

BRENNAN W. BREED

Associate Professor of Old Testament
Columbia Theological Seminary
701 S. Columbia Dr., Decatur, GA 30030
Phone: (404) 687-4553 Email: breedb@ctsnet.edu
Office: 306 Richards Center

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2019-	Associate Professor of Old Testament and Director of the Quality Enhancement Plan, Columbia Theological Seminary
2012-2019	Assistant Professor of Old Testament and Director of the Quality Enhancement Plan, Columbia Theological Seminary
2011-12	Adjunct Instructor, Columbia Theological Seminary
2009-10	Adjunct Instructor, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

EDUCATION

2012	Ph.D., Emory University
2006	M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary
2001	B.A., University of Virginia

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Underground Current: The Ptolemaic Administrative Imaginary. Coauthored with Davis Hankins. Draft completed and submitted for review by September 15th, 2024.

Nomadic Text: A Theory of Biblical Reception History. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2014. Awarded the Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise, 2016.

Carol A. Newsom with Brennan W. Breed. *Daniel: A Commentary*. Old Testament Library series. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2014.

Edited Works

Reading Other Peoples' Texts: Identity Formation and the Reception of Authoritative Traditions. Edited by Ken Brown, Alison Joseph, and Brennan Breed. London: T&T Clark, 2020.

Writing the Moral Self: Essays in Honor of Carol A. Newsom. Special Issue of the *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*. Volume 40:1, September 2015. Edited by Robert Williamson, Davis Hankins, and Brennan Breed.

Journal Articles

- "Mediation and Totality: A Reconsideration of Qohelet among the Philosophers." Under review. Coauthored with Davis Hankins.
- "Aerosol Transmission: Theorizing Reception History in Light of a Global Pandemic with Ecclesiastes 1:2." Under review.
- "What is Qohelet's Problem?" Under review. Coauthored with Davis Hankins.
- "Holy, Wholly, Holey: Ecclesiastes 4:17–5:6 in Text and Tradition." *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 86 (2024): 700–721. Coauthored with Davis Hankins.
- "Psalm 91: Confidence in the Face of Terror." *Journal for Preachers* 44 (2020): 26–33.
- "Daniel's Four Kingdom Schema: A History of Re-writing World History." *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 71 (2017): 178–189.
- "Reading Job as a Kierkegaardian Text: The Incarnation of Indirect Discourse." *Biblical Interpretation* 24 (2016): 127–152.
- "A Divided Tongue: The Moral Taste Buds of the Book of Daniel." *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 40 (2015): 313–330.
- "Bringing the Case before the LORD: A North American Perspective on the Bible and Human Sexuality." *Journal of African Christian Thought* 16 (2013): 19–24.
- "Nomadology of the Bible: A Processual Approach to Biblical Reception History." *Biblical Reception* 1 (2012): 299–322.

Book Chapters

- "The Double Articulation of Reception History: The Example of Exodus 4:24–26." In *Biblical Reception: Methods and Models*. Edited by Hannah Strømmen. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature. In press.
- "Delighting in an Argument with God: Job's Speeches and the Great Complaint." Pages 111–130 in *Hiobs Reden: Zwischen Selbstreflexion, Klage und Streit*. Edited by Anja Marschall. Leipzig: Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 2024.
- "The Reception History of Isaiah: Unsealing the Book." Pages 326–344 in *The Cambridge Companion to the Book of Isaiah*. Edited by Christopher Hays. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024.
- "The Politics of Time: Epistemic Shifts and the Reception History of the Four Kingdoms Schema." Pages 300–328 in *The Era of Empires: Four Kingdoms Motifs in Ancient*

Historiographies. Edited by Andrew Perrin and Loren Stuckenbruck. Themes in Biblical Narrative Series. Leiden: Brill, 2021.

“Social Identity and Scriptural Interpretation: An Introduction.” Pages 1–32 in *Reading Other Peoples’ Texts: Identity Formation and the Reception of Authoritative Traditions*. Coauthored with Ken Brown. Edited by K. Brown, B. Breed, A. Joseph. London: T&T Clark, 2020.

“Biblical Scholarship’s Ethos of Respect: Original Meanings, Original Texts, and the Reception History of Ecclesiastes.” Pages 212–236 in *Reading Other Peoples’ Texts: Identity Formation and the Reception of Authoritative Traditions*. Ed. K. Brown, B. Breed, A. Joseph. London: T&T Clark, 2020.

