

# **Biblical Studies from the Catholic Biblical Association**

## **A Description of the Series & General Guidelines for Contributors**

### ***The Series***

The series, *Biblical Studies from the CBA (BSCBA)*, bridges the gap between the technical exegetical work of the academic community and the pastoral and educational needs of the ecclesial community by making contemporary biblical scholarship accessible to a wider, educated audience. This series serves as a resource for those who seek to deepen their knowledge of Scripture and/or who are engaged in the church's mission to proclaim the gospel.

BSCBA took its initial inspiration from the *Cahiers Évangile* series (published by Cerf), which has been translated into several languages. Combining careful exegesis with a theological understanding of the texts, the volumes in the BSCBA series will be written in a manner accessible to an educated, non-specialized audience, without compromising academic integrity.

### ***The Audience***

The ideal readers of this series are students, those engaged in pastoral ministry, and educated readers interested in the work of contemporary biblical scholarship. Although the volumes of this series will not be written as text books, they will be helpful supplements to course work. They will also serve as resource guides for the personal reading of scripture and for the pastoral work of the church.

### ***The Subject Matter of the Series***

The volumes of this series focus on *biblical texts* and key *biblical themes* that readers will find relevant and useful. For example, individual volumes will deal with themes such as:

- The theme or themes of an individual book of the Bible such as the Book of Genesis, the Gospel of Mark, or a section of biblical writings, such as the Deuteronomistic History, the Passion Narratives, providing an overview of background, structure, and theology.
- Theological themes such as Creation, Covenant, Priesthood, the Kingdom of God, Justification, and the Moral Life.
- Issues of archeology, the geography of the Bible, the origins of Israel, the city of Jerusalem, the journeys of Saint Paul.
- Hermeneutical themes such as interpreting the Word of God, the use of Narrative Analysis, Lectio Divina, the Nature of Exegesis.

### ***Treatment of the Subject Matter***

Authors will present their work in a way that is clear and accessible to a general but educated audience. They will avoid academic jargon and explain technical terms when they use

them. When helpful and necessary, they will provide readers with the background needed to understand more technical issues and make readers aware of other interpretations.

Rather than simply cite important biblical texts, authors should quote them in full when the text is helpful for readers to follow their argument. The default English translation for the series is the NRSVue. Authors may wish to introduce other translations (including their own) in order to clarify a point they are making. In that case, please simply specify the translation in the citation.

While authors will work from the Hebrew or Greek text, references to the original language will be used judiciously and sparingly so as not to overwhelm those who are unfamiliar with the original languages. Hebrew and Greek words should be transliterated following the *CBA Style Sheet*.

Footnotes will be employed sparingly and only when necessary. Additional information can be provided in text boxes to summarize ideas, suggest applications to other fields (pastoral work, spirituality, etc.). They can provide summaries of other books or works related to the theme presented in the book. They can also display a series of biblical texts related to a theme. For example, in a discussion of the Messiah they might indicate where the word “Messiah” appears in the Bible.

The use of diagrams and illustrations will provide another option to summarize important ideas.

Instead of simply referring to a particular text, which authors think important for their argument, they will reproduce part or all of the text. For example, if Psalm of Solomon 17 is important to the argument about the Messiah, the author should reproduce the entire psalm or those parts that are relevant to the argument, since most readers will not have access to it.

Authors should provide an annotated bibliography for further reading. The bibliography should include classic works, as well as contemporary works that may be more accessible.

The length of the manuscript, including boxes, bibliography, and study guides, should be between 30,000 and 35,000 words. This is about 90–100 manuscript pages, when using 12-point Times Roman Font.

### ***General Guidelines***

Authors will follow the style guidelines provided by Wipf & Stock and *CBQ*.

Each chapter in the volume will include a brief (1–2-page) “study guide” that may include key terms, key persons of note, discussion and/or reflection questions, and other such resources that would be helpful when using the book in a parish study group or similar environment.

### ***Manuscript Submission and Publication Timeline***

The manuscript should be sent as an email attachment to the General Editor at [BSCBA@cba-site.org](mailto:BSCBA@cba-site.org). The Editor will consult with the Editorial Board, with a minimum of two members of the Editorial Board reviewing the submission.

When a manuscript is accepted, every effort will be made to publish it within a year. If it appears that more time is needed, the Editor will notify the author about a tentative publication date.