget by \$165,260, while expenses were under budget by \$190,980.

# FINANCES

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

## BUDGET 2018–2019

	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>
<b>REVENUES AND GAINS</b>		
Congresses	\$1,577,053	\$1,425,860
Membership		
Membership fees	605,894	589,953
Marketing	44,006	43,894
Fee Income	393	—
Professions		
Employment Center	75,200	78,334
Grant Revenue	127	11,629
Contract Income	5,000	—
Fonts	2,700	500
Press		
Book Sales	527,196	497,454
Subscriptions	224,370	256,340
Royalties	154,973	93,218
Marketing	12,800	26,025
Permissions	16,766	20,703
Membership	106,923	104,109
Contract Income	74,189	50,000
Grant Revenue	296	27,133
Fees	11,875	10,366
Development and fundraising	55,169	40,280
Investment income	442,166	454,634
Rental income, net	10,329	20,263
<b>Total Revenues and Gains</b>	<b>\$3,947,425</b>	<b>\$3,750,695</b>

### EXPENSES

Program expenses		
Congresses	\$1,144,079	\$1,087,905
Membership	178,292	193,682
Professions	223,015	274,651
Press	1,239,873	1,177,409
Regions	73,862	67,644
Research and Technology	60,125	67,472
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>2,919,246</b>	<b>2,868,763</b>
Development and fundraising	17,184	34,056
General and administration	201,689	176,637
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,138,119</b>	<b>\$3,079,456</b>

<b>Increase in Net Assets</b>	809,306	671,239
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	5,341,133	4,669,894
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$6,150,439</b>	<b>\$5,341,133</b>

Revenues	
Administration	\$92,484
Congresses	1,465,200
Development	70,000
Membership	644,250
Professions	156,184
Press	1,266,430
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,694,548</b>
Expenses	
Administration	\$121,104
Congresses	1,153,498
Development	45,079
Membership	193,241
Professions	263,739
Press	1,382,375
Regions	52,653
Technology	69,251
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$3,280,940</b>
<b>Budgeted Increase in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$413,608</b>

The financial information summarized here was derived from the Society's audited financial statements. The independent auditor's report by Mauldin & Jenkins, dated 15 October 2018, states that the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Society. Please see the full audit report at the SBL website.

## SBL AWARDS

Many of the award programs available to members of SBL opened for submissions on October 1. For more information, search for the following awards on the SBL website: SBL–De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History, the Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship, the A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship, the David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship, and Status of Women in the Profession Committee Mentor Award. For information on presenting at a regional meeting or applying for a Regional Scholar Award, see the webpages of the individual regional meetings.

**Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship**

**Garrick Allen** (PhD 2015, St Andrews) is Lecturer in New Testament at Dublin City University, Republic of Ireland and is the author of *The Book of Revelation and Early Jewish Textual Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). He is currently writing a book on the relationship between textual history and reception history.

**David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship**

**Rebecca Scharbach Wollenberg** works on the reception history of the Hebrew Bible, with a specialization in early rabbinic tradition. She is an assistant professor of Judaic Studies in the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor, where she did her postdoctoral work as a fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows from 2015 to 2018. She received her PhD from the University of Chicago in 2015. Her dissertation won the Society of Biblical Literature’s De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History.

**Regional Scholars**

**Jill Hicks-Keeton** (PhD, Duke University, 2014) is assistant professor of religious studies at the University of Oklahoma. She is the author of *Arguing with Aseneth: Gentile Access to Israel’s “Living God” in Jewish Antiquity* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming). This book traces the variety of ways in which Jewish writers during the Second Temple period, including the apostle Paul, wrestled with the possibilities and constraints of gentile inclusion—and particularly how they intervened in the story of Israel’s mythic past as a means of explaining their present and envisioning, often in competing ways, collective futures. Hicks-Keeton’s work has been published in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, and she has authored essays for the online journals *Ancient Jew Review* and *Religion & Politics*. Her current project assesses the recently opened Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC.

**Jennifer Elizabeth Singletary** (PhD, Brown University, 2014) is a postdoctoral researcher in the Collaborative Research Center 1136: “Education and Religion in Cultures of the Mediterranean and Its Environment from Ancient to Medieval Times and to Classical Islam” at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. Previously she was a visiting assistant professor at the University of Montana and Wofford College; she has also taught at the University of Georgia and Clemson University. Her research uses historical philology and cross-cultural comparison to examine the Hebrew Bible and Israelite religions in the context of the ancient Near East. In her dissertation, she analyzed the textual evidence concerning the deification of manufactured entities, divine qualities, and divine attributes from Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, and Elephantine. Her current project investigates collegiality and rivalry among religious specialists and scholars in ancient Israel and Mesopotamia.