“What Kind of World is Possible?: Biblical Apocalyptic Literature and Visual Art.” Pages 253–288 in *Apocalypses in Contexts: Apocalyptic Currents through History*. Edited by K. Murphy and J. Schedtler. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016.

“What Can a Text Do?: Reception History as an Ethology of the Biblical Text.” Pages 95–106 in *Reception History and Biblical Studies: Theory and Practice*. Scriptural Traces. Edited by Emma England and William John Lyons. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2015.

“The Reception History of the Psalms: The Example of Psalm 91.” Pages 297–308 in *The Oxford Handbook on the Psalms*. Edited by William P. Brown. Oxford: Oxford University, 2014.

“*Et Oculi Mei Conspecturi Sunt*: Interdiegetic Gaze and Devotion.” Pages 61–84 in *Ut Pictura Meditatio: Meditative Image in Northern Art 1500–1700*. Edited by Walter Melion. Turnhout: Brepols, 2012.

“Job, Book of.” Pages 434–450 in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Books of the Bible*. Coauthored with Davis Hankins. Edited by Michael D. Coogan. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Reference Articles

“Daniel: Introduction and Critical Notes,” with excurses on “The Four Kingdoms Schema,” “Apocalypse,” and “Resurrection.” *Westminster Study Bible*, eds. E. Power, B. Strawn, M. Fokkett, S. Davis. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2024.

“Ecclesiastes: Introduction and Critical Notes.” In *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*. 5th edition. Edited by Michael D. Coogan et. al. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017; updated 2022, 2024. Coauthored with Davis Hankins.

“כזב/כזב.” In *The Theological Dictionary of the Qumran Manuscripts / Theologisches Wörterbuch zu den Qumrantexten* (ThWQ). Edited by Heinz-Josef Fabry and Ulrich Dahmen. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2013.

“Adah,” “Amaltheia,” “Amram,” “Belt,” “Behemoth,” “Folly and Fools.” In *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. Edited by Hans-Josef Klauck et. al. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2009-2014.

Selected Review Essays

“Major Review: John Collins, *What Are Biblical Values? What the Bible Says on Key Ethical Issues*,” *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 77 (2023): 83–92.

“Major Review: Brent Strawn’s *The Old Testament is Dying*,” *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 74 (2020): 79-81.

“Wandering beyond the Garden?” *Marginalia Review of Books*. February 2013.

“Review of *The Bible in History and Literature*.” *Religion & Education* 34 (2007): 94–102.
Coauthored with Kent H. Richards.

Works in Progress

The Ptolemaic Administration and the Jewish Scribal Imagination. Coauthored with Davis Hankins. Draft to be submitted for review by December, 2024.

“Recent Research in the Reception History of Apocalyptic Biblical Literature.” *Currents in Biblical Research*. December 2024.

“Matter and Mattering: The Emergent Cosmos in Job 38–41.” *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*. February 2025.

Daniel. *Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*. Westminster John Knox. Under contract. Projected date: August 2025.

Ecclesiastes: A Commentary. Wm. B. Eerdmans *Illuminations* biblical commentary series. Coauthoring with Davis Hankins. Under contract. Projected date: December 2026.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2016	Manfred Lautenschlaeger Award for Theological Promise
2011-2012	Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
2006-2010	George W. Woodruff Fellowship, Emory University
2006	The Fellowship in Old Testament, Princeton Theological Seminary
2005	Henry Gehman Award, Princeton Theological Seminary

SELECED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“Mediation and Totality: A Reconsideration of Qohelet among the Greek Philosophers.” Coauthored with Davis Hankins. Paper presented at the Hebrew Bible Colloquium, Duke University, March 21, 2024.

