

BISHOP VAHAN S. HOVHANESSIAN, PH.D.

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EDUCATION:

- PhD New Testament, The Bible, Department of Theology; Fordham University, New York, 1998.
Dissertation: "Third Corinthians: Reclaiming Paul for Christian Orthodoxy."
Textual criticism (comparing the Armenian, with the Coptic, Greek and Latin texts and producing the English translation, with an introduction to the use of the document in the canon lists and the early church and a theological interpretation of the contents of the correspondence. The dissertation was published by Peter Lang Inc, 2000.
- M.Div. Theology; St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary, New York, 1989.
Thesis: "The Canons of the Council of Shahapivan (444 CE):
Introduction, Text, Translation and Commentary." Faculty Commendation
- Diploma Advanced Armenian Church Studies; St. Nersess Seminary, New York, 1989.
- B.A. Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering, University of Baghdad, Iraq, 1985.
Graduation Project: Transmitting Digital Signals Using Differential
Phase Shift Keying (DPSK).
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RESEARCH LANGUAGES:

- Proficient in Biblical Aramaic, Greek and Hebrew (Taught graduate level courses)
 - Proficient in Arabic (ACTFL Proficiency Test: Superior)
 - Proficient in Classical Armenian, and in Modern Eastern & Modern Western dialects
 - Fluent in French (DELF and DALF, lectured at Sorbonne University in Paris, France)
 - Reading, writing and translation in Coptic and Syriac
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CURRENT ACADEMIC PROJECT:

The Commentary on the Letter of the Apostle Paul to Galatians, by the 13th-century scholar, philosopher, and theologian, Yovhan Orotneç'i. This will be the first translation to English of the commentaries of Orotneç'i on the Letters of Paul to a modern language, with a commentary in English on the theology and hermeneutics of the author. The project includes the preparation of the critical text of the commentary and its translation to English as part of an ongoing project *to examine the commentaries of the churches of the East (Arabic, Armenian and Syriac)*, in an effort to explore the subject of biblical hermeneutics in the Churches of the East, during the medieval centuries.

ACADEMIC INTERESTS:

Bible in the early Christian communities especially in the East, commentaries and hermeneutics, the canon of the Bible: Old Testament and New Testament, Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, Pauline corpus and theology.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Online Faculty, *Biblical Studies*, St. Joseph College of Maine, 278 Whites Bridge Road, Standish, ME 04084: 2022-Present
 Visiting professor of *Biblical studies*, The Gevorgian Theological University, Etchmiadzin Vagharshapat 1101, Republic of Armenia: 2006-Present
 Fellow, Department of Theology, University of Wales, UK: 2010-2015.
 Visiting lecturer of *Biblical languages*, The Pope Shenouda III Coptic Orthodox Theological Seminary, Ceader Grove, NJ: 2006-2010 (moved to London, UK)
 Adjunct professor of *Biblical studies*, Georgian Court University, 900 Lakewood Avenue, Lakewood, NJ: 2006-2010 (moved to London, UK)
 Interim Dean, St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, 486 Bedford Road, Armonk, NY 10504, visiting professor of *Biblical Studies*: 1999-2000
 Lecturer in *New Testament theology and interpretation*, Department of Christian Education, Diocese of the Armenian Church, NY: 1990-2010

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE:

Founder and President of the Board of Directors of the “Fondation GAÏDZ pour le Rayonnement de la Culture et du Patrimoine Arméniens – Institut de France, Academie Francaise” Paris, France (2021-present).
 Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, The Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem (2019-present)
 Member of the Supreme Spiritual Council, Etchmiadsin, Armenia, (2015-present).
 Founder and first President of the Board of Directors of the “Armenian Church Trust of the United Kingdom” (ACTUK), London, UK (2010-2015).
 Pastor and president of the “Parish Councils” of St. Leon Armenian Church in Fair Lawn, NJ (1993-1999), and of the Holy Martyrs Armenian Church in Bayside, NY (2000-2010).
 Interim Dean, St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, New Rochelle, NY (1999-2000).