## PROFESSIONS

**Chontel Syfox** is a doctoral candidate in the University of Notre Dame's Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity program. She earned a first-class honors MTheol from the University of St Andrews and an MTS from Emory University, where she was a Robert T. Jones Graduate Fellow. Chontel's research, broadly speaking, focuses on the Hebrew Bible and the reception of its traditions in Second Temple literature. She is particularly interested in feminist interpretations of Scripture and related literature and is writing a dissertation that examines the portrayals of the matriarchs in the book of Jubilees. Other research interests include scriptural depictions of violence, the production and transmission of ancient knowledge, and ancient medicine.

The recipients of the 2019 Regional Scholar Award are Jason R. Price and Alex Weisberg.

### Status of Women in the Profession Committee Mentor Award

**Karen H. Jobs** is the Gerald F. Hawthorne Professor Emerita of New Testament Greek and Exegesis at Wheaton College and Graduate School (Illinois). She earned her doctorate in Biblical Hermeneutics at Westminster Theological Seminary (Philadelphia) and has served as a tenured professor at Westmont College (Santa Barbara, CA, 1996–2005) and at Wheaton (2005–2015). She considers the students she has mentored, both women and men, to be the greatest part of her legacy as a professor.



Garrick Allen



Rebecca Scharbach Wollenberg



Jill Hicks-Keeton



Jennifer Elizabeth Singletary



Chontel Syfox



Karen H. Jobs

### International Travel Awards

The SBL International Travel Awards offer opportunities to current SBL members outside North America to attend the Annual or International Meeting, to participate in the program, to enhance their professional development, and to build their network with fellow scholars. These grants help facilitate the work of Program Units and the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI). These grants are intended to support underrepresented and underresourced scholars. As such, preference will be given to women, people of historically underrepresented ethnicities, and members from ICI-qualifying countries. A key criterion is an applicant's demonstrable financial need.

The International Travel Awards defray transportation, hotel accommodations, and other expenses incurred for the Annual or International Meetings.

#### The 2018 SBL International Travel Recipients are:

- ◆ Richard Beckford, Jamaica Theological Seminary (Jamaica)
- ◆ Rachel Borovsky, Tel Aviv University (Israel)
- ◆ Isabel Aparecida Felix, University of Coimbra (Portugal)
- ◆ Lallawmzuala Khiangte, Aizawl Theological College (India)
- ◆ Dogara Ishaya Manomi, Johannes Gutenberg University (Nigeria)
- ◆ Alexander Panayotov, Centre for Advanced Study (Bulgaria)
- ◆ Annelle Sabanal, Asian Theological Seminary (Philippines)
- ◆ Vuyani Sindo, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)

Four International Travel Award Panels (ITAP) administer the awards each year, serving four geographic regions:

Africa and Middle East: Madipoane Masenya, Dora Mbuwayesango, Louis C. Jonker

Asia and Pacific: Elaine M. Wainwright, Nasili Vaka'uta, Louis C. Jonker

Eastern Europe: Ester Petrenko, Benjamin D. Giffone, Louis C. Jonker

Latin America and Caribbean: Juan Manuel Tebes, Pablo R. Andiñach, Louis C. Jonker

We would like express our sincere thanks to the applicants and to donors to the Society. Your contributions to the Society of Biblical Literature strengthen our mission to foster biblical scholarship globally.

The 2019 International Travel Award applications are open through 15 February 2019. For more information, visit <https://www.sbl-site.org/membership/AMtravelgrant.aspx>.



Richard Beckford



Rachel Borovsky



Isabel Aparecida Felix

## PROFESSIONS



Lallawmzuala Kiangte



Dogara Ishaya Manomi



Alexander Panayotov



Annelle Sabanal



Vuyani Sindo

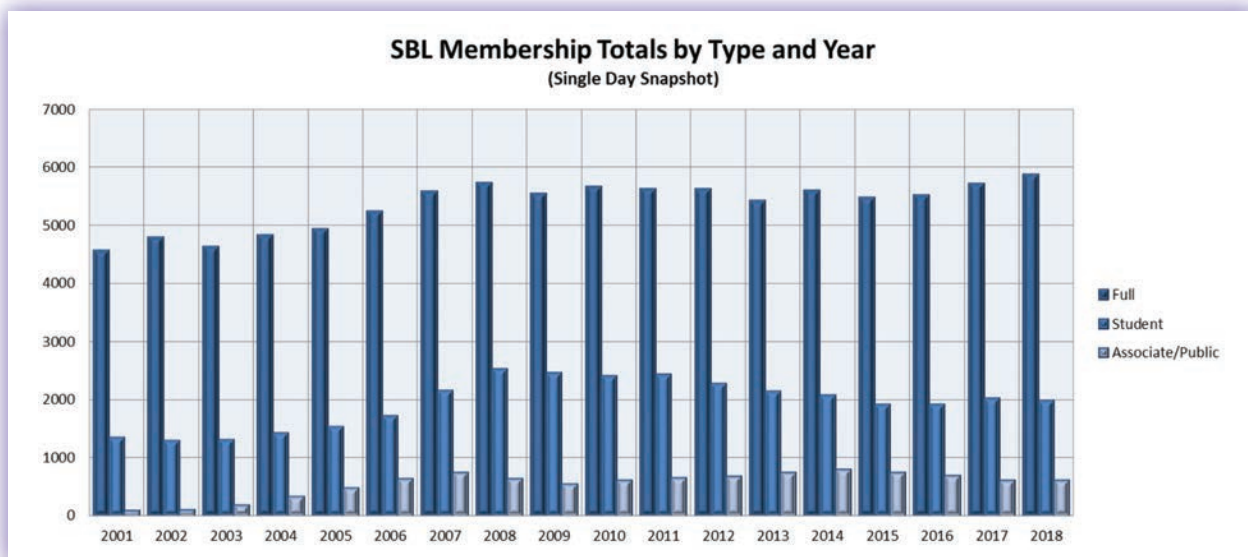
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## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVE

