

John W. Hilber, ThM, PhD

Education

PhD in Old Testament, University of Cambridge, 2004.

Thesis: “Cultic Prophecy in the Psalms in the Light of Neo-Assyrian Prophetic Sources”

Emphasis on Hebrew Bible; Ancient Near Eastern languages and civilizations

Professor Graham I. Davies, Supervisor

Fellow of the Cambridge Overseas Society with bursary from 2000 to 2003

ThM in Semitics and Old Testament, Dallas Theological Seminary, 1984.

Thesis: “A Biblical Theology of Zephaniah”

Merrill F. Unger Award in Old Testament

BS in Geology, University of Washington, 1977.

Academic Positions

Professor of Old Testament, McMaster Divinity College, 2022 to present.

Hebrew language; hermeneutics; Co-Director of Centre for Church and Culture

Professor of Old Testament, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, 2012 to 2022.

Hebrew language, Old Testament exegesis and theology, hermeneutics. Tenured 2016.

Senior Research Fellow, The Henry Center for Theological Understanding, TEDS, 2016 to 2017 academic year.

Senior Research Fellow for the Henry Center’s “Creation Project” funded by Templeton Religion Trust

Associate Professor of Old Testament Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary, 2004 to 2012.

Hebrew language and exegesis; Old Testament introduction; Israelite and ancient Near Eastern religions.

Supervision of master’s theses and advisor on doctoral dissertations. Tenured 2008.

Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge.

Substitute teacher in Hebrew text classes, Lent Term 2002 and 2004.

Guest Lecturer, University of Washington, Tacoma, Spring 1999, Winter 2000.

Ancient Near Eastern and Christian backgrounds for a course on Government and Western Civilization.

Publications

Books

Old Testament Cosmology and Divine Accommodation: A Relevance Theory Approach, Eugene: Cascade Books, 2020.

Ezekiel: A Focused Commentary for Preaching and Teaching, Eugene: Cascade Books, 2019.

Psalms, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013 (also published in *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary:*

The Minor Prophets, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, vol. 5, John H. Walton [ed.], Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009, 316-463).

Cultic Prophecy in the Psalms, BZAW 352, Berlin: de Gruyter, 2005.

Edited Books

Behind the Scenes of the Old Testament: Historical, Cultural, and Social Contexts of Ancient Israel, coedited with

Jonathan S. Greer and John H. Walton, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018. Also translated into Korean.

Articles

- “Egyptian Prophecy: Clarifying Some Issues,” in *Egypt and Hebrew Prophecy*, ed. Christopher B. Hays, John Huddleston, and Thomas Schneider, *Ägypten und Altes Testament*, Münster: Zaphon, forthcoming.
- “Israelite Prophecy in Its Ancient Near Eastern Context,” in *The State of Old Testament Studies*, ed. M. Daniel Carroll R. and H. H. Hardy II, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, forthcoming.
- “Torah and Prophecy in the Ancient Near East,” in *Torah: Treaty, Law, and Ritual in the Hebrew Bible in its Ancient Near Eastern Environment*, ed. Richard E. Averbeck et al., BBRSup, University Park: Penn State University Press, forthcoming.
- “We are Not Apostles: Limits on Reading Ezekiel as Christian Scripture,” in *The Prophets and The Apostolic Witness: Reading Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel as Christian Scripture*, ed. Andrew T. Abernathy, William R. Osborn, and Paul D. Wegner, Downers Grove: IVP, 229-48.
- “The Contextual Method through the Lens of Relevance Theory,” in *Now These Records are Ancient: Studies in Ancient Near Eastern and Biblical History, Language and Culture in Honor of K. Lawson Younger, Jr.*, ed. James K. Hoffmeier, Richard E. Averbeck, J. Caleb Howard and Wolfgang Zwickel, *Ägypten und Altes Testament* 114, Münster: Zaphon, 2022, 183–99.
- “Prophetic Ritual in the Egyptian Royal Cult,” in *Prophecy and Its Cultic Dimensions*, ed. Lena-Sophia Tiemeyer, JAJ 31, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2019, 51-62.
- “Prophecy, Divination, and Magic in the Ancient Near East,” in *Behind the Scenes of the Old Testament: Historical, Cultural, and Social Contexts of Ancient Israel*, ed. Jonathan S. Greer, John W. Hilber, and John H. Walton, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018, 368-74..
- “The Relationship of Prophecy and Wisdom in the Ancient Near East,” in *Riddles and Revelations: Explorations into the Relationship between Wisdom and Prophecy in the Hebrew Bible*, ed. M. J. Boda, R. L. Meek, and W. R. Osborne, LHBOTS 634, London: Bloomsbury T. & T. Clark, 2018, 55-72.
- “Isaiah as Prophet and Isaiah as Book in their Ancient Near Eastern Context,” in *Bind Up the Testimony: Explorations in the Genesis of the Book of Isaiah*, ed. Daniel I. Block and Richard Schultz, Peabody: Hendrickson, 2015, 151-74.
- “Royal Cultic Prophecy in Assyria, Judah, and Egypt,” in *‘Thus Speaks Ishtar of Arbela’: Prophecy in Israel, Assyria and Egypt in the Neo-Assyrian Period*, ed. Robert P. Gordon and Hans M. Barstad, Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2013, 161-86.
- “Liturgy and Cult, Prophets and,” in *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Prophets*, ed. Mark J. Boda and J. Gordon McConville, Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2012, 513-24.
- “The Culture of Prophecy and Writing in the Ancient Near East” in *Do Historical Matters Matter to Faith*, ed. James K. Hoffmeier and Dennis Magary, Wheaton: Crossway, 2012, 219-41.
- “Egyptian Royal Cultic Prophecy,” in *On Stone and Scroll: Essays in Honour of Graham Ivor Davies*, ed. James K. Aitken, Katharine J. Dell, and Brian A. Mastin, BZAW 420, Berlin & New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2011, 39-53.
- “Cultic Prophecy in Assyria and in the Psalms,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 127 (2007): 29-40.
- “Cultic Prophecy in the Psalms in the Light of Assyrian Prophetic Sources,” *Tyndale Bulletin* 56 (2005): 141-45.
- “Psalm cx in the Light of Assyrian Prophecies,” *Vetus Testamentum* 53 (2003): 353-66.
- “Old Testament Wisdom and the Integration Debate in Christian Counseling,” *Bibliotheca Sacra* 155 (1998): 411-22.
- “Theology of Worship in Exodus 24,” *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 39 (1996): 177-89.
- “Diversity of OT Prophetic Phenomena and NT Prophecy,” *Westminster Theological Journal* 56 (1994): 243-58.

