

## GREGORY MOBLEY

154C Herrick Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459

(617) 648-6149

gmobley@ants.edu

---

### EDUCATION

*Harvard University*

Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations 1994

Dissertation: "Samson, the Liminal Hero: A Comparative Study of Judges 13-16 and Ancient Near Eastern Heroic Traditions." Advisor: Peter Machinist

*Harvard Divinity School*

Th.M. in Old Testament 1986

*Southern Baptist Theological Seminary*

M.Div. 1984

*Campbellsville College*

B.A. in English 1979

*Georgetown College*

attended 1975-76

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN EDUCATION

*Professor of Christian Bible*

Andover Newton Theological School

1997-present

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Old Testament*

Union Theological Seminary (New York)

1996-97

*Allston Burr Senior Tutor* (Residential College Dean)

John Winthrop House, Harvard College

1992-96

*Lecturer in Hebrew Bible*

Harvard Divinity School

1995-96

*Missionary Schoolteacher*

Baptist High School, Jos, Nigeria

1979-81

English teacher in Baptist program modeled after the Peace Corps.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, HONORS, AND PROJECTS

- Shalom Hartman Institute Fellow*, Jerusalem  
Christian Leaders Initiative 2012-13
- White House Convocation Participant* 2010, 2011  
White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships  
Participated in two meetings about interfaith community service on campuses.
- Co-Founder and Co-Director of C.I.R.C.L.E.* 2005-09  
C.I.R.C.L.E. (the Center for Interreligious and Communal Education  
Leadership Education) is a joint project of Andover Newton and Hebrew College  
devoted to interfaith service and understanding.
- Rabbi Murray Rothman Award* 2006  
For fostering understanding between Jews and Christians.
- B.T.I. Hebrew Bible Colloquium*  
Co-Convenor with Lawrence Wills 2004-15
- Regional Scholar Award* 2000  
Society of Biblical Literature, New England Region Regional Scholar
- Editorial Assistant* to Frank Moore Cross 1995-96  
The Aramaic Papyri from the Wadi ed-Daliyeh  
*Discoveries in the Judean Desert* series (i.e., the Dead Sea Scrolls)
- Archaeological Fieldworker* 1986, 1987  
Leon Levy/Harvard Excavations at Ashkelon, Israel

## PUBLICATIONS: BOOKS

- Judges*, Illuminations, general editor C. L. Seow  
(Grand Rapids: Eerdmans) (commentary in progress).
- The Return of the Chaos Monsters – and Other Backstories of the Bible*  
(Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012).
- The River: An Introduction to Tanakh/Old Testament* (Lulu.com)  
Specifically written as a guide to introductory seminary students.
- My Neighbor's Faith: Stories of Interfaith Encounter, Growth, and Transformation*  
(New York: Orbis, 2012).  
Co-editor with Jennifer Peace and Or Rose.

*Samson and the Liminal Hero in the Ancient Near East*  
Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies 435 [formerly JSOTSup]  
(New York: T&T Clark, 2006).

*The Empty Men: The Heroic Tradition of Ancient Israel*  
Yale Anchor Bible Reference Library  
(New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005)

*The Birth of Satan: Tracing the Devil's Biblical Roots*  
(New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).  
Co-author with T. J. Wray.

*Perspectives in Old Testament and Hebrew*  
Festschrift for Page H. Kelley  
*Perspectives in Religious Studies* 29/3 (Fall 2002)  
Co-editor with Claude Mariottini

#### **PUBLICATIONS: ARTICLES, ESSAYS, AND REVIEWS IN BIBLICAL, RABBINIC, AND NEAR EASTERN STUDIES**

*Review of Biblical Literature*  
Book Review: Mark S. Smith, *Poetic Heroes: Literary Commemorations of Warriors and Warrior Culture in the Early Biblical World* (Eerdmans, 2014). In press.

*Sharpened Arrows: Violence in Rabbinic Discourse*, edited by David Bernat.  
Essay: "Resh Lakish and the Heroic Tradition of Ancient Israel."  
Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, in press.

*The New Oxford Annotated Bible*, 5th edition, edited by Michael D. Coogan.  
Introductions to and annotations on "Judges," "Amos," "Hosea," and "Micah."  
New York: Oxford University Press, in press.

*The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible*.  
Article: "Samson."  
New York: Oxford University Press, in press.

*Life, Death, and Coming of Age in Antiquity: Individual Rites of Passage in the Ancient Near East and Adjacent Regions*, edited by Alice Mouton and Julie Patrier.  
Essay: "First Glimpses of the Liminal Hero," 521-30.  
Leiden: Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten, 2014.

*Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, edited by Dale Allison, *et alia*.  
Article: "Ehud and Eglon, Story of," with T Römer, B. Dov Walfish.  
[http://www.degruyter.com/databasecontent?dbf\\_0=ebr-fulltext&dbid=ebr&dbq\\_0=Mobley](http://www.degruyter.com/databasecontent?dbf_0=ebr-fulltext&dbid=ebr&dbq_0=Mobley) (De Gruyter, 2013).

***Theology Today***

Book Review: Miguel A. De La Torre and Albert Hernández, *The Quest for the Historical Satan* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2011).

70 (2013): 238-39.

***Review of Biblical Literature***

Book Review: Marty Alan Michelson, *Reconciling Violence and Kingship: A Study of Judges and 1 Samuel* (Cambridge: James Clark, 2012).

<http://www.bookreviews.org/bookdetail.asp?TitleId=8763&CodePage=8234,8763>

(SBL, 8/10/2013).

***Interpretation***

Book Review: Douglas Earl: *The Joshua Delusion: Rethinking Genocide in the Bible*.

66 (2012): 454-55.

***Interpretation***

Book Review: J. Randall Short, *The Surprising Election and Confirmation of King David*.

66 (2012): 210-11.

***Lectionary Homiletics***

Article: "Exegesis: Isaiah 50:4-9a."

23 (April-May 2012): 1-2.

***Lectionary Homiletics***

Article: "Exegesis: Psalm 4."

23 (April-May 2012): 25.

***Bible Briefs*** (2011)

"1 and 2 Kings."

A brief commentary for this on-line series sponsored by Virginia Theological Seminary. (<http://www.vts.edu/ftpimages/95/download/FM.Mobley.Kings.pdf>).

***The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Books of the Bible***

Article: "Book of Judges," 1:516-31.

New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

***Oxford Bibliographies Online*** (2011)

Annotated Bibliography: "Book of Judges" ([oxfordbibliographiesonline.com](http://oxfordbibliographiesonline.com)).

***The New Oxford Annotated Bible***, 4th edition, edited by Michael D. Coogan.

Introductions to and annotations on "Amos," "Hosea," and "Micah."

New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

***Catholic Biblical Quarterly***

Book Review: Wesley Bergen and Armin Siedlecki, *Voyages in Uncharted Waters: Essays on the Theory and Practice of Biblical Interpretation in Honor of David Jobling*.

71 (July 2009): 666-68.

***Theological Biblical Commentary***

Commentary articles: "Joshua" and "1 and 2 Kings," pp. 77-86; 119-43.  
Louisville: Westminster John Knox; 2009.

***Doing Theological Research*** by Robert Pazmiño

Article: "Exegesis of the Old Testament," pp. 62-70.  
Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock (2009).

***SBL Forum***

Essay: "The Return of the Chaos Monsters: A Biblical Myth."  
(February 2007) (<http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/article.aspx?ArticleId+623>).

***Catholic Biblical Quarterly***

Book Review: Hugh S. Pyper, *An Unsuitable Book: The Bible as Scandalous Text*.  
69 (July 2007): 559-600.

***Saul in History and Tradition***, edited by Carl Ehrlich and Marsha White.

Essay: "Glimpses of the Heroic Saul," pp. 80-87.  
Forshungen zum Alten Testament 47; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2006.

***The New Oxford Annotated Bible***, 3rd edition; edited by Michael D. Coogan.

Introductions to and annotations on "Hosea," "Joel," "Amos," "Obadiah," "Micah,"  
Nahum," "Habakkuk," "Zephaniah," "Haggai," Zechariah," and "Malachi."  
New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

***The Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible***, edited by David Noel Freedman.

Articles: "Ashkelon," "Barak," "Benjamin," "Call, Calling," "Dan (person)," "Gaza,"  
"Know, Knowledge," and "Loving-kindness."  
Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

***Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation***, edited by John Hayes.

"Folklore in Hebrew Bible Interpretation," 1:402-06.  
Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.

***Journal of Biblical Literature***

"The Wild Man in the Bible and the Ancient Near East."  
116 (1997) 217-33.

**PUBLICATIONS: ARTICLES AND ESSAYS IN INTERFAITH STUDIES*****Theological Education***

Essay: "Taking Interfaith off the Hill: Revelation in the Abrahamic Traditions."  
47/2 (2013): 1-5.

***My Neighbor's Faith: Stories of Interfaith Encounter, Growth, and Transformation***,  
edited by J. Peace, O. Rose, and G. Mobley

Article: "What the Rabbi Taught the Reverend about the Baby Jesus," 48-50.  
(New York: Orbis, 2012).

***Colloquy***

Article: "Five Basic Principles of Jewish-Christian Interfaith Teaching."  
20 (Fall 2011): 27.