Following 2017's restructuring from the ICI Executive Board into the ICI committee, now a committee of council, the committee continues to be very active in finding ways to serve SBL members around the world. The newsletter continues to showcase the truly global reach of biblical studies and provides an excellent way for members to be aware of what is happening in the global community. Following two successful sessions at the 2017 and 2018 International Meetings, the ICI committee continues to look at ways to rethink and restructure the liaison network.

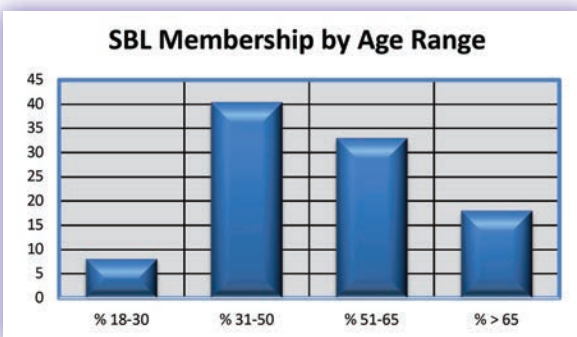
## MEMBERSHIP DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT

The Society membership has grown this year. Just after the Annual Meeting, when SBL usually has its highest level of membership, we had a total of 8,475 members from around the world.



The majority of our members, 5,876, have full memberships in the Society. This is an increase of 155 members over last year's full membership number. Public members increased to 611, a minor increase over last year's total of 606. The Society continues to nurture student biblical scholars; our student membership now numbers 1,988, a small decrease of 21 members from last year's figure.

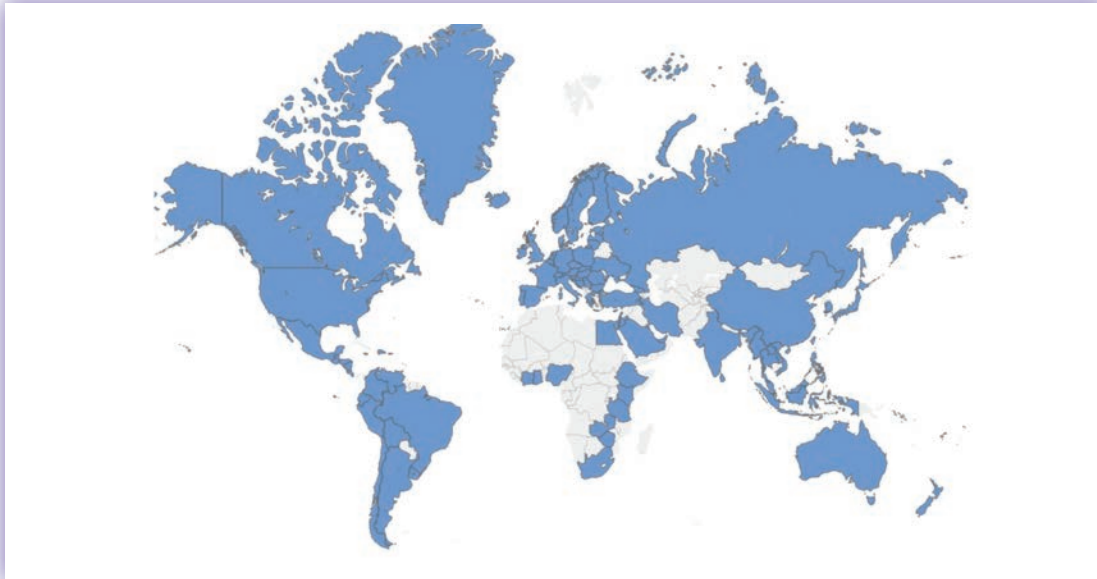
A plurality of members (43%) are between the ages of 31 and 50. The second largest group is between the ages of 51 and 65 (30%). This has not changed significantly from last year's demographic figures, although the 31–50 category decreased by 3 percent compared with 2017. The remaining two age groups are smaller, with those over 65 representing over 20 percent of the membership and those 18–30 representing 7 percent.



