

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
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Heath Aaron Thomas

Objectives

My passion is illumining the world of the Bible, especially the Old Testament, so that others might experience the drama of the Bible. I employ various methods to achieve this end—teaching, presenting, and publishing. Further, I aim to pursue excellence and develop both as a teacher and scholar of the Old Testament through active participation in the academy.

Education

2003-2007 University of Gloucestershire Cheltenham, UK

- **PhD, Theology and Religious Studies**, Faculty of Humanities
- Supervisors:
 - Prof. J. Gordon McConville, University of Gloucestershire**
 - Dr. Paul Joyce, St. Peter's College, University of Oxford**
- *Overseas Research Student Award*, Presented by Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the UK, 2004—2007.
- Janet Trotter Trust Award (Bursary), 2005.
- June 2004: Research Proposal Formally accepted.
- "Poetry and Theology in Lamentations: An Investigation of Lamentations 1—3 Using the Aesthetic Analysis of Umberto Eco (PhD Thesis: University of Gloucestershire, 2007).

1998-2001 Southwestern Theological Seminary Fort Worth, TX

- **MA, Theology**. Awarded Dec. 2001, *magna cum laude*
- Acceptance of Master's Thesis, Oct. 2001: "YHWH as Life to Israel: A Study of the Laws of Corpse Contamination [In the Hebrew Bible]"
- Fall 2001: Selected by faculty for the *Seminarians Interacting Conference*, hosted by *The National Conference for Community and Justice*, (www.nccj.org)

1994-1998 Oklahoma Baptist University Shawnee, OK

- **BA, English Literature**. Awarded May 1998, *cum laude*.

Experience

Lecturing

- Assistant Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina, USA. (August 2007-Present)
Courses Taught:
 1. Hebrew 1 & 2
 2. Hebrew Syntax and Exegesis
 3. Old Testament Introduction 1 & 2
 4. Old Testament Theology
 5. Biblical Hermeneutics

6. PhD Integrative Seminar: "Theological Presuppositions and Old Testament Study: With a Case Study on the Function of Lament"
 7. PhD Independent Study: "Lament in Ancient Israel: From its Beginnings to the Post-Exilic Period"
 8. MDiv Independent Study: "Lament and Ethics: Old Testament and New Testament Evidence"
- Stipendiary Tutor (lecturer) for taught master's course at the University of Gloucestershire (2005): Old Testament Theology II
 - Hebrew Language Tutor, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1999-2001)
 - Tutor/Grader, Introduction to Philosophy, Oklahoma Baptist University (1995-1998)

Ecclesiastical / Ecumenical

- 2006-2007: Preaching team: Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Cheltenham, UK.
- 2005-2007: Regular minister, taking services twice monthly for All Saints' Anglican Church, Bisley, UK.
- 2005-2008: Curriculum consultant for Intimate Life Ministries (International)
- 1998-2004: Pastoral Associate, First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas.
- 1995-1998: College Associate, Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK.

Books, Articles, Reviews and Presentations

Academic Publications and Presentations

BOOKS

- Heath Thomas and Robin Parry, eds. *Great is Thy Faithfulness? Toward Reading Lamentations as Holy Scripture*. PBM. Milton Keynes, UK: Paternoster. (forthcoming)
- Heath Thomas. *Reading Lamentations with Integrity*. Cambridge, UK: Grove. (forthcoming)

ARTICLES / BOOK CHAPTERS

- Heath Thomas. "The Liturgical Function of the Book of Lamentations." In *Thinking Towards New Horizons. Collected Communications to the XIXth Congress of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament, Ljubljana 2007*. Edited by Matthias Augustin and Hermann Michael Niemann. Beiträge zur Erforschung des alten Testaments und des antiken Judentums. Frankfurt am Main: Lang Verlag, 2008.
- _____. "Comments on Commentaries: Lamentations." *Biblical Studies Bulletin* 49 (September 2008): 3-5.
- _____. "Lamentations & the Trustworthiness of God." *Miqra* 7, 3(2008): 6-11.
- _____. "Lament and the Christian Life." *Miqra* 7, 3(2008): 11-15.
- _____. "Towards a Christian Theology of Lament." In *Biblical Theology: The Next Generation*. Edited by Paul House and Scott Hafemann (forthcoming).
- _____. "Hermeneutics and Lamentations." In *Great is Thy Faithfulness? Toward Reading Lamentations as Holy Scripture*. Edited by Heath Thomas and Robin Parry. PBM. Milton Keynes, UK: Paternoster. (forthcoming)
- _____. "Isaiah 10 in Lamentations." (in preparation)
- _____. "Methodology, Dating, and the Book of Lamentations: An Appeal for an Eclectic Approach." (in preparation).

