

# WILLIAM L. LYONS, PH.D.

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Oral Roberts University  
Tulsa, OK 74171

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Religions of Western Antiquity, Florida State University (2003)

M.A., Hebrew and Semitic Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison (1989)

M.A., B.A., Biblical Literature, Oral Roberts University (1984, 1979)

**ACADEMIC SPECIALIZATION:** Hebrew Bible/Old Testament; Semitic Studies; Religious Studies

**TEACHING COMPETENCE:** Ancient Near Eastern History, Religion, and Literature; Hebrew Bible/Old Testament; Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Literature; Jewish and Christian Religious Ethics; History of Jewish and Christian Biblical Interpretation; Jews, Christians, and War; Women's Studies and the Bible; Judaism (ancient and modern); Holocaust Studies; Philo and Josephus; Early Christian Literature and New Testament; World Religions; Islam; Syro-Palestinian Archaeology; Judaism in the Graeco-Roman World

**LANGUAGES:** Biblical Hebrew; Aramaic; Syriac; Ugaritic; Phoenician and Canaanite Dialects; Biblical Greek; French and German (reading knowledge)

## SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

The research component of the Museum of the Bible, Washington, DC

Semitic Consultant; ORU Co-Coordinator; Mentor for Graduate and Undergraduate Students

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Assistant Professor

Oral Roberts University, Theology Department, Tulsa, OK (Spring 2014–present)

- B.A. Courses: Biblical Hebrew (1 and 2); Biblical Hebrew Exegesis; Biblical Aramaic; Old Testament Introduction; Survey of Old Testament Literature (500+ student Gen. Ed. class); Pentateuch; Old Testament Historical Books; Hebrew Prophets; Psalms and Wisdom Literature; Jewish Perspectives on the Bible; Senior Paper
- B.A. Courses Online: Survey of Old Testament Literature (Gen. Ed. class); Old Testament Introduction; Pentateuch; Psalms & Wisdom Literature

Oral Roberts University, School of Theology (Seminary), Tulsa, OK (Spring 2014–present)

- M.A. Courses: Biblical Aramaic; Syriac; Advanced Aramaic and Syriac (Advanced Languages Concentration)

### Assistant Professor

Regent University, College of Arts and Sciences, Virginia Beach, VA (2007–13)

- B.A. Courses: Old Testament Studies; New Testament Studies; Study of the Prophets; Biblical Archaeology; Wisdom Literature; Psalms (developed both Wisdom Literature and Psalms courses for both online and on-campus); Theological Writing and Research; Worldviews; King James Bible (400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Seminar); Senior Seminar

### Adjunct Professor

Regent University, School of Divinity, Virginia Beach, VA (2011–13)

- M.A. and M.Div. Courses: Advanced Hebrew
- Ph.D. Course: Seminar

### Adjunct Professor

Florida State University, Department of Religion, Tallahassee, FL (2006–07)

- B.A. Courses: Introduction to the Old Testament; Hebrew Bible Prophets

### Visiting Professor/Administrator and Grant Writer

Center for Biblical Studies, Tallahassee, FL (2005–06)

- B.A. Courses: Introduction to the Old Testament; Hebrew Bible Prophets; Christians and War; The Psalms: Yesterday and Today
- Research, prepare, submit, track grant proposals

### Visiting Professor

Florida A&M University, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Tallahassee, FL (2003–05)

- B.A. Courses: Introduction to the Old Testament; Introduction to the New Testament; Contemporary Religious Thought

### Graduate Fellow

Florida State University, Department of Religion, Tallahassee, FL (1996–2003)

- B.A. Courses: Introduction to the Old Testament; Hebrew Bible Prophets; Death and Dying (TA)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

**Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year**, ORU College of Theology & Ministry (2016)

**Distinguished Visitor USS George H. W. Bush Aircraft Carrier**, representing the Regent University Office of Military Affairs (April 2013)

Dean's nominee for **Outstanding Teaching Award**, Regent University School of Undergraduate Studies (2009)

**Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award**, Florida State University (2000)

**Dissertation Research Grant** Recipient, Florida State University (2000)

**Graduate Teaching Assistantship** (1996–2003)

## PUBLICATIONS

Lyons, William L. "What's So Holy about *Holy War*?' Moving Beyond the Current Discussion." (Forthcoming.)