There continues to be a large geographic distribution for the membership. However, for the first time in eleven years the number of international members has decreased slightly. In 2001 international members made up only 23 percent of our total membership. In 2017, 35 percent of members lived outside the United States. This year, the percentage of members who live outside of the United States is 33 percent, representing a small decline of 2 percent from last year. Members live in 102 countries, two more countries than last year. The deep blue areas of the map on page 25 represent the countries with at least one SBL member.



# PROFESSIONS



A more detailed reporting and analysis of membership demographics based on the member profile data will again be released early in 2019. In order to make this report as comprehensive and accurate as possible, all members are encouraged to fill out the member profile on the SBL website.

**Table of Countries and Number of Members Reported in Membership Database  
(Not all members report address information)**

Country	# of Members	Country	# of Members	Country	# of Members
BERMUDA	1	COSTA RICA	2	ROMANIA	11
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	1	ECUADOR	2	CZECH REPUBLIC	12
BOTSWANA	1	GEORGIA	2	KENYA	13
BURKINA FASO	1	IRAN	2	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	13
CAMBODIA	1	LATVIA	2	SINGAPORE	15
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	1	SAINT LUCIA	2	ARGENTINA	16
CURAÇAO	1	TANZANIA	2	HUNGARY	16
CYPRUS	1	THAILAND	2	HONG KONG	24
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1	TURKEY	2	SPAIN	24
FIJI	1	VANUATU	2	POLAND	25
GENEVA	1	COLOMBIA	3	IRELAND	26
GREENLAND	1	EGYPT	3	NIGERIA	27
GUATEMALA	1	JAMAICA	3	BRAZIL	31
HONDURAS	1	LEBANON	3	DENMARK	35
ICELAND	1	MALTA	3	AUSTRIA	36
JAPAN	1	SLOVAKIA	3	BELGIUM	37
JORDAN	1	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	3	PHILIPPINES	38
LIBERIA	1	VIETNAM	3	FRANCE	40
LITHUANIA	1	CROATIA	4	NEW ZEALAND	41
LUXEMBOURG	1	MYANMAR (BURMA)	4	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	42
MALAWI	1	PORTUGAL	4	JAPAN	45
NICARAGUA	1	ZAMBIA	4	NORWAY	49
OMAN	1	ESTONIA	5	SWEDEN	57
PARAGUAY	1	MEXICO	5	SWITZERLAND	61
SERBIA	1	BULGARIA	6	FINLAND	65
SOLOMON ISLANDS	1	GREECE	6	NETHERLANDS	84
SRI LANKA	1	GHANA	7	SOUTH AFRICA	85
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	1	ETHIOPIA	8	ITALY	86
UGANDA	1	MALAYSIA	8	ISRAEL	162
UKRAINE	1	INDONESIA	9	AUSTRALIA	240
VENEZUELA	1	INDIA	10	GERMANY	296
ZIMBABWE	1	TAIWAN	10	UNITED KINGDOM	394
BARBADOS	2	CHINA	11	CANADA	432
CHILE	2	PERU	11	UNITED STATES	5472

The Society of Biblical Literature has 493 members from 71 International Cooperative Initiative (ICI) countries. There are seven more countries represented this year than last, and membership in ICI countries has increased by 44 members. Large numbers of these members are concentrated in South Africa, the Philippines and Nigeria. Many countries have only one or two members.

**Table of ICI Countries and Number of Members Reported in Membership Database  
(Not all members report address information)**

ICI Country	# of Members	ICI Country	# of Members	ICI Country	# of Members
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	1	ZIMBABWE	1	ESTONIA	5
BOTSWANA	1	BARBADOS	2	MEXICO	5
BURKINA FASO	1	CHILE	2	BULGARIA	6
CAMBODIA	1	COSTA RICA	2	GREECE	6
COTE D'IVOIRE	1	ECUADOR	2	GHANA	7
CURAÇAO	1	GEORGIA	2	ETHIOPIA	8
CYPRUS	1	IRAN	2	MALAYSIA	8
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1	LATVIA	2	INDIA	10
FUJI	1	SAINT LUCIA	2	INDONESIA	10
GUATEMALA	1	SERBIA	2	TAWAN	10
HONDURAS	1	TANZANIA	2	CHINA	11
JORDAN	1	THAILAND	2	PERU	11
LIBERIA	1	TURKEY	2	ROMANIA	11
LITHUANIA	1	VANUATU	2	CZECH REPUBLIC	12
MALAWI	1	COLOMBIA	3	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	13
NICARAGUA	1	EGYPT	3	KENYA	14
OMAN	1	JAMAICA	3	ARGENTINA	16
PARAGUAY	1	LEBANON	3	HUNGARY	16
SOLOMON ISLANDS	1	MALTA	3	HONG KONG	24
SRI LANKA	1	SLOVAKIA	3	POLAND	25
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	1	VIETNAM	3	NIGERIA	27
UGANDA	1	CROATIA	4	BRAZIL	31
UKRAINE	1	MYANMAR (BURMA)	4	PHILIPPINES	38
VENEZUELA	1	ZAMBIA	4	SOUTH AFRICA	85