- “Disruptive Innovations within an Ancient Faith: The Transformation of the Early Hellenistic Jewish Imagination.” Coauthored with Davis Hankins. Public lecture presented at Duke Divinity School, March 22, 2024.
- “How Did Qohelet’s Philosophical Idiolect Emerge in Third-Century BCE Jerusalem?” Paper presented in the Wisdom in Israelite and Cognate Literatures section, SBL Annual meeting, San Antonio, November 2023.
- “Indigenous and Foreign Experiences with Ptolemaic Legal Structures in the Southern Levant.” Paper presented in the Impact of Hellenistic Empires section, European Association of Biblical Scholars annual conference, Syracuse, Italy, July 10–13, 2023.
- “A Mad Tea Party: Reception History as the Deleuzian ‘Ideal Game’.” Paper presented at Biblical Reception Workshop, Lund University, Sweden, May 9–10, 2023.
- “Delighting in an Argument with God: Job’s Speeches and the ‘Great Complaint.’” Paper presented at Inwards, Outwards, Upwards: Self-Reflection, Dispute and Lament in Job’s Speeches, conference held at the University of Leipzig, Germany, January 27–29, 2023.
- “The Ptolemaic Empire and the Jewish Scribal Imaginary.” Paper presented in the Economics in the Biblical World section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2021.
- “Aerosol Transmission: Theorizing Reception History during a Global Pandemic with Ecclesiastes 1:2.” Keynote lecture for the Authoritative Texts and Their Reception (ATTR) Research Seminar, Research Council of Norway, October 19–22, 2020.
- “Ecclesiastes and the Speculative Imagination in Early Hellenistic Judaism.” Paper co-presented with Davis Hankins in the Wisdom in Israelite and Cognate Traditions section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2019.
- “The Politics of Time: Epistemic Shifts and the Reception History of the Four Kingdoms Schema.” Presented at *The Eras of Empires: Four Kingdoms Motifs in Ancient Historiographies*. Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Germany, July 2018.
- “What Is Qohelet’s Problem?” Paper co-presented with Davis Hankins in the Megillot section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2017.
- “Biblical Scholar’s Ethos of Respect: Qohelet, Original Meanings, and Reception History.” Presented at *Reading Other People’s Texts: Identity Formation and the Reception of Authoritative Traditions*, University of Chicago Divinity School, March 2017.
- “Qohelet and the Ideology of the Ptolemaic Economy.” Paper co-presented with Davis Hankins in the Bible and Economics section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2016.
- “What Is Reception History?” Response to review panel of Carol A. Newsom and Brennan W. Breed, *Daniel: A Commentary* in the Book of Daniel section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2015.

- "Making the Right Hole Appear in the Right Place: Ecclesiastes 4:17-5:6 in Text and Tradition." Paper presented in the Ideological Criticism section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2015.
- "A Nomadic View of the Psalter: A Response to William Yarchin." Paper presented in the Book of Psalms section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2015.
- "The Book of Daniel as Read by Oppressor and Oppressed." Paper presented in the Book of Daniel section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2014.
- "Biblical Reception History and the Ideology of Historical Criticalism." Paper presented in the Ideological Criticism section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2013.
- "Biblical Reception History as Ethology." Paper presented in the Ethics and Biblical Interpretation section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2013.
- "Reading and Overreading Jewish Images: Vivian Mann and Stephen Fine on Jewish Art." Paper presented at the Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar Program, Emory University, November 2013.
- "Bringing the Case before the LORD: A North American Perspective on the Bible and Human Sexuality." Paper presented at the Global North-South Consultation on Human Sexuality, Aburi, Ghana, July 2013.
- "What Is a Context, and How Would Someone Put a Biblical Text Into It?" Paper presented in the Contextual Biblical Interpretation section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2012.
- "Extensive and Intensive Difference in 2 Kings 6:8-23." Paper presented in the Biblical Criticism and Literary Criticism section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2012.
- "What Can a Text Do?: A Nomadic Theory of Biblical Reception History." Paper presented in the Biblical World and Its Reception section, European Association of Biblical Scholars Annual Meeting, July 2012.
- "An Immanent Resurrection: The Survival of Job 19:25-27." Paper presented in the Ideological Criticism section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2011.
- "Cerquiglini's *Variance*: An Alternate Ontology of Biblical Texts." Paper presented in the Textual Criticism section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2010.
- "Learning Biblical Hebrew through Images." With Joel LeMon. Paper presented in the Iconography and the Hebrew Bible section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 2010.

“Dead Man Walking: Job 19:25-27.” Paper presented in the Wisdom in Israelite and Cognate Traditions section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 19, 2006.

“Job, Lazarus, and the Juxtaposition of Pain and Hope in the Medieval Office of the Dead.” Paper presented in the Use, Influence, and Impact of the Bible consultation, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 18, 2006.

“‘To See with Another’s Eyes’: Job’s Pedagogical Use of Ambiguity.” Paper presented in the Israelite Wisdom Literature section, Society of Biblical Literature Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, March 17, 2006.

