

Getting started: terminology and learning resources

Understandably, you may find some of the terminology used in your reading for this module quite new and perhaps confusing. For example, you may be more familiar with the term 'Old Testament' than you are with 'Hebrew Bible'. Both terms, for the purposes of this module, are interchangeable but there are several other terms that you may need to look up in a biblical encyclopaedia or dictionary. There are several on-line dictionaries where you can do this and two are provided here: *The Oxford Companion to the Bible* and *Browning's Dictionary of the Bible*.

The version of the Bible that we recommend not only for this module but for the entire MA is the **New Revised Standard Version**. You should have your own copy. There are very many other translations of the Bible available through the New Testament Gateway site: www.ntgateway.com and also www.sots.ac.uk. You will find both websites very useful and you should explore them at an early stage in the module.

For the entire MA, I would recommend that you use a commentary that you are comfortable with and know your way around. The commentary that I use for frequent reference is: Barton and Muddiman, *The Oxford Bible Commentary*, but there are several others you can also use.

On the Learning Resources Centre portal (LRC) of TSD, you can access very many resources. We have provided links to e-resources in several of the units in this module but the list is really endless. As well as full texts provided by e-books and journals, you will also find that by searching 'advanced search' on Google, you can access very many pages (though not always continuous) of books that you may simply want to browse through.

Recommended reading is provided unit by unit but in this unit (unit 1), I have provided links to a number of biblical handbooks, encyclopaedias and dictionaries and you should find these useful for reference purposes throughout the entire module and also for your assignment. In particular Perdue's *Blackwell Companion to the Hebrew Bible* contains several excellent articles that provide useful background to the first five units of this module. It is a useful exercise to browse through the links provided in Unit 1 as these are all books that provide useful general and reference material.

It is good, too, at an early stage in your MA to get into the habit of searching journals for relevant material. You will need to do this at dissertation stage but you may also find it useful to explore further an aspect of study that is introduced in this module. Below I have provided a list of journals that should all be searchable on-line through the LRC website by key words, authors or biblical topics. For example, you could try to research a topic now on the journal ***Biblical Interpretation***.

Biblical Journals searchable on-line through TSD Learning Resource Centre

- Bible and Critical Theory** The Full text from Directory of Open Access Journals (All titles)
- Biblical Archaeologist** Full text from ATLA Religion Database
- Biblical Interpretation** Full text from ATLA Religion Database
- Biblical Research** Journal of the Chicago Society of Biblical Research Full text from ATLA Religion Database
- Biblical Theology Bulletin** Full text from SwetsWise FullText Titles
- Biblical World** The Full text from JSTOR Arts & Sciences III Collection
- Catholic Biblical Quarterly** Full text from ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials
- Currents in Biblical Research** Full text from SwetsWise FullText Titles
- Denver Journal** an Online Review of Current Biblical and Theological Studies Full text from Directory of Open Access Journals (All titles)
- Horizons in Biblical Theology** Full text from Ingenta Connect
- Interpretation - Journal of Bible and Theology** Full text from SwetsWise FullText Titles
- Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology** Full text from ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials
- Journal for the Study of the New Testament,** Full text from ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials
- Journal for the Study of the Old Testament,** Full text from SwetsWise FullText Titles
- Journal of Bible and Religion** Full text from JSTOR Arts & Sciences III Collection37-
- Journal of Biblical Literature,** Full text from ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials
- Journal of Biblical Perspectives in Leadership** Full text from Directory of Open Access Journals (All titles):
- Journal of the National Association of Biblical Instructors** Full text from JSTOR Arts & Sciences III Collection:
- Journal of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis** Full text from JSTOR Arts & Sciences III Collection:
- Novum testamentum:** An International Quarterly for New Testament and Related Studies Full text from ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials:

Old and New Testament Student, The Full text from JSTOR Arts & Sciences III Collection:

Old Testament Student, The Full text from JSTOR Arts & Sciences III Collection:

Journal of Biblical Literature, Full text from ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials

Journal of Biblical Perspectives in Leadership Full text from Directory of Open Access Journals (All titles)

Journal of the National Association of Biblical Instructors Full text from JSTOR Arts & Sciences III Collection:

Journal of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis Full text from JSTOR Arts & Sciences III Collection:

Review of Biblical Literature Full text from Directory of Open Access Journals (All titles):

Semeia: An Experimental Journal for Biblical Criticism Full text from ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials

T C : a Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism Full text from Directory of Open Access Journals (All titles):

What if the links do not work?!

If the links do not work or you have having difficulty, please contact Kathy Miles in the LRC. K.miles@tsd.ac.uk

If you have any query about the material or feel lost in such an array of resources, please contact Martin O’Kane (m.okane@tsd.ac.uk)

The next sections deal with an overview of the Hebrew Bible in four sections:

- 1. The Pentateuch**
- 2. The Deuteronomistic History**
- 3. The Prophets**

4. Wisdom Literature and the Psalms