Invited Papers

- “Weighing Prophecy: Deuteronomy and Prophetism in the ANE” (ETS National 2023)
- “We are Not Apostles: Limits on Reading Ezekiel as Christian Scripture” (ETS National, 2021)

- “The Contextual Method through the Lens of Relevance Theory” (ETS National, 2021)
- “Torah and Prophecy in Ancient Near Eastern Context” (ETS National, 2020)
- “Relevance Theory and Divine Accommodation in Genesis 1” (ETS National, 2016)
- “Prophetic Ritual in the Egyptian Royal Cult” (SBL National, 2015).
- “The Relationship of Prophecy and Wisdom in the Ancient Near East” (IBR-SBL National, 2015).
- “Isaiah as Prophet and Isaiah as Book in their Ancient Near Eastern Context” (Wheaton College Colloquium on the Genesis of the Book of Isaiah, 2013).
- “Mesopotamian Prophecy in the Second Millennium” (ETS National, 2012).
- “Genesis 1 and the Latter Prophets” (Templeton Foundation Colloquium on Genesis and Science, 2011).
- “Royal Cultic Prophecy in Assyria, Judah, and Egypt” (Prophecy Network, University of Edinburgh, 2009).
- “Cultic Prophecy in Judah and Assyria” (Colloquium on Judah and Assyria, University of Leiden, 2005).
- “Assyrian Prophecy and Prophetic Response to Inquiry and Lament in the OT” (OT Seminar, University of Cambridge, 2004).

Other Papers Presented

- “Cosmology and Biblical Interpretation: Insights from Relevance Theory (ASA Annual, 2023)
- “The Relationship of Prophecy and Wisdom in the Ancient Near East” (ETS National, 2015).
- “Prophecy and Writing in the Ancient Near East: A Reassessment” (SBL and ETS National, 2011).
- “Monotheism in Neo-Assyrian Religion? An Appraisal” (ETS National, 2010).
- “Egyptian Prophecy in Broader Ancient Near Eastern Perspective” (SBL National, 2008).
- “Ancient Near Eastern Prophetism: Were Israel’s Prophets Unique?” (ETS National, 2008).
- “Cultic Prophecy in Assyria and in the Psalms” (SBL National, 2005).
- “Psalm 81 in the Light of Assyrian Prophecies” (ETS National, 2004).
- “Assyrian Prophecy and Prophetic Response to Inquiry and Lament in the OT” (SBL & ETS National, 2003).
- “Psalm 110 in the Light of Assyrian Prophecies” (SBL National, 2002; Tyndale OT Seminars, Summer 2002).
- “Psalm 2 in the Light of Assyrian Prophecies” (ETS National, 2002).
- “OT Wisdom and the Integration Debate in Christian Counseling” (ETS National, 1997).
- “Theology of Worship in Exodus 24” (SBL Regional, 1992; ETS National, 1993).
- “Diversity of OT Prophetic Phenomena and NT Prophecy” (ETS National, 1992).