- _____. "Indicting God: Evidence for Divine Indictment in the Hebrew Bible." (in preparation).
- _____. "Differentiating Prayer and Pain: Psychological Analysis and Lamentations Research." (in preparation)

REVIEWS

- _____. Review of Jill Middlemas, *The Troubles of Templeless Judah*, OTM (Oxford: OUP, 2005). *European Journal of Theology* 16(2007).
- _____. Review of William S. Morrow, *Protest Against God: The Eclipse of a Biblical Tradition*, HBM 4 (Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2006). *European Journal of Theology*. (forthcoming).
- _____. Review of William M. Schniedewind, *How the Bible Became a Book: The Textualization of Ancient Israel* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004). *European Journal of Theology*. (forthcoming).

PRESENTATIONS

- _____. "Reading Lamentations with Daniel Berrigan, SJ." (Paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature North American Congress, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, November 2008). (forthcoming)
- _____. "Towards a Christian Theology of Lamentations." (Paper presented at the University of Gloucestershire TRS Seminar, Cheltenham, UK, 4 December 2008). (forthcoming)
- _____. "Indicting God? Evidence for Divine Indictment in the Old Testament" (Short Presentation at the Tyndale Study Fellowship, Tyndale House, Cambridge, UK, 2 July 2007).
- _____. "The Liturgical Function of the Book of Lamentations" (Paper presented at the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament XIX Congress, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 15-20 July, 2007).
- _____. "Current Trends in the Psychological Analysis of the Book of Lamentations: Prospects and Pitfalls" (Paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature International Congress, Vienna, Austria, 22-26 July, 2007).
- _____. "Aesthetic Theory of Umberto Eco and Lamentations Interpretation" (Paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature International Congress, Edinburgh, Scotland, 3 June 2006).
- _____. "Interpreting Lamentations 1 from the Aesthetic Theory of Umberto Eco" (Paper presented at Religious Studies Seminar of the University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, UK, 1 November 2005).

Other Academic Experience

Participation in Seminars, Congresses, and Consultations

- Committee, Scripture and Hermeneutics Project (Spring 2008—present).
- Attend University of Oxford Theology Faculty Seminars: Old Testament. (Theology Faculty Centre, Oxford UK, 2004-2007).
- SBL On-Site Representative for the University of Gloucestershire (2006-2007).
- XII Joint Postgraduate Conference, University of Bristol (UK). Bristol, England, 17 March 2007.
- Participation in Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Lament in Sacred Texts and Cultures Section, Biblical Hebrew Poetry Section, and presenting at the ISBL Writings and Psychological Criticism sections; Presided over the Biblical Theology Section at ISBL (2006).
- Observer at the Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar. 8th International

Consultation, Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, Italy (23-25 June 2005). The consultation produced *Canon and Biblical Interpretation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006).

- Observer at the Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar. 7th International Consultation, Jesus College, University of Oxford, Oxford UK (2-4 September 2004). The consultation produced *Reading Luke: Interpretation, Reflection, Formation*. eds., Craig Bartholomew, Joel Green, Anthony Thiselton (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005).

Non-Academic Publications

- Contributor, *Impact: The Student Leadership University Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007).
- Sermon writer for Nelson Ministry Services (Thomas Nelson Publishers). Over 50 sermons published in the "Pastor's Study Sermons" program. (full list provided upon request).
- 2004-Present: New Wine Bible Institute Curriculum Writer, Lamentations Module (forthcoming).

Future Plans

Teach, publish, and present on Hebrew lament poetry as well as biblical theology, and Old Testament literature, especially of the exilic period; relate the implications of the Hebrew lament tradition to a Christian theology of suffering.

Interests

Spending time with my wife (Jill), sons (Harrison & Simon), and daughter (Isabelle), fly-fishing, and travelling. I enjoy reading the fiction of Umberto Eco and Paulo Coelho as well as seeing a good movie.

References

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(Letters of reference available upon request)