

Vita for Thomas John Finley

April 2009

Web Site: <http://people.biola.edu/faculty/tomf>

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Department: Talbot School of Theology—Department of Old Testament and Semitics (chair of department)

Date Hired: 09/01/76

Date Tenured: 1981

Rank Level: Professor, Level 3

OVERSEAS TEACHING

Singapore Bible College: 7 weeks in summer of 1986. Taught “Old Testament Introduction,” “Amos,” “Zechariah.”

Evangelical Theological Seminary of Indonesia: 4 weeks in summer of 1989. Taught “Old Testament Introduction,” “Joel, Amos, & Obadiah.”

Logos Bible Institute in Sophia, Bulgaria: 2 weeks in October of 1995. Taught “Introduction to the Prophets.”

India Evangelical Mission School, Kerala State, Mavelikera, India: 3 weeks in summer of 2005. Taught “Old Testament Backgrounds” and “The Book of Ruth.”

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Biola University, La Mirada, California. Taught first-year German part time from 1967-1971.

Chinese for Christ Seminary, Rosemead, California. Taught “Old Testament Introduction” and “Minor Prophets.” From 1985-1990.

ACADEMIC SPECIALTY

Northwest Semitic Languages, especially Syntax (Hebrew, Aramaic, various Canaanite languages).

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Biola University, BA in Psychology, 1967

Biola University, Talbot School of Theology, MDiv in Old Testament, 1971

University of California, Los Angeles

MA in Near Eastern Languages (specialty in Semitics), 1974

University of California, Los Angeles

PhD in Near Eastern Languages (specialty in Western Akkadian), 1979

Dissertation: “Word Order in the Clause Structure of Syrian Akkadian” (University Microfilms)

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

1. CONSULTATION WORK

Hebrew learning on the computer -- privately funded project. The work took place on the Talbot campus. Served as consultant. 1980.

Consultant for The International Children's Bible. Reviewed previously translated material to check for faithfulness to the original text. 1985-1986.

Participant in specially funded intersession study group from the on-campus "Consultation of Theologians and Anthropologists" January, 1985.

Participant in specially funded intersession study group from the on-campus "Consultation of Theologians and Anthropologists" January, 1987.

Did consultant work for the NIV on the book of Joel. Fall 1990.

2. BOOKS PUBLISHED

A Commentary on Joel, Amos, and Obadiah (Wycliffe Exegetical Commentary; Moody, 1990).

Joel, Obadiah, and Micah (Everyman's bible Commentary; Moody, 1996).

A Bilingual Concordance to the Targum of the Prophets, Vols. 15-17, Ezekiel, E. J. Brill (1999).

Joel, Amos, Obadiah: An Exegetical Commentary (Biblical Studies Press, 2003). [a revision of the 1990 work]

How Biblical Languages Work: A Student's Guide to Learning Hebrew and Greek (Kregel, March 2004). Co-authored with Dr. Peter Silzer.

3. ARTICLES PUBLISHED

"The Waw -Consecutive with 'Imperfect' in Biblical Hebrew: Theoretical Studies and Its Use in Amos," in *Tradition and Testament: Essays in Honor of Charles Lee Feinberg* (ed. John S. Feinberg and Paul D. Feinberg; Chicago: Moody, 1981).

"The Sheep Merchants of Zechariah 11," *Grace Theological Journal* 3 (1982).

"The Biblical Concept of Creativity: Scope, Definition, Criteria," *Journal of Psychology and Theology* (1984; co-author with Dr. Barry Liesch).

"An Evangelical Response to the Preaching of Amos," *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 28 (1985).

"The 'Apple of His Eye' in Zechariah 2:8," short note in *Vetus Testamentum* 38:3 (1988).

"Origins of Christianity and Judaism," review article on Rebecca's Children by Alan F. Segal, *Journal of Psychology and Theology* 15 (1987).

"The Proposal in Biblical Hebrew: Preliminary Studies Using a Deep Structure Model," *Zeitschrift für Althebraistik* 2:1 (1989).

"Dimensions of the Hebrew Word for 'Create' (בָּרָא)," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 148:592 (1991) 409-23.

"A Discourse Analysis of Isaiah 7-12," co-published with George Payton (an MA student) in *Journal of Translation and Textlinguistics* 6:4 (1993) 317-35.

"Abrahamic Covenant," pp. 28-29 in *Evangelical Dictionary of World Missions* (ed. A. Scott Moreau; Baker, 2000).

"Jonah," pp. 523-524 in *Evangelical Dictionary of World Missions* (ed. A. Scott Moreau;

Baker, 2000).