\_\_\_\_\_. "Extending the Right Hand: An Important Yet Overlooked Defining Action of the Nascent Church." *Festschrift for The Reverend Doctor Moses Kumar Balla*. Hyderabad, India. (Forthcoming.)

\_\_\_\_\_. Review of Brad E. Kelle, Frank Ritchel Ames, and Jacob L. Wright, eds. *Warfare, Symbol, and Ritual in Biblical and Modern Contexts*. *Review of Biblical Literature* (July 2015).

\_\_\_\_\_. *A History of Modern Scholarship on the Biblical Word Herem: The Contributions of Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., Peter C. Craigie, and Tremper Longman, III*. Edwin Mellen Press, Lampeter, UK: Edwin Mellen Press, 2010. (ISBN: 9780773438347)

\_\_\_\_\_. Review of Heath A. Thomas, Jeremy Evans, and Paul Copan, eds. *Holy War in the Bible: Christian Morality and an Old Testament Problem*. *Theological Studies*, 75.2 (2014): 2.

\_\_\_\_\_. Review of Anne Porter and Glenn M. Schwartz, eds. *Sacred Killing: The Archaeology of Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East*. *Review of Biblical Literature* (November 2014).

\_\_\_\_\_. Review of Yitzhak Feder, *Blood Expiation in Hittite and Biblical Ritual*. *Review of Biblical Literature* (April 2013).

\_\_\_\_\_. Review of Feidhlimidh T. Magennis, *First and Second Samuel*. *New Collegeville Bible Commentary*. *Review of Biblical Literature* (August 2012).

\_\_\_\_\_. "Foreword." In *Women in the Biblical World: A Survey of Perspectives from the Old and New Testaments*. Volume 2. Edited by Elizabeth A. McCabe. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2011. (ISBN: 978-0761846772)

\_\_\_\_\_. Review of Lee Roy Martin, *The Unheard Voice of God: A Pentecostal Hearing of the Book of Judges*. *Pneuma* 32 (2010): 150–51.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Rahab in Rehab: Christian Interpretation of the Madame from Jericho." Pages 31–42 in *Women in the Biblical World: A Survey of Perspectives from the Old and New Testaments*. Edited by Elizabeth A. McCabe. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2009. (ISBN: 978-0761846772)

- \_\_\_\_\_. Review of M. Daniel Carroll, and Jacqueline E. Lapsley, eds., *Character Ethics and the Old Testament: Moral Dimensions of Scripture*. *Journal of Theological Studies* 60 (2009): 224–27.
- \_\_\_\_\_. “[Rahab through the Ages: A Study of Christian Interpretation of Rahab](#).” Leonard Greenspoon, ed. *Society of Biblical Literature Forum* (September 2008). (Online publication of a paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 2007.)
- \_\_\_\_\_. Review of John H. Walton, *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible*. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 70 (2008): 583–4.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Review of Paul E. Brown, *The Holy Spirit & the Bible: The Spirit's Interpreting Role in Relation to Biblical Hermeneutics*. *Pneuma* 29 (2007): 148–9.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Review of Louis H. Feldman, *Remember Amalek! Vengeance, Zealotry, and Group-Discussion in the Bible According to Philo, Pseudo-Philo, and Josephus*. *Journal of Theological Studies* 58 (2007): 168–71.
- \_\_\_\_\_. “You Say ‘Who Wrote the Old Testament?’ Teaching the Documentary Hypothesis to Skeptical Students.” *Teaching the Bible: Practical Strategies for Classroom Instruction*. Patrick Gray and Mark Roncase, eds. Atlanta: SBL Resources for Biblical Studies Series, 49, 2005. (ISBN: 978-9004137714)
- \_\_\_\_\_. “[To PowerPoint or Not to PowerPoint: Is There Another Way to Utilize Computer Tools in the Classroom?](#)” *SBL Forum*. Leonard Greenspoon, ed. *Society of Biblical Literature Forum* (August 2005).
- \_\_\_\_\_. Review of Stanley N. Gundry, ed., *Show Them No Mercy: 4 Views on God and Canaanite Genocide*. *Review of Biblical Literature* (July 2004).
- \_\_\_\_\_. Review of Katherine Dell, *Get Wisdom, Get Insight: An Introduction to Israel's Wisdom Literature*. *Journal of Religion and Society* 3 (2001).
- \_\_\_\_\_. Review of Walter A. Elwell and J. D. Weaver, eds. *Bible Interpreters of the 20th Century*. *Review of Biblical Literature* (October 2000).
- \_\_\_\_\_. Review of Lori G. Beaman, *Shared Beliefs, Different Lives: Women's Identities in Evangelical Context*. *Journal of Religion and Society* 2 (2000).

