

MICHAEL C. LEGASPI

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
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DEGREES EARNED

Harvard University, Ph. D., A.M. (Hebrew Bible), 2006 and 2003
Dissertation: “Johann David Michaelis and the Quest for Hebrew Antiquity”
Advisors: Peter Machinist, Ann Blair, Jon Levenson

Johns Hopkins University, B.A. (Near Eastern Studies), 1995 (ΦBK)

POSITIONS HELD

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary (Yonkers, NY)
Associate Professor, Scripture, 2022–present

Phillips Academy (Andover, MA)
Instructor in Philosophy and Religious Studies, 2010–2014; 2020–2022
Department chair, Philosophy and Religious Studies, 2021–2022
Interim department chair, Philosophy and Religious Studies, 2013–2014

Pennsylvania State University (University Park, PA)
Associate Professor, Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies and Jewish Studies,
2014–2021 (tenure awarded May 2020)

Creighton University (Omaha, NE)
Assistant Professor of Theology, 2006–2010

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

The Book of Job
Commentaries for Christian Formation. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing. Under contract.

Wisdom in Classical and Biblical Tradition
New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

The Death of Scripture and the Rise of Biblical Studies
Oxford Studies in Historical Theology; New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.
* Winner of the 2011 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Charisma Is Ordinary: Max Weber, Philip Rieff, and the Charismatic Faith of Biblical Israel”
Journal of Jewish Studies 70 (2019): 155–178.

“An Exegetical Argument for Civil Authority in the *De Imperio* of Hugo Grotius”
Erudition and the Republic of Letters 3 (2018): 1–24.

“Opposition to Idolatry in the Book of Habakkuk”
Vetus Testamentum 67 (2017): 458–469.

“The Quest for Classical Antiquity at Eighteenth-Century Göttingen”
History of Universities 24 (2009): 139–172.

“Job’s Wives in the *Testament of Job*: A Note on the Synthesis of Two Traditions”
Journal of Biblical Literature 127 (2008): 71–79.

“Recovering the Third Culture: Johann David Michaelis and the Study of Hebrew Language and Civilization”
History of Universities 21 (Dec 2006): 159–201.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDITED VOLUMES

“Critical Biblical Scholarship”
T&T Clark Handbook of Modern Theology. Eds. R. David Nelson and Philip G. Ziegler (forthcoming).

“On the Advantage and Disadvantage of Historical Criticism for Life”
Changes in Sacred Texts and Traditions: Methodological Encounters and Debates. Eds. Martti Nissinen and Jutta Jokiranta (forthcoming).

“The Beginnings of Historical Criticism”
Oxford History of Modern German Theology, Volume 1:1781–1848. Eds. Grant Kaplan and Kevin Vander Schel (Oxford University Press; forthcoming).

“Wisdom’s Wider Influence”
The Cambridge Companion to the Biblical Wisdom Literature. Ed. Katherine Dell (Cambridge University Press; 2022), 239–259.

“From Thomasius to Semler: History, Civil Philosophy, and Theology in the German Enlightenment”
Theology, History, and the Modern German University. Eds. Kevin Vander Schel and Michael DeJonge (Mohr Siebeck; 2021), 11–26.

“*Nomos* Human and Divine in the Wisdom of Solomon”
Torah: Functions, Meanings, and Diverse Manifestations in Early Judaism and Christianity. Eds. William M. Schniedewind, Jason M. Zurawski, and Gabriele Boccaccini (SBL Press; 2022), 333–341.

“Wisdom in Dialogue with Greek Civilization”

The Oxford Handbook of Wisdom and the Bible. Ed. Will Kynes (Oxford University Press; 2021), 155–172.

“Biblical Higher Criticism and the Legacies of Pre-Modern Interpretation”

Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Biblical Interpretation. Eds. Paul M. Blowers and Peter W. Martens (Oxford University Press, 2019), 704–722.

“Scripture: Three Modes of Retrieval”

Theologies of Retrieval: An Exploration and Appraisal. Ed. Darren Sarisky (T&T Clark; 2017), 155–172.

“Michaelis and the Danish Expedition to Arabia”

Arrivals: The Life of the Royal Danish Expedition to Arabia 1767-2017. Ed. Anne Haslund Hansen (Forlaget Vandkunsten / The National Museum of Denmark, 2017), 39–42.

“The Term ‘Enlightenment’ and Biblical Interpretation”

A History of Biblical Interpretation. Volume 3: The Enlightenment through the Nineteenth Century. Eds. Alan J. Hauser and Duane F. Watson (Eerdmans, 2017), 73–95.

