

EDITORIAL

Dear readers, we are happy to provide you with our Fall 2021 issue of *Andrews University Seminary Studies (AUSS)* which presents articles that explore new, refreshing, and faithful avenues for interpreting Biblical texts. In addition, this issue marks a new milestone for our publication strategy. We have been silently launching a digital version of our journal with our last issue (Spring 2021). After some testing and feedback, we are now ready to officially launch the digital version of *AUSS* in tandem with the in-print version.

From now on, you have three subscription options: digital, in-print, or digital & in-print. When subscribing to our digital version, you will receive each issue in two formats. With the ePub format, you can read our journal on modern reading devices like Kindle, iPad, or other tablet versions that support this format. We also offer the popular PDF format which has the practical advantage that it can be used like digital paper, as the reader can add handwritten notes with digital pencils (if you have that hardware).

With the digital version of our journal, we also hope to reduce our shipping costs. Before the pandemic, and certainly with the Covid crisis, costs have increased dramatically, particularly for international shipping. We, therefore, must transfer these costs to international subscribers, beginning in July, 2022. We encourage you to transfer to our digital subscription, as this is more cost-efficient and allows you to get instant access to our journal once it is published. At the same time, we will continue to print our journal for those who prefer that option. Please see our updated pricing and subscription models on our website: tinyurl.com/AUSS-Store.

In this Fall, 2021 issue of *AUSS*, our first two articles engage with surprising statements in Old Testament texts. First, Ian Reyes contributes a study on “‘Nebuchadnezzar, My Servant’: A Reexamination of the Honorific Title ‘Servant of the LORD.’” While this title is used for Moses, Joshua, and David, Jeremiah uses it to refer to the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar who caused the fall of Jerusalem and the Davidic Monarchy (Jer 25:9; 27:6; 43:10). Ian discusses the limits and problems of the latest interpretative approaches to this subject and does a fresh analysis. He proposes that the use of the title is not a scribal error or a careless expression. Rather, it is an intentional and theologically significant designation for Nebuchadnezzar.

Second, Jonatas Leal and Oliver Glanz explore the unexpected expression: “‘And the Lord obeyed the voice of Elijah.’” Their article, “‘God’s Obedience’: A Linguistic and Narrative Exploration of the Hebrew Idiom in 1 Kings

17:22 and Its Theological Implications,” uses linguistic methods to explore the valence of שמע. They document that the Old Testament describes YHWH as Israel’s obedient God in a few important cases. With the help of narrative analysis, they suggest that the unexpected expression is one of several narrative strategies to show Elijah as a new Joshua and a prophetic prototype. It also enables the typological reference to the prophet in Mal 4:5-6 and Matt 4:5-6.

The third and fourth articles involve New Testament studies. In the third article, “On God’s Side of History: Time and Apocalyptic History in Paul’s Speech at the Areopagus,” Keldie Paroschi investigates how far Paul’s speech at the Areopagus (Acts 17:16-34) agrees with Stoic philosophy. While some scholars argue that Paul’s address is, to a great extent, Stoic in nature, others have argued that Paul uses Stoic vocabulary only to disagree with its worldview. Keldie contributes to this discussion by analyzing Paul’s reference to time in terms of Jewish apocalyptic historiography. She shows how Paul’s call to repentance receives its urgency from his references to apocalyptic linear time and stands, therefore, in contrast to Stoic moral philosophy.

In our fourth article, “Application of the Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency [TF-IDF] Weighting Scheme to the Pauline Corpus,” Brandon van der Ventel and Richard Newman apply an algorithmic model (TF-IDF) to the 13 letters that are traditionally associated with the apostle Paul. The cosine similarity method quantifies the similarity found among seven of the undisputed Pauline letters (1–2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Phillipians, 1 Thessalonians, Philemon). For their calculations, the authors use open-source python tools well known to the digital humanities (natural language toolkit, genism, etc.) to calculate the similarity between the disputed Pauline epistles and the undisputed corpus. They show that computational methods can be used to test the findings of theological and literary studies. With their permission, we make their Jupyter Notebook available so that their work can be used to inform your text-critical research.

In addition to these articles, our book reviews section brings fourteen recent and important books, among which you may find resources that are helpful for your continuing education and research. In addition, we share two abstracts of dissertations recently defended at Andrews University. In July 2021, Elmer Guzman completed his Ph.D. in systematic theology. His research compared the missional doctrinal hermeneutic of Vanhoozer and Kärkkäinen to gain deeper insight in the co-dependence of the concepts of God, eschatology, and mission. In October 2021, Michael Christian Orellana Mendez defended his dissertation in the field of Archeology. As an expert on pottery, he developed the historical and geographical context for the Iron Age IIa-c for pottery found in a courthouse excavated in field G4 at the Andrews University excavation site at Tall Jalul, Jordan.

Please note that the editors of *AUSS* hereby retract the following book review by Panayotis Coutsoumpos because of plagiarism: “The Second Letter

to the Corinthians [review] / Seifrid, Mark A.” *AUSS* 53.1 (2015): 235–237. This review is retracted because Coutsoumpos plagiarized substantial portions from a review written by another author. This retraction has no bearing on the academic validity of the original review. *AUSS* is using current technology for examining articles and book reviews prior to publication to prevent plagiarism.

Finally, we ask you to consider our call for articles on Truth and Information Warfare. See the inside back cover. We hope that you find this issue of our journal to be a blessing as you “grow in . . . grace and knowledge” (2 Pet 3:18).

MFH and OMG