## PRESENTATIONS

- Lyons, William L. “Science Fiction and Theology: Sin and Forgiveness.” Session Chair at the ORU Science and Science Fiction Conference: “Science and the Imagination.” Tulsa, OK (April 2015).
- \_\_\_\_\_. “Where Do We Go from Here? An Initial Proposal for Advancing the Discussion of *Herem*.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. Lakeland, FL (March 2015).
- \_\_\_\_\_. “Psalms and Biblical Poetry.” Session Chair at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. Lakeland, FL (March 2014).
- \_\_\_\_\_. “The Problem of *Herem* through the Lens of Jewish Interpretation Across the Centuries.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. Springfield, MO (March 2014).
- \_\_\_\_\_. “Origen, Augustine, and *Herem* in the Hebrew Bible.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion. Greenville, SC (March 2013).
- \_\_\_\_\_. Book review and discussion of Jacqueline Grey, *Three's a Crowd: Pentecostalism, Hermeneutics, and the Old Testament*. Regent University Ph.D. Summer Symposium. Virginia Beach (June 2012).
- \_\_\_\_\_. “The Forgotten Casualty: Children and the So-Called *Total War* in the Hebrew Bible” (revised). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA (March 2012).

- \_\_\_\_\_. "Biblical Studies." Session Chair at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. Virginia Beach, VA (March 2012).
- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Problem of *Herem*: A Review of Jewish Interpretation Across the Centuries." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. San Francisco, CA (November 2011).
- \_\_\_\_\_. "What's So Holy about *Holy War*?" Paper presented at the Baltimore-Washington Regional Meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association. The Catholic University of America. Washington, DC (February 2011).
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Does God 'Appreciate Human Sacrifice?' *Herem* and Sacrifice in the Hebrew Bible" (Revised). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. New Orleans, LA (November 2009).
- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Forgotten Casualty: Children and *Herem* in the Hebrew Bible." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. New Orleans, LA (November 2009).
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Integrating Faith & Learning," Workshop Facilitator/Speaker, Regent University Fall Faculty Workshop, Virginia Beach, VA (August 2009).
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Does God 'Appreciate Human Sacrifice?' Susan Niditch Revisited" (Revised). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion. Durham, NC (March 2009).
- \_\_\_\_\_. A Response to Wonsuk Ma's Paper: "The Roadmap to Restoration: A Pentecostal Contribution to Old Testament Studies." Spirit & Scripture Symposium, Regent University School of Divinity, Virginia Beach, VA (October 2008).
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Does God 'Appreciate Human Sacrifice?' Susan Niditch Revisited." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. Durham, NC (March 2008).
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Johannine Studies." Session Chair at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. Durham, NC (March 2008).
- \_\_\_\_\_. Regent College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Research Colloquium. "Between History and Theology: The Problem of *Herem* in Modern Evangelical Biblical Scholarship." Virginia Beach, VA (April 2008).
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Rahab through the Ages: A Study of Christian Interpretation of Rahab." Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion. San Diego, CA (November 2007).
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Can 'Holy War' Be Holy? Gerhard von Rad Revisited." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. Cleveland, TN (March 2007).
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Between History and Theology: The Problem of *Herem* in Modern Evangelical Biblical Scholarship." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion. Atlanta (March 2006).
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Three Interpretations of *Herem*." FSU Symposium: Religion and Society. Tallahassee, FL (March 2003).
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Rahab and Her Interpreters: A Study of the History of Christian Interpretation of Rahab." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion. Charlotte, NC (March 2001).