Book Reviews and Abstracts

- Martti Nissinen et al., *Prophets and Prophecy in the Ancient Near East*, 2nd ed. (Atlanta: SBL, 2019), in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 30 (2020): 442-44.
- Martti Nissinen, *Ancient Prophecy: Near Eastern, Biblical, and Greek Perspectives* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017) in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 29 (2019): 245-47.
- Jeffrey Stackert, *A Prophet Like Moses: Prophecy, Law, and Israelite Religion* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014) in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 25 (2015): 242-44.
- Jonathan Stökl and Corrine L. Carvalho, *Prophets Male and Female: Gender and Prophecy in the Hebrew Bible, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Ancient Near East* (SBLAIL 15; Atlanta: SBL, 2013) in *Review of Biblical Literature*, www.bookreviews.org, 9/27/2014.
- John D. Currid, *Against the Gods: The Polemical Theology of the Old Testament* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2013) in *Journal for the Evangelical Study of the Old Testament* 3 (2014): 114-17.
- Zoltán S. Schwáb, *Toward an Interpretation of the Book of Proverbs: Selfishness and Secularity Reconsidered* (JTISup 7; Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2013) in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 24 (2014): 262-64.
- Daniel D. Lowery, *Toward a Poetics of Genesis 1–11: Reading Genesis 4:17-22 in Its Near Eastern Context* (BBRSup 7; Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2013) in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 24 (2014): 85-87.
- John Day, ed., *Prophecy and the Prophets in Ancient Israel: Proceedings of the Oxford Old Testament Seminary* (LHBOTS 531; London: T & T Clark, 2010) in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 21 (2011): 544-46.

- Daniel L. Hawk, *Joshua in 3-D: A Commentary on Biblical Conquest and Manifest Destiny* (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2010) in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 21 (2011): 398-400.
- Miriam von Nordheim, *Geboren von der Morgenröte? Psalm 110 in Tradition, Redaktion und Rezeption* (WMANT 117; Neukirchener, 2008) in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 20 (2010): 438-39.
- Walter Brueggemann, *An Unsettling God: The Heart of the Hebrew Bible* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2009) in *Journal of the Evangelical Homiletics Society* 10 (2010): 137-39.
- Leo G. Purdue, *Wisdom Literature: A Theological History* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2007) in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 19 (2009): 432-33.
- Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer, *Priestly Rites and Prophetic Rage*, *Forshungen zum Alten Testament* 2.19 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2006) in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 19 (2009): 431-32.
- Richard S. Hess, *Song of Songs*, Baker Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005) in *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 18 (2008): 326-28.
- Adele Berlin, Marc Zvi Brettler, and Michael Fishbane, eds., *The Jewish Study Bible* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004) in *Bibliotheca Sacra* 165 (2008): 239.
- John Goldingay, *Psalms 1–41*, Baker Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006) in *Bibliotheca Sacra* 165 (2008): 374-75.
- David Firth and Philip S. Johnston, eds., *Interpreting the Psalms: Issues and Approaches* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2005) in *Bibliotheca Sacra* 164 (2007): 114-15.
- Mark S. Smith, *The Memoirs of God: History, Memory, and the Experience of the Divine in Ancient Israel* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2004) in *Bibliotheca Sacra* 163 (2006): 492.
- Dale Ralph Davis, *No Falling Words: Expositions of the Book of Joshua* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988) in *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 33 (1990): 245-46.
- James Montgomery Boice, *Genesis: An Expositional Commentary, Vol 2 (Genesis 12:1–36:43)* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985) in *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 30 (1987): 104-105.
- Derek Kidner, *Wisdom to Live By: An Introduction to the Old Testament Wisdom Books of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1985) in *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 29 (1986): 476-77.

Contributor of over 300 abstracts for *Old Testament Abstracts*, 1988–2012.

Pastoral and Related Experience

Archaeological Excavation Team—Tel Dan, July 2016.

Israel Tours Leadership (2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014)

Part of leadership team on six tours to Israel (GRTS; Insight for Living; Dallas Seminary).

Pastoral Staff at Believers Fellowship, a community church in Gig Harbor, WA, 1985 to 2000.

All facets of pastoral ministry shared in a multi-staff context.

Professional Associations

American Oriental Society

American Schools of Oriental Research

American Scientific Affiliation

Evangelical Theological Society

Northwest Regional Chairman, 1990.

Steering Committee for Old Testament Backgrounds Section, 2009 to 2018

Institute for Biblical Research

Editorial Board—*Bulletin for Biblical Research*, 2013 to 2015.

Society of Biblical Literature