“Wisdom and Education: An Old Testament Perspective”

Eastern Orthodox Christianity and American Higher Education: Theological, Historical, and Contemporary Reflections. Eds. Ann Mitsakos Bezzerides and Elizabeth H. Prodromou (University of Notre Dame Press, 2017), 80–101.

“Seeing with One Eye: Biblical Interpretation in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries”

Biblical Theology: Past, Present, and Future. Eds. Carey Walsh and Mark W. Elliott (Cascade Books, 2016), 51–62.

“Merely Academic: A Brief History of Modern Biblical Criticism”

What Is the Bible? The Patristic Doctrine of Scripture. Eds. Matthew Baker and Mark Mourachian (Fortress Press, 2016), 181–200.

“Robert Lowth. Preliminary Dissertation. *Isaiah. A New Translation (1778)*”

Handbuch der Bibelhermeneutiken. Von Origenes bis zur Gegenwart. Ed. Oda Wischmeyer (De Gruyter, 2016), 475–488.

“Wisdom is the Preservation of Life”

Festschrift for Paul Tarazi: Studies in the Old Testament. Ed. Nicolae Roddy (Peter Lang, 2012), 1–24.

“The Textualisation of the Bible in the Seventeenth Century: Towards a Prehistory of Modern Criticism”

Infant Milk or Hardy Nourishment? The Bible for Lay People and Theologians in the Early Modern Period. Eds. W. Francois and A. A. den Hollander (Peeters, 2009), 439–449.

“Hearing the Scriptures with St. Ephrem: Notes on a Non-Western Biblical Interpreter”

Exegesis and Hermeneutics in the Churches of the East: Select Papers from the SBL Meeting in San Diego, 2007. Ed. Vahan S. Hovhannessian. (Peter Lang, 2009), 43–50.

DICTIONARY AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

Article on “Myth” in Second Temple Judaism
Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception. Vol. 20 (forthcoming).

Article on Christian reception of Genesis: “Modern Europe and America”
Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception. Vol. 9. Eds. Dale C. Allison, Christine Helmer, et al. (De Gruyter, 2014), 1181–1183.

“Cappel, Louis (1585–1658)”
Dictionary of Major Biblical Interpreters. Ed. Donald McKim (IVP, 2007), 294–298.

REVIEW ESSAYS

“The Church’s Book”
First Things, December 2018. Review of R. W. L. Moberly, *The Bible in a Disenchanted Age: The Enduring Possibility of Christian Faith* (Baker, 2018).

“The Reformation and the Rise of Biblical Studies”
Marginalia Review of Books (web; November 2017)

“Figure It In”
First Things, June/July 2017. Review of Ephraim Radner, *Time and the Word: Figural Reading of the Christian Scriptures* (Eerdmans, 2016).

“The Bible After Fundamentalism”
Claremont Review of Books (web; May 12, 2016). Review of A. N. Wilson, *The Book of the People: How to Read the Bible* (Atlantic Books, 2016).

“Go Figure”
First Things, December 2015. Review of Richard B. Hays, *Reading Backwards: Figural Christology and the Fourfold Gospel Witness* (Baylor University Press, 2014).

“The Consolation of Philology”
First Things, October 2015. Review of James Turner, *Philology: The Forgotten Origins of the Modern Humanities* (Princeton University Press, 2014).

“Treasury in Heaven”
First Things, October 2014. Review of Gary A. Anderson, *Charity: The Place of the Poor in the Biblical Tradition* (Yale University Press, 2013).

“Criticism’s Limits”
First Things, January 2014. Review of Scott Hahn and Benjamin Wiker, *Politicizing the*

Bible: The Roots of Historical Criticism and the Secularization of Scripture, 1300-1700 (Crossroad, 2013).

“Some Assembly Required”

First Things, March 2013. Review of Ian Christopher Levy, *Holy Scripture and the Quest for Authority at the End of the Middle Ages* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2012).

“A Pious Scholar”

First Things, Aug/Sept 2011. Review of A. Grafton and J. Weinberg, “*I Have Always Loved the Holy Tongue*”: *Isaac Casaubon, the Jews, and a Forgotten Chapter in Renaissance Scholarship* (Belknap, 2011).

“What Ever Happened to Historical Criticism?”

Journal of Religion and Society, volume 9 (2007). Review of John Collins, *The Bible After Babel: Historical Criticism in a Postmodern Age* (Eerdmans, 2005).

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Matthew Levering, Piotr Roszak, and Jörgen Vijgen, *Reading Job with St. Thomas Aquinas* (CUA Press, 2020). *The Thomist* 86, 1 (Jan. 2022), 143–148.