#### **PRE-PUBLICATIONS PEER REVIEWS FOR PUBLISHERS**

- Lyons, William. L. Pre-Publication Peer Review: "Possessions and Identity: Job's Problems and Ours." Available from [Religions](#), May 2016.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Pre-Publication Peer Review: *Patriarchal Murders of Women: A Sociological Study of Honour-Based Killings in Turkey and in the West*. Available from [Edwin Mellen Press](#). January 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_. Pre-Publication Peer Review: “Minding Your Ps & Qs: A Question of Beginnings”: A Review of Jonathan Burnside, *Justice and Society: Aspects of Law and Legality in the Bible*. Available from [Political Theology](#). June 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_. Pre-Publication Peer Review: *Sacrificial Rhetoric in the Prophetic Literature*. Available from [Edwin Mellen Press](#). June 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_. Pre-Publication Peer Review: *Parables and Fables as Distinctive Jewish Literary Genres: The Origins and Structure of Indirect Speech about God*. Available from [Edwin Mellen Press](#). January 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_. Pre-Publication Peer Review: *Blood in Hebrews*. Available from [Edwin Mellen Press](#). January 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_. Pre-Publication Peer Review: *Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Available from Thompson Wadsworth Publishers, May 2002.

## DOCTORAL EXAMINATIONS

- (1) Methods and Issues in Religious Studies
- (2) Methods and Issues in Religious Studies (Special Area: Biblical Studies)
- (3) Survey of Christian Tradition: Scripture and Interpretation
- (4) Survey of Christian Tradition (Special Area: The Bible and War)
- (5) Second Tradition: Judaism (ancient and modern, including Holocaust Studies)

## DISSERTATION

Title: *Between History and Theology: The Problem of Herem in Modern Evangelical Biblical Scholarship*.

Summary: Examines the interpretation of *Herem* (the “ban” or sometimes called “holy war”) by three prominent Old Testament scholars: Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., Peter C. Craigie, and Tremper Longman, III.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion  
 Biblical Archaeological Society  
 Catholic Biblical Association  
 Society of Biblical Literature  
 Society for Pentecostal Studies  
 Ordination: International Pentecostal Holiness Church

## ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Oral Roberts University (Spring 2014–Present)

- Writing Across the Curriculum Committee (2016–2018)
- Department Committees: Curriculum Committee; Public Relations Committee (2014–present)

Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA (2007–13)

- Dean candidate (finalist), School of Arts & Sciences (Spring 2011)
- University-wide Curriculum Review Committee (2009–12)
- Curriculum Committee (Chair 2009–12; Member (2008–12)
- Curriculum Development: develop two new bachelor’s degrees; full revision of a third degree (2008)
- Residential College Transition Committee: strategic planning and implementation (2008–09)
- Religion Department Faculty Search Committee (2008–09); additional Faculty Search Committees (2009–11)
- Valedictorian Selection Committee (Chair 2011–12)
- Mentor for New Adjunct Faculty (2008–13)
- University Student Recruitment trips (2008–09)
- Department of Religion & Philosophy “Faculty Chats”: Initiated and lead quarterly Departmental faculty research discussions (beginning Fall 2009–13)

Accreditation Reviews (onsite):

- [American Council on Education](#), Baltimore, MD (January 2016; January 2013; October 2012)
- [Massachusetts Department of Higher Education](#), Boston (October 2012)
- American Council on Education, Indianapolis, IN (March 2012)

- American Council on Education, Columbus, OH (December 2010)

#### Accreditation Reviews (virtual):

- American Council on Education, virtual reviews via ACE's secure portal (May 2015; March 2015; July 2013; June 2013; February 2013)

#### Grant Development

- Grant Writer, Leon High School Choral Department, Tallahassee, FL (Executive Board Member; parent volunteer)  
\$350,000 State of Florida, Bureau of Historical Preservation: Historic Preservation Grant (2007–08)  
\$50,000 State of Florida, Bureau of Historical Preservation: Historic Preservation Grant (2006–07)
- Center for Biblical Studies, Tallahassee, FL (2005–06)  
Developed grant proposals to fund this community biblical studies resource

#### Banking Operations

- Woodland Bank, Tulsa, OK (1981–85): Teller manager; Drive-up windows manager; ATM machines manager; experience in all areas of banking operations
- Bank One, Madison, WI (1985–89): Teller

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

#### Scholar Consultant:

Executive Committee of the IPHC: "Scholars of the Church" serving the Office of the Presiding Bishop (2012–present)  
*Superbook* (2009–13), see "The New Superbook: Capturing the Heart of the Next Generation." *Frontlines* (October 2010): 4–5.