***Resources in Christian-Jewish Relations*** (2004)

Essay: "What I Learned from Interfaith Bible Study."  
(<http://www.bc.edu/research/cjl/meta-elements/texts/articles/mobley.html>).

**PUBLICATIONS: OTHER ARTICLES AND ESSAYS**

***Ethics Daily*** (June/July 2013)

The Prophets, a four-part series  
([www.ethicsdaily.com](http://www.ethicsdaily.com))

***Ethics Daily*** (April 20, 2007)

Op-Ed article: "The Devil and Cho-Seung-Hui."  
([http://www.ethicsdaily.com/print\\_popup.cfm?AID=8818](http://www.ethicsdaily.com/print_popup.cfm?AID=8818)).

***National Post*** (Toronto)

Op-Ed article: "Giving the Devil His Due."  
October 31, 2006.

***The Campbellsville Review***

Essay: "Things I Learned."  
1 (Fall 2003): 11-19.

***Perspectives in Religious Studies***

Essay: "Page H. Kelley: A Biographical Essay."  
29/3 (2002): 403-10.

**SCHOLARLY PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS ON THE BIBLE**

***A Conversation on the Bible***, sponsored by *Biblica*.

Response to Walter Brueggemann, "The Function of First Testament Genres."  
Des Plaines Ill., January 9, 2015.

***B.T.I. Hebrew Bible Colloquium***

"The Book of Judges and Zionism."  
October 21, 2014, Newton, Mass.

**Harvard Center for the Study of World Religions**

"Presentation on *Lamentations and the Song of Songs: Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*, by Harvey Cox and Stephanie Paulsell (Westminster John Knox, 2012)."  
October 30, 2012, Cambridge, Mass.

**Harvard Center for the Study of World Religions**

Colloquium on Interfaith Education  
"Remarks on Interfaith Education."  
February 11, 2012, Cambridge, Mass.

**B.T.I. Hebrew Bible Colloquium**

"The Day Love Came to the 200 Seminar."  
December 12, 2011, Newton, Mass.

**ViGMA Colloquium** on "Life, Death, and Coming of Age in Antiquity: Individual Rites of Passage in the Ancient Near East."

"First Glimpses of the Liminal Hero."  
November 23, 2011, University of Strasbourg, France.

**SBL Annual Meeting**, Feminist Biblical Hermeneutics Section

"The Binds that Tie: Abraham and the Paradoxes of Patriarchy."  
November 21, 2011, San Francisco.

**Judges Seminar**, taught by Joel Kaminsky, Smith College

"Samson and the Book of Judges."  
March 24, 2011, Northampton, Mass.

**Great Books Camp** at Amherst College

"The Binding of Isaac."  
July 28, 2010, Amherst, Mass.

**SBL Annual Meeting**, Congregational Biblical Studies Section

"Bridging the Great Divide Between Academy and Congregations."  
November 2007, San Diego.

**Religious Studies Department Lecture**, I.U.P.U.I.

"The Birth of Satan,"  
October 29, 2007, Indianapolis.

**SBL Annual Meeting**, Hebrew Scriptures and Cognate Literature Section

"The Return of the Chaos Monsters: A Biblical Myth."  
November 2006, Washington, D.C.

**New England SBL Regional Meeting**

"The Varieties of Human Sacrifice."  
April 2004, Cambridge, Mass.

***B.T.I. Hebrew Bible Colloquium***

"The Return of the Chaos Monsters."

March 2004, Cambridge, Mass.

***B.T.I. Hebrew Bible Colloquium***

"Who's Full of It? Scatology in the Ehud Narrative."

April 2002, Cambridge, Mass.

***Honoring Faith; Respecting Each Other:*** Hebrew College and Andover Newton  
Conference on Interfaith Learning

"Judges: Texts of Terror, Monument of Failures."

November 2001, Newton, Mass.

***SBL Annual Meeting,*** Hebrew Scriptures and Cognate Literature Section

"Samson the *Gibbôr*."

November 2000, Nashville.

***New England SBL Regional Meeting***

"Divine Responsibility for Samson's Violence."

April 1999, Newton, Mass.

***New England SBL Regional Meeting***

"The Structure of the Ehud Narrative: Nesting Boxes."

April 1998, Newton, Mass.

***Genesis: The Conversation Continues*** (a follow up to the Bill Moyers PBS series,  
with Burton Visotzky

"The Many Faces of God in Genesis."

March 5, 1997, Stamford, Conn.

***Columbia University Bible Seminar***

"Samson and the Three Women."

January 15, 1997, New York.

***SBL Annual Meeting,*** Hebrew Scriptures and Cognate Literature Section

"The Wild Man in the Bible and the Ancient Near East."

November, 1994, Chicago.