YEAR IN REVIEW



## JBL EDITOR TRANSITION

### Adele Reinhartz Concludes Tenure as *JBL* General Editor

At the end of 2018, Adele Reinhartz concluded her long and distinguished tenure as the General Editor of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*. Adele took on this role in 2012 and served two three-year terms. She then served an additional year while the Research and Publications Committee worked to identify a replacement for this demanding position. Before becoming General Editor, Adele had already been on the *JBL* editorial board for nine years. She has thus played a key role in shaping the *Journal* for a remarkable sixteen years. While the editorial board and Press staff will feel her absence keenly, Adele leaves *JBL* in a position to remain the flagship journal in the field for years to come.

During Adele's seven years at the helm of *JBL*, more than 1,600 manuscripts were submitted. She read each of these, assigned them to multiple reviewers, and issued decisions based on the reviews. This is an astonishing amount of work. To address the continually increasing number of submissions, she immediately moved *JBL* to a digital review workflow, replacing a paper and postal service process. She also grew the board to fifty editors in order to reduce review times and broaden the board's expertise, while ensuring continued efforts to improve its diversity of gender and ethnicity. During Adele's terms as General Editor, *JBL* saw a gradual increase in the proportion of manuscripts submitted by women, to the point that in 2018 the percentage of articles submitted by women was approximately equal to the percentage of the Society's membership composed of women.

Over the seven volumes of *JBL* published under her leadership, Adele oversaw the publication of 361 articles. As submissions continued to rise early in her editorship, *JBL* developed a lengthy production backlog. To address this, she increased the size of issues, with the result that most articles can now be published within six to nine months from acceptance. Even as *JBL* has maintained its reputation as a bastion of historical-critical biblical scholarship, these seven volumes of *JBL* have continued to reflect the increasing diversity of methods and interests that characterize the members of the Society. Alongside technical philological studies and the publication of manuscript fragments, the pages of *JBL* are filled with articles drawing on such diverse approaches as literary theory, the social sciences, and gender and sexuality studies. One way Adele pushed *JBL* toward further methodological expansion was through a series of Occasional Forums. For each Forum, Adele invited scholars to write short articles and responses addressing a particular topic of urgent current interest, including postmodernism, African biblical interpretation, and #BlackLivesMatter.

On a more personal level, the SBL staff who have worked closely with Adele, along with the members of the editorial board, have deeply appreciated her collegiality, erudition, and editorial savvy, as well as her commitment to making *JBL* excel in every way. For all these reasons and many more, the Society owes an immense debt of gratitude to Adele Reinhartz.

### Mark G. Brett Begins First Term as General Editor of *JBL*

On 1 January 2019, Mark G. Brett succeeded Adele Reinhartz as General Editor of the Society's *Journal of Biblical Literature*. Mark is Professor of Hebrew Bible at Whitley College in Melbourne, Australia, within the University of Divinity. He is the twenty-eighth General Editor of *JBL*.

As General Editor of *JBL*, Mark will be an ex officio member of the Research and Publications Committee. He will work with the *JBL* editorial board and SBL Press staff to review manuscript submissions and produce four issues each year.

Mark was raised in Papua, New Guinea, which has yielded within him a lifelong interest in the cultural contexts of education and biblical studies. His doctoral thesis from the University of Sheffield on hermeneutical philosophy was published as *Biblical Criticism in Crisis? The Impact of the Canonical Approach on Old Testament Studies* (Cambridge University Press, 1991). His subsequent research has focused on ethnicity and postcolonial studies, and during 2005–2008 he also worked for



Adele Reinhartz



Mark G. Brett

an Aboriginal organization in developing new frameworks for the negotiation of native title claims within the state of Victoria, Australia.

Among many other works, Mark is the author of *Genesis: Procreation and the Politics of Identity* (Routledge, 2000), *Decolonizing God: The Bible in the Tides of Empire* (Sheffield Phoenix, 2008), and *Political Trauma and Healing: Biblical Ethics for a Postcolonial World* (Eerdmans, 2016), the editor of *Ethnicity and the Bible* (Brill, 1996), and the coeditor of *The Politics of the Ancestors: Exegetical and Historical Perspectives on Genesis 12–36* (Mohr Siebeck, 2018). He is currently writing a book on the political theologies of the Hebrew Bible.

Mark brings a wealth of editorial experience to *JBL*, having served on the editorial boards of several journals, including five years (1992–1996) as an executive editor of the interdisciplinary journal *Biblical Interpretation*. He was also on the editorial board of *Ancient Israel and Its Literature*, an SBL Press book series. Mark is the first non-North American to serve as General Editor of *JBL*. His appointment further signals an ongoing commitment to include perspectives from around the globe in the flagship journal in the field.