#### Oral Roberts University Committees:

Writing Across the Curriculum Committee (2016–18)  
University Committee: Curriculum Game Changers (2014–present)  
Departmental Committees: Curriculum Committee; Public Relations Committee (2014–present)

Regent University Committees: Valedictorian Selection Committee (Chair 2011–12); Curriculum Committee (2008–2013; Chair 2009–11); CIRC (Curriculum in Review Committee [2009–11]); Residential College Committee (2008–09); Religion Department Faculty Search Committee (2008–09)

#### Faculty Advisor, Regent University (2007–12)

Started the College of Arts and Sciences Religion Club

Grant Writer, Leon High School Choral Department, Tallahassee, FL (Executive Board Member; parent volunteer)  
\$350,000 State of Florida, Bureau of Historical Preservation: Historic Preservation Grant (2007–08)  
\$50,000 State of Florida, Bureau of Historical Preservation: Historic Preservation Grant (2006–07)

#### Faculty Student Club Advisor, Florida State University (2006–07)

Global Humanitarian Volunteers; Ekklesia

#### Faculty Student Club Advisor, Florida A&M University (2003–05)

Started the FAMU Undergraduate Religion Club

#### President, FSU Graduate Students in Religion, (1998–2001)

Founding President, club sponsors the "FSU Symposium" with participants from around the nation

### COMMUNITY SERVICE (TEACHING)

#### Guest Lecturer

Life Christian Foundation, Vanderbijlpark, South Africa (October 2015)

- Topic: Old Testament Introduction (week-long intensive study for church planters from Namibia and Zimbabwe) with Global Equip

#### Guest Speaker/Instructor

Galilee Episcopal Church, Virginia Beach, VA (2010–15)

- Guest Homilist
- Lenten Adult Studies Series Speaker
- Adult Christian Education Teacher (90+ participants)

#### Guest Teacher/Keynote Speaker

Guatemalan Pastors' Conference, Retalhuleu, Guatemala (March 2011)

- Topic: Old Testament Wisdom Literature

#### **Guest Lecturer**

Gulf-Atlantic Diocese of the Anglican Church, Thomasville, GA (January 2011)

- Continuing Clergy Education: Study of Old Testament Prophets

#### **Special Guest Lecturer**

International Pentecostal Holiness Church, India (November 2006 and January 2007)

- Multiple speaking engagements in venues around the country (New Delhi, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, etc.) celebrating IPHC's 85 years of ministry in India during two different trips to the sub-continent.

#### **Instructor**

Galilee Episcopal Church, Virginia Beach, VA (2010–present)

- Course: Introduction to the Old Testament

St. Peter's Anglican Church, Tallahassee, FL (2006–07)

- Courses: Reading the Old Testament Today; Old Testament Prophets

St. John's Episcopal Church, Tallahassee, FL (2001–05)

- Courses: Old Testament Ethics: Ancient Words for a Modern World; Isaiah: Prophet of the Ages; The Psalter: Yesterday and Today; Introduction to the Old Testament

#### **Scholar in Residence**

Faith Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, FL (1999)

- Course: The Psalms: Worship in the Vernacular of Everyday Life

#### **Guest Teacher/Keynote Speaker**

Guest speaker/teacher at the opening ceremonies of a new church in Tchaikovsky, Russia. (October 1995)

#### **Pastor/Teacher**

Christian Heritage Church, Tallahassee, FL (1992–96)

- Traditional pastoral ministry. Designed and taught multiple courses to meet the needs of a growing congregation.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE (ACTIVITIES)**

Delegate: IPHC Quadrennial General Conference, Dallas, TX (July 2013)

Salvation Army Christmas gift distribution, Virginia Beach, VA (2008–12)

Delegate: Virginia IPHC Annual State Conference (Chesapeake, VA June 2010; Elizabeth City, NC October 2013)

Community Coastal Church, Guest Lecturer on Judaism, Virginia Beach, VA (March 2009)

Executive Board Member & Grant Writer, Leon High School Friends of Music, Inc., Tallahassee, FL (2005–08)

Royal Rangers Boy's Club, Outpost Commander; Lt. Commander, Tallahassee, FL (1993–2007)

Keynote Speaker: Florida Victims of Violent Crime Annual Interfaith Memorial Service (April 1994)

Tallahassee Parks and Recreation Department, Soccer and Baseball Coach (1994–2005)