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

The American School of Oriental Research (ASOR), 2008–present

Association internationale des études arméniennes (AIEA), 2000-present

Association pour l'étude de la littérature apocryphe chrétienne (AELAC), 2000-present

Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), (1992–present)

- Chairman, Program-Unit Steering Committee, Bible in the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Traditions (2006–present)

Catholic Biblical Association (CBA), 2001–present

European Association of Biblical Studies (EABS), 2009–Present

Orthodox Center for the Advancement of Biblical Studies (OCABS), 2004–present

- Senior Editor, *Journal for the Orthodox Center for the Advancement of Biblical Studies (JOCABS)*, 2007–2014)
- Board of Directors (2007–2014)

Orthodox Theological Society in America, 2001–present

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS (PARTIAL LIST):

- Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, *The Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem* (2019-present)
 - Member, Doctoral Thesis Committee, *The Gevorkian Theological University*, Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, Vagharshabad, Armenia, (2008–present)
 - Fellow, Department of Theology, Cardiff University, UK, (2011-2016)
 - Chairman of the committee for the first international conference on the Armenian version of the Bible in the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadsin, 1995.
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PUBLICATIONS:Monographs and Books:

Né de l'eau et de l'esprit. Notre renaissance du baptême. Paris : Diocèse de France de l'église arménienne, 2021 (French).

La Célébration de la Divine Liturgie, Badarak, dans l'Église Apostolique Arménienne (French Edition) Paris : Diocèse de France de l'église arménienne, 2019

La sainte bible et l'église apostolique arménienne. Paris : Diocèse de France de l'église arménienne, 2018 (French).

Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled in the New Testament (Western Armenian and English). New York, Holy Martyrs Armenian Church, 2009.

In Remembrance of the Lord: Biblical Origins, Historical Review and Contemporary Commentary on the Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Church. New York: St Vartan Press, 2008.

Third Corinthians: Reclaiming Paul for Christian Orthodoxy. New York: Peter Lang Publisher Inc., 2000.

Grand Canticle (Awak Orhnowtiwn): Introduction, English Translation and Commentary. New York: St. Leon Armenian Church, 1998.

Introduction to the Bible (In English and Armenian). Montreal: Diocese of the Armenian Church of Canada, 1997.

Edited Books:

- The School of Antioch*. New York: Peter Lang Publishers Inc., 2016.
- The Canon of the Bible and the Apocrypha in the Churches of the East*. New York: Peter Lang Publishers Inc., 2011.
- The Old Testament as Authoritative Scripture in the Early Churches of the East*. New York: Peter Lang Publisher Inc., 2010.
- Exegesis and Hermeneutics in the Churches of the East: Select Papers from the SBL Meeting in San Diego, 2007*. New York: Peter Lang Publishers Inc., 2009.

Series Editor: Bible in the Christian Orthodox Traditions

- The School of Antioch*. Bible in the Christian Orthodox Traditions, Volume 6. New York: Peter Lang Publishers Inc., 2016.
- Festschrift in Honor of Professor Paul Nadim Tarazi*. Volume 2: Studies in the New Testament. (ed.) Bradley Nasif. Bible in the Christian Orthodox Traditions, Volume 5. New York: Peter Lang Publishers Inc., 2014.
- Festschrift in Honor of Professor Paul Nadim Tarazi*. Volume 2: Studies in the Intertestamental, Extra-Canonical and Christian Literature. (ed.) Tom Dykstra. Bible in the Christian Orthodox Traditions, Volume 4. New York: Peter Lang Publishers Inc., 2014.
- Festschrift in Honor of Professor Paul Nadim Tarazi*. Volume 1: Studies in the Old Testament. (ed.) Nicolae Roddy. Bible in the Christian Orthodox Traditions, Volume 3. New York: Peter Lang Publishers Inc., 2013.
- The Canon of the Bible and the Apocrypha in the Churches of the East*. Bible in the Christian Orthodox Traditions, Volume 2. New York: Peter Lang Publishers Inc., 2011.
- The Old Testament as Authoritative Scripture in the Early Churches of the East*. Bible in the Christian Orthodox Traditions, Volume 1. New York: Peter Lang Publisher Inc., 2010.