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## BIBLE ODYSSEY

SBL launched the [bibleodyssey.org](http://bibleodyssey.org) website in 2014 with one purpose: to make the academic study of the Bible accessible to the general public. Since its beginnings, the site's audience has grown to include undergraduates, university and high school instructors and students, and congregation members and teachers. After being managed by various departments, in 2018 Bible Odyssey officially joined SBL Press.

**In 2018  
BIBLE ODYSSEY  
officially became a  
part of SBL Press. It is  
currently managed by  
Press staff members  
Heather McMurray,  
Nicole L. Tilford, and  
Jonathan M. Potter.**

This year in Denver two program units held sessions focused on the website. Teaching Biblical Studies in an Undergraduate Liberal Arts Context devoted time on Saturday to the topic “Using Bible Odyssey to Teach Biblical Studies.” John Kutsko opened the session with an overview of the site's history and mission. Three papers, including two given by board members Elizabeth Shively and Kelly Murphy, outlined how to integrate Bible Odyssey into assigned readings and projects and even how to use the site as a textbook. The Social-Scientific Criticism of the New Testament program unit held a panel discussion on Sunday morning reflecting on how articles address issues of sexuality, gender, race, and socioeconomic issues in the biblical text. Editor board member Lynn Huber was the respondent.

Over the course of the year, contributors, editorial staff, and the editorial board have diligently herded 108 articles from idea to various stages of production. Of those articles, thirty are live on the website, and four are queued up and ready to go. Each article undergoes a rigorous double-review process by the board, an internal staff review, and a copyedit before it goes online. New articles include “Herod the Great,” “Herod Antipas,” “Violence in the Hebrew Bible,” “Violence in the New Testament,” “Festivals and Feasts in the Hebrew Bible,” “Sarah,” “Edom,” “Elizabeth,” and “Barrenness,” among many others. Forthcoming articles include “Sheol,” “First Temple,” “Jubilee Year,” and “Solomon.” The Bible Odyssey board and staff have set a goal of posting sixty new articles each year and look forward to reaching that goal in 2019. Plans for 2019 include offering additional maps, tables, images, and timelines.

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# BIBLE ODYSSEY

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## Passages

HOME SEARCH RESULTS VIOLENCE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

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### Violence in the New Testament

by Shelly Matthews

**Is the New Testament a violent book? Is the God of the New Testament less violent than the God of the Old Testament?**

When people imagine an angry male God, dishing out punishments and inflicting suffering, they might identify Him as the *God of the Old Testament*. When asked to consider stories about inflicting harm, even death, upon others in God's name, again, they might think they are in *Old Testament* territory. But the New Testament has its own share of violence committed by both people and God. Christians have sometimes assumed that the ministry of Jesus reflected a radical shift in the nature of God towards peace and love, and away from anger and wrath. Yet, depending on context and point of view, New Testament texts might depict God, and God's people, as peaceful, or violent, or both.



Name-calling is a common type of violence in the New Testament. In response to the fact that many Jews did not believe that Jesus was the messiah, gospel authors told stories of Jesus attacking them in his teaching. In Matt 23:4-36 Jesus derides Pharisees as the vilest of hypocrites. In John 8:44, Jesus calls "the Jews" the "children of the devil." While Jews are commonly the target of such name-calling, polytheists are also attacked. For example, Titus 1:12 dismisses the entire population of Crete as "liars, vicious brutes, lazy gluttons."

New Testament texts often reflect, rather than challenge, the violent household and political structures of the ancient world. Jesus tells parables in which beatings, and even killings, of household slaves are affirmed as disciplinary measures (for example, Luke 12:45-47). Paul warns the Corinthians, that as their "father," he might return to them "with a rod," presumably to beat them (1Cor 4:21). In Gal 5:12, Paul expresses the wish that those who disagree with him on the matter of circumcision might "castrate themselves."

**RELATED ARTICLES (5)**

**Jesus and Politics**  
In their first-century setting, Jesus's message, activity, and execution were not simply religious but political.

**Slavery in the New Testament**  
The New Testament reflects attitudes toward slaves and enslavement prevalent during the Roman Empire.

Bible Odyssey received the most views for 2018 on 10 December, with 11,236 page views by 7,488 users. Users reach Bible Odyssey through traditional computers, smartphones, and tablets (48 percent, 43 percent, and 9 percent, respectively). Articles that have been most popular this year include "What Is the Difference between the Old Testament, the Tanakh, and the Hebrew Bible?" (one of the site's Bible Basics articles), "Sacrifice in Ancient Israel" (a new article for 2018), and "The Crucifixion of Jesus and the Jews." To increase awareness of the range of topics and tools posted to the site, SBL Press will launch a monthly Bible Odyssey newsletter in 2019.