“The Book of Job as a Maieutic Text: Kierkegaard and the Incarnation of Indirect Communication.” Paper presented in the Use, Influence, and Impact of the Bible consultation, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 21, 2005.

ARTICLES IN PUBLIC MEDIA

Working Preacher: “Isaiah 12:2–6,” “Psalm 148,” “Isaiah 5:1–7,” and “Lamentations 1:1–6,” in press; “Lamentations 3:22-23,” June 27, 2021; “Job 38:1-11,” June 20, 2021; “Ezekiel 17:22-24,” June 13, 2021; “Isaiah 52:13-53:12,” April 2, 2021; “Isaiah 58:9b-14,” August 25, 2019; “Jeremiah 23:23-29,” August 18, 2019.

Huffington Post: “Biblical Responsibility for the Poor: Individual or Communal?,” December 4, 2017; “Should Christians Advocate for Public Programs for the Poor?,” December 5, 2017; “Love The Alien As Yourself’: Trump’s Refugee Ban And The Bible,” January 30, 2017; “Social Constructs: The Date Line, Race, and the Confederate Flag,” August 20, 2015; and “Trump’s Vulgar Apocalypse,” October 3, 2016, co-authored with Justin Schedtler.

At This Point: The Columbia Theological Seminary Journal: “Trump and the Transformations of Civil Religion,” January 30, 2017; “What Can a Text Do?: A Proposal for Biblical Studies,” and “Author Response,” February 11, 2015.

Ancient Jew Review: “Canon: Process, Not Product?” December 16, 2015.

ON Scripture lectionary commentary, hosted by *The Huffington Post*: “The Self-Righteous System and the Prophetic Task,” December 16, 2014; “Isaiah and the Politics of Utopian Thinking,” December 2, 2013.

Bible and Interpretation: “Biblical Reception History: A Dangerous Supplement,” October 2014.

Church Anew: “Racism in America: What Will We Preach This Sunday?” May 29, 2020.

Oxford Biblical Studies Online: “Wisdom Literature: A Thematic Guide,” “The Book of Job: Lesson Plans,” with C. Davis Hankins, March 2012.

Society of Biblical Literature's *Bible Odyssey*: "Authorship of Job," "How was the Bible Written and Transmitted?," "Job in Visual Art," "What are the Earliest Versions and Translations of the Bible?," "What is Reception History?"

Society of Biblical Literature's *Teaching the Bible Online*: "Reading Glasses: Literary Criticism," "Masoretes in the Classroom: Lesson Plan," "Transmission and Translation of the Bible: Part I (800 BCE to 1000 CE)," "Timeline: Empire and Exile in the Hebrew Bible," "Timeline of the Maccabees."

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

18- *Bible, Empire, and Reception History*. Held at Columbia Theological Seminary, November 19, 2015. Co-organized with Raj Nadella.

Reading Other People's Texts: Identity Formation and the Reception of Authoritative Traditions. Held at University of Chicago Divinity School, March 13-14, 2017. Co-organized with Ken Brown and Ryan Coyne.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Editorial Board, *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*, 2019-present.

Editorial Board, *Illuminations Commentary Series*, Eerdmans press, 2018-present.

Editorial Board, *The Bible and Its Reception Series*, SBL Press, 2017-2023.

Editorial Board, *Bible Odyssey Project*, Society of Biblical Literature, 2011-2021.

Assistant Editor and Review Editor of Reception and Theology of the Bible, *Marginalia Review of Books*, 2012-2017.

Steering Committee Member, "Use, Influence and Impact of the Bible" section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2014-2020.

Co-editor with Joel M. LeMon, *Student Supplement for The SBL Handbook of Style, Second Edition*, compiled by M. Nogalski, J. Nogalski, S. Steibel and D. West, 2010.

SERVICE IN THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Visiting Scholar, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, Fall 2024.

Theologian-in-Residence, First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, 2023–present.

Executive Board Member, Decatur Education Foundation, 2022–present. Chair of Governance committee, Secretary.

Savannah Presbytery School of the Laity annual instructor, 2018–present

Scholar-in-Residence, Decatur First United Methodist Church. 2022–2023.

Theologian-in-Residence, First Presbyterian Church of Marietta. 2018-2022. Creator and host of “Sunday Morning Seminary,” an online weekly in-depth study of biblical texts, in conjunction with First Presbyterian Church of Marietta.

