

# CALL FOR COMMENTARIES

## Will You Write a Biblical Commentary?

As of November 2020, Sheffield Phoenix Press (SPP) is inviting applications from biblical scholars for a contract to write a commentary on a biblical book in one or other of its four commentary series: Critical Commentaries, Readings, Text of the Hebrew Bible, The Trauma Bible.

Unlike other commentary series, for which authors are usually invited by editorial boards to contribute a volume, SPP is endeavouring to democratize the process of selection of authors and to create a roster of commentators more diverse and more representative of the current practice of biblical scholarship across the globe.

SPP will evaluate proposals offered. Knowing how much energy must be invested in such work, a contract will not specify a completion date (a framework of 5–10 years is envisaged) and the author will not be hounded to complete a volume by a given date.

## Critical Commentaries

SPP is not seeking to reinvent the biblical commentary, but it is obvious that a commentary for today (and for a decade or more from now) should look rather different from most commentaries currently in existence.

Perhaps the most significant trend in biblical studies of the last 50 years has been the gradual incursion of interdisciplinary dimensions into the scope of the field. Without prescribing which interdisciplinary fields a commentator should be in conversation with, we would expect that all authors would bring their own skills and expertise to relating current movements of thought, whether literary, sociological, historical, or interpretation history, to the biblical text.

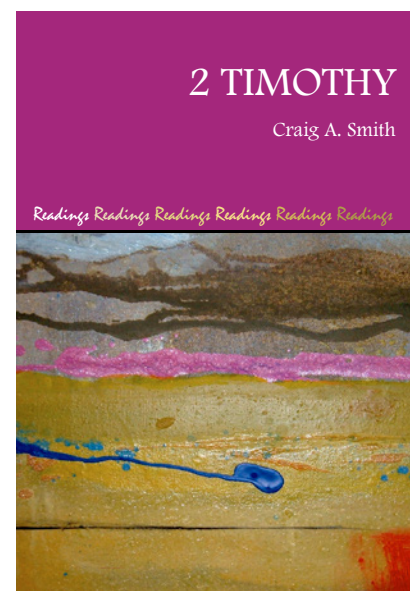
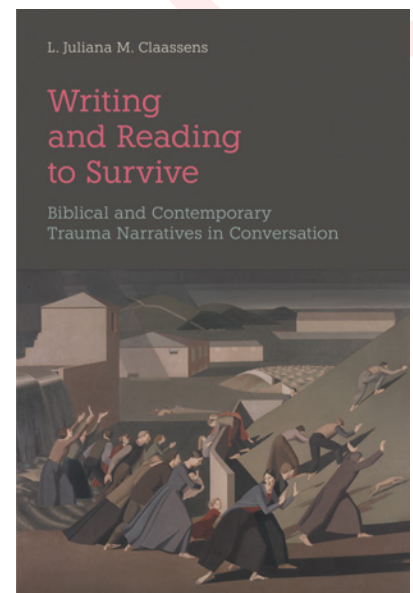
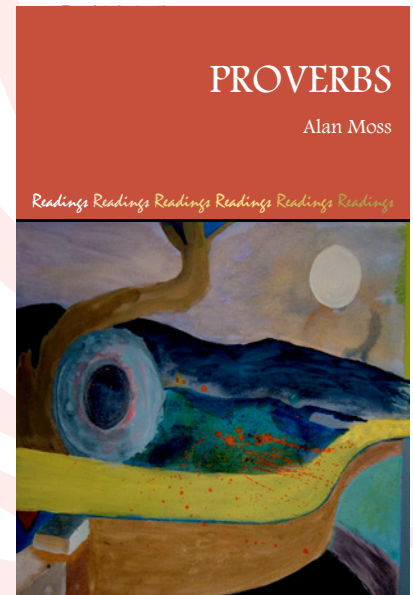
The Critical Commentary should be directed to biblical scholars and students without undue technicality, and should aim to explain (and critique as appropriate) the biblical text in clear English.

## Readings

A number of volumes in this series have already been published since 2006, and SPP is intending to revivify the series with new volumes on biblical books not already treated as well as new readings of biblical books already treated.

The aim of the series is to present compact literary readings of the biblical books, unencumbered by the paraphernalia of traditional criticism and alert to the impact of literary studies on biblical interpretation. Each contributor to the series approaches their text from their own personal literary position.

The approach in the Readings series is to present a coherent paragraph by paragraph commentary on the biblical book, which could be recommended as the first commentary on the book a student or



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interested reader might pick up. The target word length is 200 pp. (80,000 words).

## The Text of the Hebrew Bible

This commentary series, of which one volume has been published (John Gray on the Book of Job [2011]) has as its focus the Hebrew text. Rather than attempting to cover all the aspects of Hebrew Bible study that are now current in scholarly commentaries the series restricts itself largely to textual criticism and philology. Authors are free to pursue textual issues as far as they lead; since many textual issues are themselves exegetical questions a broader exegesis is by no means excluded.

The reason for the restriction of scope in this series is that the time it takes to prepare a full-featured commentary is now so extensive that few scholars are able to contemplate undertaking such works. The result seems to be a proliferation of commentaries designed for the preacher, but few that are based on a thorough examination of the Hebrew text from the point of view of textual criticism and philology. A series focussing on such matters—which are of course foundational for any study or commentary—is now overdue.

The focus of The Text of the Hebrew Bible series will not be different in character from the textual and philological elements in the ICC and Hermeneia series; but it is hoped that this series will enlist a new group of scholars other than those currently occupied with volumes for such series.

Within the general scope of the series, scholars invited to contribute will have freedom to develop their own approach to presenting their material. Some volumes may show a particular interest in the ancient versions, others comparatively little. Some will major on reviewing and adjudicating proposed emendations, others will focus rather on philology. Such differences of approach are acceptable within the framework of the series, but all the volumes will address all of the above elements.

No word limit is placed on the manuscripts commissioned, but it is expected that a typical manuscript will contain up to 10,000 words (25 printed pages) for each of the chapters of the biblical text. Authors should use Hebrew and Greek fonts, but transliterate other fonts into a 'scientific' system (i.e. using appropriate diacritics).

## The Trauma Bible

This series of commentaries (with a set of monographs, in parallel) is designed to bring to the fore the significance of trauma in the content and in the creation of biblical texts. Liz Boase and Megan Warner as sub-series editors will be assisting the Sheffield Phoenix Board in considering proposals.



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