## T-shirts

In 2018, for the first time, SBL Press designed and sold t-shirts at the Annual Meeting. This year's shirt featured Revelation<sup>s</sup> and the *SBL Handbook of Style* blog address (<https://sblhs2.com/>). We hope this becomes an Annual Meeting tradition with next year's t-shirts focusing on Bible Odyssey. The shirts proved to be quite popular, with most selling on the first day and our entire inventory selling out by the end of the meeting. Many members asked that we make the shirts available for sale online, so we launched a Redbubble shop on December 7, showcasing three designs available in various t-shirt styles and colors as well as mugs. In addition to Revelation<sup>s</sup>, the store also has I ♥ Josephus and Women of the New Testament shirts and mugs. Check out the options at the [Redbubble store](#). Proceeds from the shirts and mugs support Press projects, including our open access series *International Voices in Biblical Studies and Ancient Near East Monographs / Monografías Sobre el Antiguo Cercano Oriente*, Bible Odyssey, and other Press initiatives.

Lynn Huber @lhuber01 · 28 Nov 2018  
Excited to be wearing my new #Revelation shirt from @SBLPress: Gearing up to teach next week via Skype for @hokie\_prof #revelationscholar #thisiswhatablescholarlookslike



## 2018 BOOK PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Lori Baron, Jill Hicks-Keeton, and Matthew Thiessen, eds., *The Ways That Often Parted: Essays in Honor of Joel Marcus* (ECL)
- ◆ George Boys-Stones, *L. Annaeus Cornutus: Greek Theology, Fragments, and Testimonia* (WGRW)
- ◆ Michele Cammarosano, *Hittite Local Cults* (WAW)
- ◆ John Coleman Darnell and Colleen Manassa Darnell, *The Ancient Egyptian Netherworld Books* (WAW)
- ◆ Josette Elayi, *Sennacherib, King of Assyria* (ABS)
- ◆ Zev I. Farber and Jacob L. Wright, eds., *Archaeology and History of Eighth-Century Judah* (ANEM)
- ◆ Israel Finkelstein, *Hasmonean Realities behind Ezra, Nehemiah, and Chronicles: Archaeological and Historical Perspectives* (AIL)
- ◆ Kristine Henriksen Garroway, *Growing Up in Ancient Israel: Children in Material Culture and Biblical Texts* (ABS)
- ◆ Mark R. Glanville, *Adopting the Stranger as Kindred in Deuteronomy* (AIL)
- ◆ Esther J. Hamori and Jonathan Stökl, eds., *Perchance to Dream: Dream Divination in the Bible and the Ancient Near East* (ANEM)
- ◆ James R. Harrison and L. L. Welborn, *The First Urban Churches 3: Ephesus* (WGRWSup)
- ◆ James R. Harrison and L. L. Welborn, *The First Urban Churches 4: Roman Philippi* (WGRWSup)
- ◆ Jione Havea, ed., *Sea of Readings: The Bible in the South Pacific* (SemeiaSt)
- ◆ Geoffrey Herman and Jeffrey L. Rubenstein, eds., *The Aggada of the Bavli and Its Cultural World* (BJS)
- ◆ Sara R. Johnson, Rubén R. Dupertuis, and Christine Shea, eds., *Reading and Teaching Ancient Fiction: Jewish, Christian, and Greco-Roman Narratives* (WGRWSup)
- ◆ Daniel Justel, *Infancia y legalidad en el Próximo Oriente antiguo durante el Bronce Reciente (ca. 1500–1100 a. C.)* (ANEM)
- ◆ Tuukka Kauhanen, *Lucifer of Cagliari and the Text of 1–2 Kings* (SCS)
- ◆ Lidia D. Matassa, *Invention of the First-Century Synagogue* (ANEM)
- ◆ Saul M. Olyan and Jacob L. Wright, eds., *Supplementation and the Study of the Hebrew Bible* (BJS)
- ◆ Eric D. Reymond, *Intermediate Biblical Hebrew Grammar: A Student's Guide to Phonology and Morphology* (RBS)
- ◆ Johannes Unsok Ro, *Poverty, Law, and Divine Justice in Persian and Hellenistic Judah* (AIL)
- ◆ Vernon K. Robbins, *Sea Voyages and Beyond: Emerging Strategies in Socio-rhetorical Interpretation* (ESEC)
- ◆ Martin Rösel, *Tradition and Innovation: English and German Studies on the Septuagint* (SCS)
- ◆ David T. Runia and Gregory E. Sterling, eds., *The Studia Philonica Annual XXX, 2018: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism* (SPhiloA)
- ◆ Michael L. Satlow, ed., *Strength to Strength: Essays in Honor of Shaye J. D. Cohen* (BJS)
- ◆ Josef Schmid; Juan Hernández Jr., Garrick V. Allen, and Darius Müller, trans., *Studies in the History of the Greek Text of the Apocalypse: The Ancient Stems* (TCS)
- ◆ Andrew D. Scrimgeour, ed., *Evaluating the Legacy of Robert W. Funk: Reforming the Scholarly Model* (BSNA)
- ◆ Karl Shuve, ed., *Books and Readers in the Premodern World: Essays in Honor of Harry Gamble* (WGRWSup)
- ◆ Anna Rebecca Solevåg, *Negotiating the Disabled Body: Representations of Disability in Early Christian Texts* (ECL)
- ◆ Meredith J. Stone, *Empire and Gender in LXX Esther* (EJL)
- ◆ Hannah M. Strømmen, *Biblical Animality after Jacques Derrida* (SemeiaSt)
- ◆ Andrew Kimseng Tan, *The Rhetoric of Abraham's Faith in Romans 4* (ESEC)
- ◆ L. Michael White and G. Anthony Keddie, *Jewish Fictional Letters from Hellenistic Egypt: The Epistle of Aristaeus and Related Literature* (WGRW)

