

## Guidelines for the Research Paper

The paper can be centered on one passage or it can look at a major theme in one of the books studied in this course. If the paper focuses on a theme in a book, it is important to see how that theme relates to the rest of the canon (OT and NT). If the paper focuses on one passage, the following questions should be kept in mind:

- a) How does the passage fit into the rest of the book?
- b) What is the major theme of the passage?
- c) How is the theme developed (an outline of the passage is helpful here)?
- d) Are there any significant literary, historical, or theological questions?
- e) Are there any major problems in the passage?
- f) Is the passage using prior revelation in any way?
- g) What is the message of the passage to the original reading audience?
- h) Is the passage used in a significant way in later biblical history (either OT or NT)?
- i) What is the message of the passage for today?

The paper could revolve around a particular literary, historical, or theological issue in the passage or a particular problem encountered in the text. The paper should reflect a developed argument centered around a theme or an issue in the passage.

The following are criteria that will be used to evaluate the paper:

- a) Cogency of argument - how well does the argument hang together, and how well are pertinent and fundamental points brought out?
- b) Discussions of historical context, genre, and redemptive history (where these are appropriate)
- c) The use of sources: a variety of commentaries should be examined (use at least one older commentary, such as Calvin, Geneva series, etc.), and at least one journal article must be cited.
- e) The paper should be 10-15 pages, double-spaced with one inch margins on all sides, except the left margin should have a 1 1/4 inch margin.

**No plastic paper covers, just staple.  
Do not leave extra space between paragraphs!**

- f) Please number the pages.
- g) You are expected to use as much Hebrew as you are able.
- h) ETS/JETS guidelines are to be followed for abbreviations of journals, which is similar to the JBL guidelines. The JBL guidelines are available in book form (the library has three copies) or you can access ETS/JETS by going to the RTS

website, to research, to web resources, to writing and there you will find the ETS/JETS guidelines (<http://www.rts.edu/resources/library/resources.cfm>)

Sample first references for books, journal articles, and an article in a book:

a) Sample first references for books, journal articles, and an article in a book:

<sup>1</sup>John N. Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah: Chapters 1-39* (NICOT; Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986) 25-28.

<sup>2</sup>Edward. Robertson, "The 'Urim and Tummim'; What Were They?" *VT* 14 (1964) 67-70.

<sup>3</sup>Meredith G. Kline, "The Covenant of the Seventieth Week," *The Law and the Prophets* (ed. John H. Skilton; Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1974) 452-55.

<sup>4</sup>P. J. S. Els, "bħa ('hb)," *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis* (ed. Willem VanGemeren; 5 vols; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997) 1:277-99.

b) Second shortened footnote references:

<sup>5</sup>Oswalt, *Isaiah 1-39*, 29-30.

<sup>6</sup>Robertson, "Urim and Tummim," 70.

<sup>7</sup>Kline, "The Seventieth Week," 457.

<sup>8</sup>Els, "bħa ('hb)," 1:288.