



Society of Biblical Literature

Journal of Biblical Literature

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

1. General Information

1.1 All articles and critical notes submitted for publication are expected to conform to the requirements set forth here. If a manuscript departs from these instructions in major ways, it may be returned to the author for corrections before it is considered for publication. A PDF of the manuscript should be submitted in what the author intends as its final form. *JBL* no longer accepts manuscripts submitted in hardcopy. The confidential nature of the submission will be protected. Only one article or note may be submitted at a time. Send submissions in PDF format by email attachment to: JBL.submissions@sbl-site.org.

1.2 Save for the specific instructions given below, the directives of *The SBL Handbook of Style* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1999) are to be followed, supplemented by *The Chicago Manual of Style: Sixteenth Edition* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003). The American style of spelling is to be used, and the preferred authorities on spelling are *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (10th ed.; Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 1993) and *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged* (Springfield, MA: G. and C. Merriam, 1967). When there is more than one way of spelling a word, the first one listed in these authorities should be used.

1.3 Authors of articles selected for publication will receive first page proofs, which they are expected to read carefully, check against the manuscript, correct, and return promptly.

2. Submission

2.1 The manuscript should be sent as a pdf by email attachment.

2.2 A cover page should be the first page of the pdf and should include:

a) The name and address of the author. The author's name should not appear on the manuscript itself.

b) A statement certifying that the article is not being submitted simultaneously to another journal. Articles that have appeared or are to appear elsewhere, whether in English or in another language, should not be submitted.

c) The title of the article. The article title should also be repeated at the beginning of the manuscript.

d) An abstract of 150 to 250 words.

3. Form of the Manuscript

3.1 The maximum length of a submission is 10,000 words. This is the equivalent of about 38-40 pages that meets the specifications in 2.4. Pages should be of standard size. Legal-size paper is not to be used.

3.2 Manuscripts should be double-spaced and in 12-point font, including footnotes. Indented quotations may be single-spaced. Margins of at least 1 1/4 in. are to be left on all edges of the paper.

3.3 Words to be printed in italics (e.g., titles of books and periodicals, foreign words) should be italicized in the manuscript. Words and letters to be printed in caps should appear in caps in the manuscript. Letters to be printed in small caps (e.g., B.C.E., C.E., MS, MSS) should appear in that fashion in the manuscript.

3.4 Special material (e.g., lists, tables, diagrams) should be included in the manuscript where they are to appear the main text, using your word processor's tables function.

3.5 In articles or critical notes discussing biblical verses, the author should provide the reader with the text of the verse (at least in an English translation) at the beginning of the discussion.

3.6 Overcapitalization is to be avoided (e.g., biblical, temple). See *The SBL Handbook of Style*, Appendix A.

4. Quotations

4.1 Quotations of five or more lines in any language will be printed as a separate indented paragraph, in smaller type than that used in the body of the article, and without opening and closing quotation marks. Quotations should appear in that fashion in the manuscript.

4.2 Respect for accuracy in verbatim quotations demands that the spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviations of the original be reproduced exactly, even if they differ from the style of this journal. Should a quotation contain an error, this may be indicated by [*sic*] or [?], at the author's discretion.

5. Footnotes

5.1 Authors should use the footnote function of their word processor to create the footnotes (please do not use endnotes). Footnotes should be in 12-point font and double-spaced. A raised arabic numeral (without punctuation or parentheses) should follow the appropriate sentence in the main text (and its punctuation, if any) to call attention to the note. Footnote references should be placed at the end of the sentence to which it belongs.

5.2 Multiple notes within one sentence should be avoided. For example, when several names occur in one sentence and a bibliographical reference is to be given for each, only one footnote should be used (not a separate footnote for each name). This should be placed at the end of the sentence and should include the pertinent reference for each name.

5.3 When a note comments on an issue and includes a bibliographical reference within a sentence, the reference should be set entirely within parentheses, not commas, and if possible at the end of the sentence. Example: But Charles C. Torrey thinks that the name “Cyrus” has been interpolated in Isa 45:1 (“The Messiah Son of Ephraim,” *JBL* 66 [1947]: 253).

5.4 Footnotes should include the full name of the author cited, unless the author only uses initials.

6. Bibliographical References

See *The SBL Handbook of Style*, §§7.1, 7.2, 7.3.

7. Hebrew, Greek, etc.

7.1 Ordinarily, Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, and Coptic—whether a block of material is quoted or just a word or phrase—should not be transliterated, but given in the proper characters. The unpointed consonantal text of Hebrew or Aramaic is to be used, unless the argument calls for the vocalized form of the words.

7.2 Whether or not one transliterates, an English translation should normally accompany at least the first occurrence of any Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, or Coptic word.

7.3 In cases where transliteration seems appropriate, the systems specified in *The SBL Handbook of Style*, §§5.1–9, should be used.

8. Citations of Ancient Texts and Abbreviations of Ancient Texts

See *The SBL Handbook of Style*, §§8.1, 8.2, 8.3.

9. Abbreviations of Commonly Used Periodicals, Reference Works, and Serials

See *The SBL Handbook of Style*, §8.4. Titles not found in this list are to be written out in full.

(rev. date 01/20/12)