

BIBLICAL STUDIES RESOURCE PROJECT FOR EXEGESIS OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE: Part 3

Torah – Winter 2017 – Dr. Sara Koenig

This final part of your exegetical project is due finals week (before you leave for spring break), and the following steps should result in a paper of about 10-12 pages. On the day of the final exam, March 15th, you should be prepared to share a BRIEF summary of your entire project, but especially the conclusion, with the class.

At this point, it is better to write out your paper in paragraphs, instead of using bullet points. Also, be careful to distinguish between what the authors of these texts say (i.e. the reformers, the contemporary sources, etc.) and what you think about what they say. In other words, be careful to be clear with your sources. For this final project, tie your research in with what you have previously researched. For example, if you see trends in the Reformers (or in contemporary works) that agree or disagree with your word studies, or your studies of the Talmud/Midrash, note those.

Also, this project will be graded as per usual, but will also be assessed—independent of your grade—to see how the class has enabled you to meet the SOT Undergraduate Learning Outcome #2: demonstrate an understanding of the Bible as Scripture and develop skills and practices of biblical interpretation that illustrate a discerning use of Scripture.

1. HISTORY OF INTERPRETATION: THE REFORMERS

- You have already reviewed your text in ancient Judaism and early Christianity; now take it further in history to the reformers. Look at what Martin Luther, John Calvin OR John Wesley had to say about your text. Some are available online at <http://www.ccel.org/> ; others can be found in the library. Reflect on what they have to say about your pericope in two to three paragraphs, noting where you agree and where you disagree. Include the source (completely cited) in your bibliography.

2. CONTEMPORARY COMMENTARIES

- These are scholarly works which enable you to study biblical books and passages in a verse-by-verse analysis. Commentaries come in many different forms; some are single-volume editions covering the bible as a whole, others interpret individual books for pastors and laypeople, and still others are written for scholars. There are the following:

Single-Volume Commentaries	Shorter, Accessible Commentaries	In-Depth Scholarly Commentaries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>HarperCollins Bible Commentary</i><i>Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible</i><i>Interpreters' One Volume Commentary on the Bible</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Interpretation</i><i>New Interpreter's Bible Commentary</i><i>New Century Bible Commentary</i><i>JPS Bible Commentary</i><i>New International Commentary on the Old Testament (NICOT)</i><i>Old Testament Library (OTL)</i>^x<i>Westminster Bible Companion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Anchor Bible Commentary</i><i>Hermeneia</i><i>International Critical Commentary</i><i>Sacra Pagina</i><i>Smith and Helwys</i><i>Word Biblical Commentary</i>

- Choose three commentaries**— one from each column— and read what they have to say about your pericope. Then do the following:
 - Summarize the significant points of the commentary.
 - Be certain to draw in information you have gleaned from your work in parts 1 and 2.
 - Include each in your bibliography.
- It would be very easy to go overboard; only *summarize*. You should be able to do this in 3-4 pages.

^x If you are doing something from Exodus, Dr. Koenig HIGHLY recommends Brevard Childs' commentary.

3. CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

- You are the first set of students I've asked to look into this, but as our world becomes increasingly smaller, we need to intentionally pay attention to how people in different parts of the world than the United States and Europe have read biblical texts. So, please look for an author from the global south or east who has written on your text. Your first step should be to look at Mark Roncace and Joseph Weaver's *Global Perspectives on the Old Testament* which will be available in Reference by Nov 20. If you can't find an essay in there, look on ATLA. Write a brief summary of what you read, and what you think about it.

4. MONOGRAPHS AND ARTICLES

- Monographs, strictly speaking, are full-length books written about a single subject; articles are shorter studies on a single subject which can be found in monographs or in periodicals. For this step, *read* one article or monograph, about something in your passage that is most compelling to you. *Summarize* it in three to four paragraphs.
 1. Though there are quite a few different search mechanisms for finding relevant articles and books written on your pericope, three in particular will probably be most valuable to you.
 - Many commentaries include brief bibliographies for each pericope analyzed, and they typically include the most important scholarly contributions to the passage studied.
 - ATLA is a good search engine; if you have not used it before, please ask for help.
 - Steve Perisho. Seriously—ask him for help.

NOTE: you may need to get your article from ILL, or another local library (SU has a good theological library), so don't wait to do this!

- Then, create a bibliography for further study, of 10-20 books and articles relevant to your passage. You do not have to read these, just have a list of articles or books you would like to study if you were going to spend more than a quarter working on this text. Especially note any article or book that is named in all three of your commentaries.
- Note the following excellent OT journals; those marked with * are suitable for beginning students:

* <i>Bible Review (BR)</i>	* <i>Expository Times (ExpT)</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the</i>
<i>Biblica (Bib)</i>	* <i>Horizons in Biblical Theology</i>	<i>Old Testament (JSOT)</i>
* <i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>	<i>(HBT)</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum (VT)</i>
<i>(BTB)</i>	* <i>Interpretation (Int)</i>	<i>Semeia (Semeia)</i>
<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>	
<i>(CBQ)</i>	<i>(JBL)</i>	
* <i>Evangelical Quarterly (EQ)</i>		

4. CONTEMPORARY/CULTURAL RECEPTION OF YOUR TEXT

- How has your passage been received in "cultural products" (literature, art, music, film, pop-culture, cultural events, politics, etc.), or which ones might you use to help interpret this passage to a contemporary audience? Come up with as many as you can. This can be in list form, though it would be appropriate to include some commentary on the ones you find most insightful.

5. CONTEMPORARY DISCIPLESHIP

- Based on all the work you've done thus far, this is where the payoff comes. Write a short concluding section of 4-5 pages:
 1. How would you sum up the exegetical "point" of the passage? What is its basic, "plain sense" meaning? Write this in one substantial paragraph.
 - a. *Please do not make it so general that it would apply to any text!!*
 2. What central theological message might this passage present to 21st century North American Christians? What is this text calling us to today, pragmatically speaking? Write this in one or two paragraphs.
 3. What methodology has helped you get at your point/message the best? Why?
 4. What concrete examples might be offered to people of faith who seek to live out this passage in their lives? What people (past or present, personal relations or famous figures) have embodied this text?
 5. How has this study affected you personally?

Please use the SBL Handbook of Style's guidelines for your bibliography and footnotes.