Selected Recent Book Chapters and Refereed Journal Articles:

- “The Bible and Biblical Hermeneutics in the Armenian Tradition” in the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of the Bible in Orthodox Christianity* (ed.) Eugen J. Pentiu (Oxford University Press, Forthcoming 2022).
- “What Influence Did Church Councils and Theological Disputes Play in the Formation of the New Testament Canon?” in the forthcoming *The New Testament Canon in Contemporary Research*, (ed.) Stan Porter (Brill Publishers, Forthcoming 2022).
- “Apocryphal Repose of the Blessed John in the Armenian Tradition,”
The Proceedings of the International Conference on the Occasion of the 350 Anniversary of the Oskanean Bible (1666–216) (ed.) Gevorg Ter-Vardanian. Etchmiadzin: Mother See, 2018, pp. 86–93.
- “The Canons of the Council of Shahabivan – 451: Introduction and Translation,” *Revue des Études Arméniennes* (2017): 76–105.
- “The Repose of the Evangelist John and the Armenian Bible: Deconstructing the Acts of John,” in *Rediscovering the Apocryphal Continent*, (ed.) Pierluigi Piovanelli. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2015, pp. 245–266.
- “Revisiting the Baptism on behalf of the Dead in 1 Cor 15:29” in: *Festschrift in Honor of Professor Paul Nadim Tarazi*. Volume 2: Studies in the New Testament. (ed.) Bradley Nassif. Bible in the Christian Orthodox Traditions, Volume 4. New York: Peter Lang Publishers Inc., 2014, pp. 73–88.

- “Corinthians, Third,” *Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, Roger S. Bagnall, et al (ed.), awarded Honorable Mention for the 2013 Dartmouth Medal for excellence in reference publications given by the *The Reference and User Services Association* (RUSA). Oxford, Blackwell, 2012.
- “The Queen of Sheba’s Questions to Solomon,” in *Old Testament Pseudepigrapha -More Noncanonical Scriptures*, Volume 1, (ed.) Alexander Panayotov, James R. Davila and Richard Bauckham (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2013), pp. 326–345.
- “A Medieval Armenian Scholion on the Catholic Epistles” in *Exegesis and Hermeneutics in the Churches of the East*. New York: Peter Lang, 2009, pp. 121–132.
- “Biblical Studies and the Eastern and the Western and Oriental Orthodox Traditions,” with N. Roddy, in *Journal for the Orthodox Center for the Advancement of Biblical Studies* 1.1 (2008) [Online]. Available at www.ocabs.org/journal.
- “The Commentaries on the Letters of Paul Attributed to Ephrem the Syrian in Armenian Manuscripts,” *The Harp: A Review of Syriac and Oriental Studies* XXIV (2009): 311–327.
- “A Glance at the Holy Bible in the Armenian Church Traditions,” in *Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. Armenian Church Edition. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 2009, pp. xix–xxx.
- “The Armenian Version of the Bible,” in *Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization*, George Kurian (ed.), Oxford, Blackwell, 2008.
- “Readings from the Apocryphal Third Corinthians in the Church Lectionary,” in: *The Armenian Bible: A Symposium Celebrating the 1600th Anniversary of the Discovery of the Armenian Alphabet and the Translation of the Bible into Armenian*. Barlow Der Mugrdechian (ed.), Burbank: Western Diocese, 2008, pp. 68–82.
- “A Glance at Monasticism in Armenia: History and Relevance,” *In Search of the Precious Pearl*. Rome: Pontificio Istituto Orientale, 2004, pp. 45–85.
- (Information about more publications will be provided upon request.)