Review of Paul Michael Kurtz, *Kaiser, Christ, and Canaan: The Religion of Israel in Protestant Germany, 1871–1918* (Mohr Siebeck, 2018). *History of Religions* 61, 1 (2021), 129–132.

Review of Christopher Seitz, *The Elder Testament: Canon, Theology, Trinity* (Baylor University Press, 2018). *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 81, 3 (July 2019): 533–535.

Review of Paul Gutjahr, *Charles Hodge: Guardian of American Orthodoxy* (Oxford University Press, 2011). *New Blackfriars: A Review* vol. 94, issue 1049 (Jan. 2013): 123–125.

Review of Paul Helm, *Calvin at the Centre* (Oxford University Press, 2010) *New Blackfriars: A Review* vol. 92, issue 1039 (May 2011): 379–380.

Review of Michael C. Carhart, *The Science of Culture in Enlightenment Germany* (Harvard University Press, 2007) *Journal of Early Modern History* 13, 1 (2009): 89–92.

Review of Fred van Lieburg, ed. *Confessionalism and Pietism: Religious Reform in Early Modern Europe* (Philipp von Zabern, 2006) *Journal of Early Modern History* 11, 4-5 (2007): 397–400.

Review of William Clark, *Academic Charisma and the Origins of the Research University* (University of Chicago Press, 2006) *Journal of Early Modern History* 11, 4-5 (2007): 389–391.

Review of John Brooke and Ian Maclean, eds. *Heterodoxy in Early Modern Science and Religion* (Oxford University Press, 2005) *Journal of Early Modern History* 10, 6 (2006): 285–288.

Review of Peter Harrison, *The Bible, Protestantism, and the Rise of Natural Science* (Cambridge University Press, 1995) *Journal of Early Modern History* 9, 3-4 (2005): 45–48.

PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND POSTINGS

INVITED LECTURES AT COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND SEMINARIES

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA - CHAPEL HILL

“On Embedding the Bible in the Human Past: The Beginnings of Historical Criticism” Carolina Center for Jewish Studies; Feb. 26, 2020.

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

“On the Advantage and Disadvantage of Historical Criticism for Life,” keynote lecture for Changes in Sacred Texts and Traditions Centre of Excellence; May 9, 2019.

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

“The Protestant Reformation: A Revolution in Biblical Interpretation?” Kripke Center; Feb. 15, 2018.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

“Scripture: Three Modes of Retrieval,” Trinity College; Nov. 8, 2017.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

“Aristobulus and the Hellenistic Argument for Judaism as Philosophical Piety,” Frankel Center for Judaic Studies; Sept. 22, 2016.

RHODES COLLEGE

“A Time to Rend: Biblical Criticism in an Age of Confessional Strife,” 1616 Symposium; April 22, 2016.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

“The Problem with Knowledge: Perspectives from Classical and Biblical Traditions,” Penn State Society for the Study of Religion; Oct. 20, 2015.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

“Information, Knowledge, and Wisdom,” Center for Humanities and Information; Oct. 9, 2015.

UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

“Bible and Theology at the University: Paradigms and Possibilities,” Judaic Studies; March 26, 2015.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

“Wisdom as Exegetical Framework: Prospects for a Post-Critical Retrieval,” Christian Theology Seminar, Faculty of Divinity; May 15, 2013.

MERRIMACK COLLEGE

“The Death of Scripture and the Rise of Biblical Studies,” Annual Cassiciacum Dialogue; Feb. 27, 2013.

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

“The Death of Scripture and the Rise of Biblical Studies” Patristic Symposium, Florovsky Society; Feb. 16, 2013.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

“Philology in Context: The Study of Hebrew in Early Modern Europe,” Semitic Philology Seminar, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; Dec. 12, 2012.

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

“The Death of Scripture and the Rise of Biblical Studies,” School of Theology; Nov. 1, 2012.

“Response to Daniel Castelo and Rob Wall,” as part of panel on The Role of the Church in Biblical Exegesis; Nov. 1, 2012.

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY

“The Bible and the Legacy of the Enlightenment,” Responses by Grant Kaplan and Matthew Thiessen; Department of Theology; Sept. 1, 2012.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

“The Personification of Death in the Prophets,” Department of Theology; April 16, 2012.

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

“The Bible and the Legacy of the Enlightenment,” April 4, 2012.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

“The Legacy of the Enlightenment in Modern Criticism,” School of Critical Studies; March 19, 2012.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

“The Personification of Death in the Prophets,” Biblical Studies; March 16, 2012.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS

“The Legacy of the Enlightenment in Modern Criticism,” St. Mary’s College; March 15, 2012.