- “The Relationship of Woman and Man in the Old Testament,” in *Women and Men in Ministry* (ed. Robert Saucy and Judy TenElshof; Moody, 2001), 49-71.
- “The Ministry of Women in the Old Testament,” in *Women and Men in Ministry* (ed. Robert Saucy and Judy TenElshof; Chicago: Moody, 2001), 73-88.
- “Does the Book of Mormon Reflect an Ancient Near Eastern Background?” In *The New Mormon Challenge* (ed. Francis Beckwith, Carl Mosser, and Paul Owen; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002).
- “‘Upon this Rock’: Matthew 16.18 and the Aramaic Evidence.” *Aramaic Studies* 4.2 (2006), 133–151.
- “The Book of Daniel in the Canon of Scripture.” *Bibliotheca Sacra* 165.658 (April–June, 2008), 195–208.

4. POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

- “Appreciation,” *Decision* (November 1986).
- “True Worship,” *Assembly Links* (Australia; July 1986).
- “Christians, Money and Power,” *The Treasury* (New Zealand; May, 1987).
- “Elijah—Calls Upon God with Great Boldness,” *Decision* (April 1989).
- “Reading without Vowels,” *Sundoulos* (Spring, 1989). [alumni publication]
- Contributions on Hosea, Joel, Amos, and Obadiah to the *Life Recovery Bible* (Tyndale House, 1992).
- Bible Study on Obadiah, *Decision Magazine*, April 2002.
- Article on archaeology and the Old Testament for *Connections*, Fall 2002.
- Contributions on the Minor Prophets for *The Apologetics Study Bible*, 2007.

5. SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- “Translation Problems in Genesis 1-3,” Summer Institute of Linguistics, Darwin, Australia, July 1981.
- “The Alleged Deuteronomistic Redaction of Amos,” at Far West Regional Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS), San Diego, CA, March 1983.
- “An Evangelical Response to the Preaching of Amos,” at the National Meeting of the ETS, Dallas, TX, December 1983.
- “Dimensions of the Hebrew Word for Create,” at the Far West Regional Meeting of the ETS, Escondido, CA, March 1984.
- “Deep Structure as a Useful Concept for Biblical Hebrew Syntax: The Imperative,” Far West Regional Meeting of the ETS, La Mirada, CA, March 1985.
- “Judgment Begins at Home: Amos’s Visions and the Message of His Book,” paper given to President’s Luncheon, February 1986.
- “The Structure of Joel,” Far West Regional Meeting of the ETS, Long Beach, CA, April 1986.
- “Targum Jonathan to ‘The Twelve’ as an Interpretive Translation,” National Meeting of the ETS, Boston, MA, December 1987.
- “The Social Setting of Hebrew in the Church: Implications for Seminary Professors,” Far

- West Regional Meeting of the ETS, Arrowhead Springs, CA, April 1988.
- “Using the Targums for Biblical Interpretation: Examples from the Minor Prophets,” Western Regional Meeting of the National Association for Professors of Hebrew, Pomona, CA, March 1989.
- “The Structure of the Visions of Amos,” Far West Regional Meeting of the Institute for Biblical Research, Pasadena, CA, May 1989.
- “The Chronology of the Reign of Saul,” ETS Regional Meeting, Spring 1990.
- “Is ‘Original Text’ Still a Valid Concept in Light of the Dead Sea Scrolls?” ETS Regional Meeting, Spring 1992.
- “The Days in Genesis,” Creation Research Society, October 1992 (Main Speaker).
- “A Discourse Analysis of Isaiah 7-12,” co-written with an MA student, who presented it at the Seminar on Discourse Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew (Summer Institute of Linguistics), June 1993 (I was unable to be present for personal reasons).
- “Divisions in Ancient Hebrew Manuscripts and the Interpretation of the Text,” given at the regional meeting of ETS, Spring 1997.
- “Some Canonical Issues Raised by 11QPsalmsA,” presented at local ETS, May 1998.
- “Complementarity Relationships between Man and Woman in Genesis 1-3,” ETS National Meeting, Fall 1998.
- “A Review of Hugh Nibley’s Comparisons Between the Book of Mormon and the Lachish Letters,” ETS National Meeting, Fall 1998. This paper is now on the internet at <http://www.irr.org/mit/default.html>. It is critical of Nibley’s comparisons.
- “Dealing with Multiple Editions of Old Testament Books from an Inerrantist Standpoint,” ETS regional meeting, April 1999.
- “A Discourse Analysis of Represented Speech in Daniel 2:4-7:28,” ETS regional meeting, April 2000.
- “Some Canonical Issues Concerning the Book of Daniel,” ETS regional meeting, April 2002.
- “Daniel the Prophet or Daniel the Legendary Hero: Ancient Daniel Traditions and the Hebrew/Aramaic Book of Daniel,” ETS national meeting, November 2002.
- “‘Upon This Rock’: Matthew 16:18 and the Aramaic Evidence,” ETS national meeting, November 2002.
- “The Old Greek of Daniel,” ETS regional meeting, May 2003.
- “Hebrew Terms for Negative Speech,” ETS national meeting, November 2004.
- “Danielic Backgrounds: Current Trends,” Presidential Address, ETS regional meeting, April 2007.
- “The Hebrew of the Book of Daniel,” ETS national meeting, November 2008.

6. BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of Philip J. Budd, *Numbers*, Word Biblical Commentary, in *Talbot Review* (Fall 1985).
- Review of G. Lloyd Carr, *The Song of Solomon*, Tyndale OT Commentaries, in *Talbot Review* (Spring 1985).
- Review of A. Soggin, *A History of Israel*, in *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*

29:1 (1986).

Review of P. Craige, *The Old Testament: Its Background, Growth, and Content*, in *The Master's Seminary Journal* 1:1 (Spring 1990).

Review of volume 6 of *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament* (Eerdmans, 1990), in *Grace Theological Journal* 12:1 (Spring 1991).

Review of J. J. M. Roberts, *Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah: A Commentary*, in *Grace Theological Journal* 12:2 (Fall 1991).

7. COURSES TAUGHT AT BIOLA/TALBOT

First-year German (1967–1971)

Early and Medieval Church History (Fall 1976)

Old Testament Introduction (frequently until a major curriculum restructure at Talbot in the 1980's)

Biblical Backgrounds (BBST311; Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Fall 2004, Spring 2006, Spring 2008)

Elements of Hebrew I (TTOT603; often cross-listed with BLHE101; every Fall)

Elements of Hebrew II (TTOT604; often cross-listed with BLHE102; every Spring)

Exegesis in Genesis (TTOT705; often cross-listed with BLHE201; every other Fall, some Summers, last time was Fall 2006)

Advanced Hebrew Reading (TTOT708; often cross-listed with BLHE202; content changes frequently according to portions of the Hebrew Bible selected for reading; every other Spring, last time was Spring 2005)

Advanced Hebrew Grammar (TTOT706; rarely, last time was Fall 1993)

Exegesis of Daniel (TTOT732; Fall 2007)

Studies in the History and Culture of Israel (TTOT715; rarely, last time was Fall 2005)

Studies in Old Testament Introduction (TTOT720; an elective which replaced an older, required course; last time was Spring 2000)

The Dead Sea Scrolls (TTOT730; cross-listed with Biblical Backgrounds [BBST311]; last time was Spring 2006)

Biblical Aramaic (TTOT731; every fourth Spring, last time was Spring 2009)

Seminar: Minor Prophets (TTOT732; on occasion, last time was Spring 2007)

Seminar: Great Leaders of the Old Testament (TTOT732; once in the 1990's)

Seminar: Isaiah (TTOT732; TTOT880; TTBE731; Spring 1994)

Survey of Genesis–Malachi (TTBE517; rarely, last time was Fall of 1990)

Genesis (TTBE602; rarely, last time was Fall of 1993)

Linguistics of the Biblical Languages (co-taught with faculty from SICS; TTBE732; experimental summer course, Summer 1999)

Old Testament Themes: Exposition of Isaiah (TTBE731; Spring 1993)

Old Testament Themes: Exposition of Ezekiel (TTBE731; Spring 1996)

Seminar in Semitic Languages (TTOT811; have done Akkadian, Ugaritic, Syriac, Aramaic Targums, readings in ancient Hebrew and Aramaic inscriptions)

ThM Research Seminar (TTOT892; supervise Old Testament majors taking the course; once [Fall 2004] I led the entire course, substituting for someone on sabbatical)

8. MEMBERSHIP IN SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Evangelical Theological Society

Regional Secretary-Treasurer — 1985/86; 2004/05

Regional Vice President — 1986/87; 2005/06

Regional President – 1987/88; 2006/07

Institute for Biblical Research

National Association of Professors of Hebrew

Society for Biblical Literature

CHURCH AND MINISTRY INFORMATION

Membership: Granada Heights Friends Church, La Mirada, CA 90650 (since 1975)

Ministry:

1. Elementary age Sunday School teacher: 1982–1988
2. Elder: 1996–1999
3. Co-leader (with wife) of “Marriage Enrichment” ministry at Granada Heights Friends Church: 1997–2001
4. Deacon: 2004–present (chair in 2004–2005)
5. Adult Sunday school: occasional teaching from the 1980’s to the present
6. My wife and I occasionally do premarital counseling

Board Member: India Evangelical Mission