

Lynn Williams-Martin

The Greek Bible & The Western Mediterranean World

Professor: Shawn Craigmiles

Final Paper Proposal

- a. Overview: Which paper/project (e.g., exegesis paper, lesson plan with PowerPoint presentation, in-depth analysis using the template, etc.) are you planning to do? ([See the options listed and described below](#)) [Option 3, an in-dept analysis using the template](#)
- b. Abstract: Provide a one-paragraph summary that serves as an introductory overview for the project.
- c. In 4 Maccabees, the author is unknown. The document is dated between 20 and 130 CE. The author is mainly interested in the Jews obedience to the Torah and its piety. In support of his argument which he makes concerning reason and emotions, I am going to show even though our emotions can be very high, reasoning is the deciding factor in any situation. In the words of the author, "No one of us can eradicate anger from the mind but reason can help deal with anger." Emotions such as anger can overrule the body but reasoning will decide how our anger plays out. Those who gave their lives for the religious belief were obviously angry with the tyrant but their reasoning was we have to be an example to our fellow Jews. No matter how much we have to suffer, we will not give in to their demands. In the period of Hellenization, the Jews were forced to relinquish their religious beliefs and follow the doctrine of the Greco-Roman religion.
 - i. What is the passage, the topic (with sub-topics), or the primary document to be investigated? 4 Maccabees
 - ii. What is the mode of delivery? Teaching with a Presentation? Live and face-to-face? Recorded Video? Live via video chat (i.e., using Zoom or a similar platform)? N/A
 - iii. What method of investigation will you employ? In other words, how do you intend to define your topic/question, conduct this investigation, select your evidence and engage with it, etc.? Will you be considering a whole document and addressing the issues raised and addressed within it? Will you be focusing on keywords, the original languages, a specific theme, a theological issue, etc., or will you be exegeting a particular passage, analyzing it in depth, presenting your interpretation(s), and moving toward particular applications for your ministry context? I will be using the textbooks for this class along with journal articles which will help me support my argument. In the beginning of this book, the author set out to prove that reason prevail over emotions. I am in agreement with this statement. My aim is to do a little more research to bring out the facts that will show why this is true. This chapter speaks clearly about one dying for their religious belief. I will be investigating whether this still stand true today and how it can affect the outcome of Christianity in today's world. The question is the Jews were willing to die rather than relinquish their religious belief. Are Christians today ready to do the same? My focus is mainly on the

theological issue. I would be considering the whole document and addressing the issues raised in it.

- d. Target Audience:
 - i. What is the ministry context (location, group, etc.) in which this will be delivered? N/A
 - ii. Whom will the project benefit? **Give details about age of those attending, church affiliation, common characteristics, etc. N/A**
- e. Outcomes and Rationale:
 - i. What outcomes are you hoping to attain? To prove how one's reasoning or belief can be the strong point for decision making.
 - ii. What need does it meet or what problem does it help to solve? The problem it helps to solve is overcoming fear in the face of adversities.
 - iii. How does this project support the objectives of the course and your own educational/ministerial objectives? This project helps to advance my knowledge in the historical aspect of the Jewish religion. It also helps me to understand the theological issues that came up during the time of Hellenistic Judaism.
 - iv. What steps do you intend to take to reach these outcomes? Researching Journals and other articles.
 - v. Why do this project in this way? It helps me to research the historical background of this document
- f. Sources/Dialog Partners: What sources have you identified as helpful for your investigation into the passage/topic you are engaging?
 - i. You will identify and interact with at least six (6) academic/scholarly resources, which may include any or all your textbooks.
 - ii. **Provide a preliminary bibliography with all your sources cited properly in accordance with Turabian.**

Bibliography

- Cogan, Michael D. et al., eds., *The New Oxford Annotated Bible, New Revised Standard, 5th Edition*, Oxford University Press, 2018.
- Green, Joel B. and McDonald Lee Martin, *The World of the New Testament, Cultural, Social and Historical Contexts*, Grand Rapids, Baker Academics, 2017.
- Heyler, Larry R. *Exploring Jewish Literature of the Second Temple period, A guide to New Testament Students*, Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2002.
- Keel, Othmar, *Jerusalem and the one God, Conflict with Hellenism: Jerusalem from Alexander The Great to Pompey (333-63 BCE)*, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.cttikgqmt.22>, 07/23/21
- Nickelsburg, George W.E. and Stone, Michael E. *Early Judaism, Texts and Documents of Faith And Piety*, Revised Edition, Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2009.
- Nickelsburg, George W.E. *Jewish Literature Between the Bible and the Mishnah, 2nd ed.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.
- Thomas, Samuel, I, *The Apocrypha, 4 Maccabees*,

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