

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 (400th 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

President's Research Fund Award (2016–17)

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.)

_____. *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)

_____. "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).

_____. 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 2015).
- _____. "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: *Strangers at the Gate: Biblical Narratives of Israelites and their Neighbors*. Available from [Routledge](#), August 2016.
- _____. 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)