“The Personification of Death in the Prophets,” Biblical Studies Research Seminar; March 15, 2012.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

“The Death of Scripture and the Rise of Biblical Studies,” Responses by Brad S. Gregory and John Betz; Theology Department; Oct. 9, 2011.

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE (Toronto)

“Poetry and Prophecy in Isaiah 9: A Tale of Two Interpreters,” Fall Symposium; Wycliffe Centre for Scripture and Theology; Oct. 21, 2011.

ST. VLADIMIR’S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

“Orthodoxy and Biblical Criticism: A Personal Reflection,” Faculty Seminar; April 11, 2011.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

“Hermeneutical wisdom in Thomas Aquinas’s literal exposition on the book of Job,” Aquinas Institute; March 8, 2010.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

“What makes for a wise reading of scripture?” Old Testament Research Seminar; March 2, 2010.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

“The Death of Scripture and the Rise of Biblical Studies,” *Jewish Studies*; Sept. 29, 2009.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

“Reading the Text, Hearing the Scriptures: Reflections on the History of Biblical Interpretation,”
Program of Liberal Studies; Nov. 28, 2007.

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

“Biblical Birth Stories,” Dept. of Religion, Lafayette College; April 16, 2002.

PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES

“Response to Jacqueline Vayntrub”

Panel on Jacqueline Vayntrub, *Beyond Orality: Biblical Poetry On Its Own Terms* (Routledge, 2019);
Book History and Biblical Literatures Section; SBL Annual Meeting; San Diego; Nov. 25, 2019.

“Cosmos as Creature in Wisdom of Solomon”

Wisdom and Apocalypticism Section; SBL Annual Meeting; San Diego; Nov. 23, 2019.

“Job as Convert in the Testament of Job”

Conference on Legendary Characters: Attribution and Personhood in Ancient Judaism; Princeton
University; April 29, 2019

“Wisdom, Piety, and Integrity”

Theological Interpretation of Scripture; SBL Annual Meeting; Denver; Nov. 19, 2018

“Perspectives on Conversion in the Book of Job and the Testament of Job”

Conference on Religious and Philosophical Conversion in Ancient Mediterranean Traditions;
University of Bonn; Sept. 25, 2018.

“Thorleif Boman and the Twentieth-Century Quest for the Hebrew Mind”

International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature; Helsinki, Finland; August 1, 2018.

“*Nomos* Human and Divine in Wisdom of Solomon”

Ninth Enoch Seminar; Camaldoli, Italy; June 22, 2017.

“Response to Christine Hayes”

Panel on Christine Hayes, *What’s Divine about Divine Law? Early Perspectives* (Princeton University
Press, 2015); Ninth Enoch Seminar; Camaldoli, Italy; June 20, 2017.

“Is the History of Interpretation Necessary to Biblical Exegesis?”

History of Interpretation; SBL Annual Meeting; San Antonio; Nov. 19, 2016.

“Max Weber, Charisma, and the Identification of Ideal Types in Ancient Israel”

Philology in Hebrew Studies; SBL Annual Meeting; San Antonio; Nov. 20, 2016.

“Biblical Interpretation in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries”

Panel discussion of Magne Saebo, ed. *Hebrew Bible / Old Testament: The History of Its Interpretation*.
Biblical Theology; SBL International Meeting; Vienna, Austria; July 7, 2014.

“Hebrew Philology in the Modern Era: A Brief, Schematic Overview”
 Philology in Hebrew Studies; SBL Annual Meeting; Baltimore; Nov. 25, 2013.

“Response to Peter Martens”
 Panel on Peter Martens, *Origen and Scripture: The Contours of the Exegetical Life* (Oxford University Press, 2012); History of Interpretation; SBL Annual Meeting; Baltimore; Nov. 24, 2013.

“The Literal Sense According to Historical Criticism”
 Christian Theology and the Bible; SBL Annual Meeting; Chicago; Nov. 24, 2012.

“The Spirit Kills, The Letter Gives Life: The Literal Sense and the Enlightenment University”
 American Historical Association Annual Meeting; Chicago; Jan. 2012.

“Sage on the Page: On the Use of Wisdom in Bible Instruction”
 Center for Spirituality and Ethics in Education at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting; San Francisco; Nov. 24, 2011.

“Scriptural Interpretation as a Wisdom-Seeking Endeavor”
 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise Symposium; Heidelberg, Germany; May 2011.

“The Origins of Historical Criticism in Theological Perspective”
 Christian Theology and the Bible; SBL Annual Meeting; New Orleans; Nov. 21, 2009.