## SERIAL PUBLICATIONS

*Journal of Biblical Literature*

For *JBL*, 2018 was marked by a significant changes and noteworthy events. First, Adele Reinhartz completed her seventh year as General Editor, one of the longer tenures in *JBL*'s long history, and passed the torch to Mark Brett (see p. 27 above). Second, *JBL*'s publication rate remained steady and strong, with fifty-five articles covering the entire expanse of the field appearing in print and e-versions. Third and last, *JBL* staff prepared a comprehensive report about the state of *JBL*. The report, which can be freely accessed [online](#), assesses *JBL* in terms of four broad categories: submission numbers and demographics; peer-review practices and acceptance rate; production timelines and publication rate; and reception, usage, and impact.

*Review of Biblical Literature*

During 2018, *RBL* published 541 reviews from scholars located in thirty-one different countries: Argentina (1); Australia (24); Austria (10); Belgium (6); Canada (27); Denmark (6); Finland (4); Germany (30); Hungary (1); India (1); Ireland (6); Israel (16); Italy (5); Lithuania (1); Malaysia (1); Mexico (1); the Netherlands (21); New Zealand (3); Nigeria (1); Norway (2); Romania (2); Russia (2); Solomon Islands (1); South Africa (6); Sweden (4); Switzerland (12); Turkey (1); United Arab Emirates (1); the United Kingdom (32); the United States (311); and Venezuela (2).

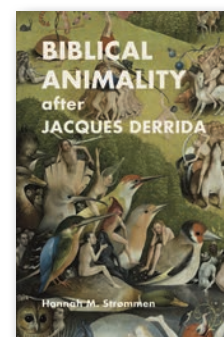
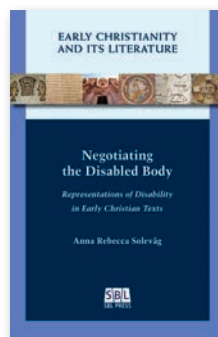
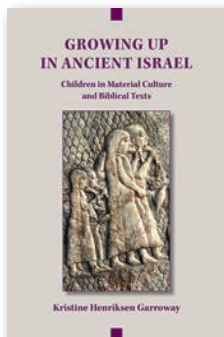
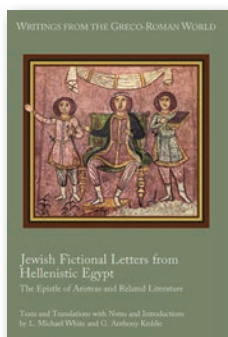
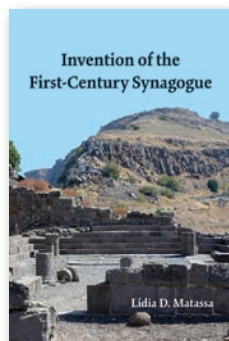
*RBL* also upgraded its weekly newsletter in several important ways. The newsletter is now sent in HTML form, which allows us to offer a much more modern look. More important, our email software provides rich data about how many members receive, view, and open individual links within the newsletter. The ability to count links to individual books is important, since it will allow SBL to develop a well-defined and data-driven picture of member interests.

*TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism*

The 2018 volume of *TC* included both book reviews and articles across the range of textual criticism:

- ◆ Garrick V. Allen, "There Is No Glory and No Money in the Work": H. C. Hoskier and New Testament Textual Criticism
- ◆ Jonathan Hong, In Search of the "Old Greek" in the Septuagint Psalter: A Case Study of LXX Psalms 49 and 103
- ◆ Jesse R. Grenz, Textual Divisions in Codex Vaticanus: A Layered Approach to the Delimiters in B(03)
- ◆ Michael Dormandy, How the Books Became the Bible: The Evidence for Canon Formation from Work-Combinations in Manuscripts
- ◆ Elijah Hixson, Two Codices with a Common Corrector: The Secondary Corrections in N 022 and Σ 042
- ◆ Alan Taylor Farnes, Scribal Habits in P<sup>127</sup> (P.Oxy. 74.4968)

In addition, the process of migrating the *TC* website to SBL's own servers, thus giving it a more permanent home, began in late 2018 and is expected to be completed in early 2019.



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