Co-creator and co-host of “Office Hours Bible Study,” a weekly online Bible study with Dr. Christopher Holmes of First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta. 2020–2022.

Wister Cook Theologian-in-Residence, The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, Atlanta. 2016-2018.

SELECTED PUBLIC LECTURES

“Reading the Prophets.” *Wall Lecture Series*, Kingston Presbyterian Church, Conway, South Carolina, February 2–4, 2024.

“Finding God in the Bible and the Hill Country.” Mo-Ranch lecture and sermon series, University Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX, October 27–29, 2023.

“Covenant with God: A Religious and Political Revolution.” *Visiting Scholars Lecture Series*, Rumble Presbyterian Church, Blowing Rock, NC, September 24–26, 2023.

“In the Presence of God.” Montreat lecture and sermon series, Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN, April 28–30, 2023.

“The Book of Job: Chaos and Order.” *Wall Lecture Series*, Kingston Presbyterian Church, Conway, South Carolina, April 21–23, 2023.

“Ecclesiastes: Living Your Best Life in the Midst of Crisis.” Keynote address for *Tapestry: Annual Leadership Training for the Presbytery of St. Andrew and Presbytery of the Mid-South*, Memphis, Tennessee, January 30, 2021.

“Is there a Balm in Gilead? Texts of Healing in the Old Testament.” *Kyes Lecture and Education Series*, Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church, Bloomfield Township, MI, October 2, 2020. Lecture co-presented with Dr. Karoline Lewis, Luther Seminary.

“Prophetic Witness in a Divided World.” *Leith Lecture Series*, First Presbyterian Church, Auburn, AL. February 2020.

“Practicing Sabbath: Remembering the Past, Reframing the Present, Forming the Future.” *Church Anniversary Weekend Lectures*, St. Simon’s Presbyterian Church, St. Simon’s Island, GA. September 2019.

“An LGBTQ-Affirming Christian Biblical Scholar’s Response to the Nashville Statement.” Public lecture at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, September 9, 2017.

“Peace and Justice: A View from the Old Testament.” *Mike Bumgarner Series*, Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, NC. March 2017.

“Lenten Reflections on the Old Testament Law.” *Lenten Keynote Address*, Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant, SC. February 2017.

“Justice and the Neighbor: The Message of the Prophet Amos.” *Church Anniversary Weekend Lectures*, St. Simon’s Presbyterian Church, St. Simon’s Island, GA. September 2015.

“Role Model, Revolutionary, Apocalyptic Seer: Tracing Daniel through the History of Art.” *Annual Bill Jones Lecture Series*, Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Southern Pines, NC. September 2015.

“Royal Theology and Prophetic Critique: A Biblical Vision for the Church.” Keynote address for the *Conference on the Tenth Anniversary of Yi Jung Pyo’s Memorial*, Hanshin Church, Seoul, Korea. July 2015.

“A Flood of Interpretation: Noah in Jewish, Muslim, and Christian Traditions.” Lecture presented at the *From Nippur to Noah* Symposium, Carlos Museum, Emory University. October 2014.

“Daniel 7-12: Apocalyptic Texts in Jewish and Christian Tradition.” *Emerging Voices* Lecture series, Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, Delaware. October 2014.

COURSES TAUGHT

Survey Courses:

Old Testament Interpretation I & II

Survey of the Old Testament

Understanding the Old Testament

Old Testament Theology

Introductory Biblical Hebrew

Exegesis Courses and Advanced Language Courses:

Introduction to Hebrew Exegesis

Hebrew Exegesis: Major Genres of the Old Testament

Exegesis of the Book of Kings: Politics, Prophets, Worship and War

Exegesis of the Eighth Century Prophets

Exegesis of Job and Ecclesiastes

Exegesis of the Book of Daniel and Biblical Aramaic

Biblical Aramaic

Elective Courses:

Understanding Israel/Palestine

Eighth Century Prophets: Economic Justice in Ancient and Modern Contexts

The Emergence of Yahwism

Summer 2024

The Book of Daniel and Its Reception

The Book of Ecclesiastes and Its Reception

The Bible and Visual Art

The Bible and Literary Theories

Contextual Education Courses and Travel Seminars:

Contextual Immersions: Immigrant and Refugee Communities in Atlanta

Contextual Immersions: Hungary, Czech Republic, and Ukraine

Contextual Immersions: The Israel/Palestine Conflict