“‘Unless you believe, you will not understand’: a brief history of Isaiah 7:9”
 History of Interpretation; SBL Annual Meeting; Boston; Nov. 23, 2008.

“Moses the Cosmopolite”
 Annual Meeting of the American Society for 18th Century Studies; Portland; March 28, 2008.

“Hearing the Scriptures with St. Ephrem: Notes on a Non-Western Biblical Interpreter”
 Oriental and Orthodox Biblical Interpretation; SBL Annual Meeting; San Diego; Nov. 17, 2007.

“The textualisation of the Bible in the seventeenth century: Jean Morin, Louis Cappel, and the rise of sacred criticism”
 History of Interpretation; International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature; Vienna, Austria; July 22-26, 2007.

“Saul in Tragic Perspective: A Reconsideration”
 Rocky Mts-Great Plains Regional Society of Biblical Literature; Omaha; March 23, 2007.

“Champions of Spirit: Hamann, Herder, and the Rise of Professional Biblical Criticism in Late-Eighteenth Century Germany”
 American Society of Church History; Atlanta; Jan. 7, 2007.

“The Wives of Job in Text and Tradition”
 Scripture in Early Judaism and Christianity; SBL Annual Meeting; Washington D.C.; Nov. 20, 2006.

“From Sacred to Sublime: Robert Lowth, Johann David Michaelis, and the Reinterpretation of Biblical Poetry”
 History of Interpretation; SBL Annual Meeting; Philadelphia; Nov. 19, 2005.

POSTINGS AND PODCASTS

“Ancient Patterns of Prayer”

Article for *First Things* website (Feb. 27, 2020).

“Do We Need the New Testament?”

Invited panelist for symposium hosted by Syndicate Theology (syndicatetheology.com); 2016.

“The Fall of Scripture and the Rise of the Academic Bible”

Podcast interview with Dr. Albert Mohler for *Thinking in Public*; October 22, 2012.

“The end(s) of historical criticism”

Web article for the website “The Bible and Interpretation” posted Sept. 2010.

“Wisdom in the biblical tradition”

Podcast interview for the website “Catholic Comments” under the auspices of the Center for Catholic Thought at Creighton University; April 12, 2010.

“Wisdom and Tradition: Aristotle”

Co-authored with Ryan Hanley; web article for the *Defining Wisdom* project under the auspices of the Arete Initiative at the University of Chicago; April 1, 2010.

“Is it possible to define wisdom without saying what it is?”

Web article for the *Defining Wisdom* project under the auspices of the Arete Initiative at the University of Chicago; March 1, 2009.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, University Park, Pennsylvania

New Testament

Hebrew Bible

Jesus the Jew

Early and Medieval Christianity

Athens and Jerusalem: Wisdom in the Ancient World

Ethics in Jewish Tradition and Thought

Jewish and Christian Foundations

Book of Revelation

PHILLIPS ACADEMY, Andover, Massachusetts

Existentialism

Faith and Doubt

Introduction to the Bible

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible

Introduction to the New Testament

Religions of the Book: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

Introduction to Ethics

Introduction to Philosophy
Science as a Human Activity
Ethics: Technology
Views of Human Nature
Responses to the Holocaust
Bruce Lee: Philosophy, Identity, and Race
Philosophy in Film
History of Thought
Etymology and Semantics
The Existence of God

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, Omaha, Nebraska

Seminar in Biblical Studies: Exegetical Methods in Historical Context
History of Biblical Interpretation
Reading the Old Testament
Introduction to the Culture of Collegiate Life

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Mohr Siebeck; editorial board for *History of Biblical Exegesis* (2018-2020)
Society of Biblical Literature (SBL); member (2005-2020)
History of Interpretation Section (SBL); co-chair (with Mark Elliott) (2016-2020)
Theological Interpretation of Scripture Section (SBL); teering committee (2019-2020)
Journal of Theological Interpretation; editorial board (Old Testament) (2017-2020)
Penn State University Press; member of Eisenbrauns editorial committee (2017-2020)
Reviewer for academic presses (Yale UP, Cambridge UP, Eerdmans, Palgrave Macmillan)
Reviewer for academic journals (*Harvard Theological Review*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Journal of the Bible and Its Reception*)

HONORS AND GRANTS

Center for Humanities and Information (PSU) Faculty Fellowship, fall 2015
John Templeton Award for Theological Promise, 2011
Defining Wisdom grant (University of Chicago/Templeton Foundation); 2008-2010
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Scholarship; Göttingen, 2004–2005
Certificates of Distinction in Teaching; Harvard, 2001, 2002
Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Humanistic Studies; Harvard, 1999–2000