

Foreword for Journal of Biblical and Ancient Studies JBAS (vol. 1), 2025 (EISSN-3091-7638)

Ruben Zimmermann*

I was delighted to accept the invitation to write a brief welcome message for the first issue of JBAS. I would like to congratulate the initiators, editors, and authors on this project and issue. It takes a great deal of effort to launch an open access journal and finally bring it to publication. The journal's double-blind peer review model ensures that it meets the highest quality standards. The editorial board brings together internationally recognized scholars.

The journal's particular merits lie at various levels. On the one hand, it makes high-quality scholarship easily accessible to Korean scholars and academically interested pastors in Korea and elsewhere around the world. On the other hand, the journal offers the opportunity to make Korean research internationally accessible in English. It is also noteworthy that early career scholars are given the opportunity to publish internationally. The journal aims to publish articles from the Old and New Testaments and also to extend its scope to other ancient sources. It is thus a journal that fully meets the demands of biblical studies and ancient studies.

The first issue already provides a very good insight into this concept: With Jörg Frey—an internationally renowned scholar who is one of the leading

* Professor of New Testament at Johannes Gutenberg-University of Mainz, Germany.
For more on Ruben Zimmermann's academic profile, see his ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1620-4396>.

figures in Johannine studies—the journal features a current insight into the state of research on the Fourth Gospel. Sukmin Cho has contributed a similarly programmatic article tracing the genesis of the Johannine Literature Studies of Korea (JLSK), which laid the foundation for the journal.

In its first issue, the journal demonstrates its connection to Johannine literature and, at the same time, its expansion to encompass the entire Bible, whether through individual articles that explore connections between the Testaments (Hyunte Shin between Genesis and John; Suyeon Kim between Isaiah and Luke-Acts), or whether articles focus specifically on the Old Testament, the New Testament, or the connections between biblical and extra-biblical texts (Wooil Moon on John and Philo).

This inaugural volume shows that JBAS is at the cutting edge of research. To give just one example: The theme of creation in the Gospel of John has been addressed very rarely, apart from in the prologue. In his Special Theme Article, Hyunte Shin not only succeeds in developing a distinctive thesis on Adamic Christology, but also in focusing it on ethical and ecological hermeneutical questions. The journal thus demonstrates its ability to connect with the latest hermeneutical developments in biblical scholarship and, above all, its relevance to the present day.

Following this promising start, I am confident that the journal will soon achieve a firm place among the internationally renowned open access journals in biblical studies. I wish the journal many more issues and volumes and, above all, an interested readership in academia and churches in Korea and around the world.

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