***SBL Annual Meeting,*** Hebrew Scriptures and Cognate Literature Section

"Narrative Patterns in the Gilgamesh Epic and Hebrew Bible."

November, 1992, San Francisco.

***SBL Annual Meeting,*** Northwest Semitic Epigraphy Section

"A Human Couple in the Khirbet el-Qôm Inscription."

November 1990, New Orleans.



*New England SBL Regional Meeting*

"King Solomon's Lines: Another Look at 1 Kings 4:7-19."

April 1989, Worcester, Mass.

**POPULAR PRESENTATIONS ON THE BIBLE AND INTERFAITH (a selection\*)**

*The Order of the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth*

"The Prophets," a four-part series.

May-June 2014, Chestnut Hill, Mass.

*The Foote Lectures,*

sponsored by First Congregational Church and Temple Beth-El of Ithaca.

"From Tolerance to Relationship."

May 2011, Ithaca, N.Y.

*A Jewish-Christian Dialogue,*

sponsored by the National Council of Churches and the National Board of Rabbis.

"The Good and Bad News about the Parable of the Prodigal Son."

May 2011, Newton, Mass.

*Open and Affirming Consultations with U.C.C. Congregations*

"It Is Not Good for Adam to Be Alone: Homosexuality and the Old Testament."

First Church Boxford (Mass.), January 23, 2013.

First Church Southampton (Mass.), April 23, 2012.

*Retreat for Rabbinical School*

Introduction to Christianity for Rabbinical Students, Hebrew College

"Jesus in My Life,"

January 2006.

*Institute on Faith, Health, and Spirituality,* Andover Newton

"Our Fears of and About God."

June 2005, Newton, Mass.

*The Use and Abuse of Sacred Texts,* a conference at Hebrew College

"Mel Gibson's 'Passion of the Christ' and Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*."

May 10, 2004, Newton, Mass.

*Evangelical-Liberal Dialogue*

"Can We Differ on Scripture and Still Be One in Body and Spirit?"

May 12, 2005, Weston, Mass.

*Boston College First-Year Humanities Seminar*

"The Bible"

October 19, 2011

***Haywood Lecture***

Myrtle Baptist Church, West Newton, Mass.

“Passing Through Samaria: To Lose and Find Ourselves in the Bible.”

April 14, 2014

\*Since joining the Andover Newton faculty in 1998, I have averaged around **30** adult education and preaching assignments **per year** in churches and synagogues, and before clergy and middle school groups.

**MEDIA APPEARANCES**

***KPCC*** (PBS radio in Los Angeles)

Interview about the Devil in the wake of remarks by Rick Santorum.

February 22, 2012.

***The History Channel***

“God Versus Satan” (2008, still in syndication).

***On-Point with Tom Ashbrook***, NPR

“The Origins of the Devil.”

October 2, 2006.

***America at Worship***, the Hallmark Channel

“Temptation” (January 2002).

***Biography***, A & E Network

“Samson and Delilah” (1996, still in syndication).

***Biography***, A & E Network

“Moses” (1996; still in syndication).

**COURSES TAUGHT**

*Biblical Hebrew*

*Prophets*

*Book of Job*

*Biblical Heroic Tradition*

*Biblical Prophecy and Modern Poetry* (with Mark Burrows, Andover Newton)

*Introduction to Hebrew Bible*

*Book of Ruth* (with Judith Kates, Hebrew College)

*Lectionary Preaching*

*Moses and Jesus* (with Or Rose, Hebrew College)

*Song of Songs*

*Bible and Monsters*

*Backstories of the Bible*  
*The Devil in Biblical Tradition and Christian Interpretation*  
*Biblical Ecology* (with Jonah Steinberg, Hebrew College)  
*Mountain Music: Highland Balladry in Appalachia and Ephraim* (Berea College, Ky.)  
*Introduction to Judaism for Christian Ministers* (with Or Rose, Hebrew College)  
*Book of Judges*  
*The Binding of Isaac in Jewish and Christian Thought* (with Or Rose, Hebrew College)  
*Elijah and the Legendary Prophets of Ephraim*

## MINISTERIAL AND SOCIAL SERVICE EXPERIENCE

### *Pastor*

First Baptist Church in Needham, Mass. (A.B.C.) 2012-present.

### *Interim Pastor*

Victory Baptist Church, Brant Rock, Mass. (S.B.C.) 1985

### *Campus Minister* (S.B.C.)

Harvard College 1985

### *Psychiatric Residential Manager*, Wellspring House, Louisville.

Live-in staff person at a transitional residence for young adults with schizophrenia, 1982-84.

### *Pastor*

Bewleyville Baptist Church, Bewleyville, Ky. (S.B.C.) 1982-84.

### *Missionary Schoolteacher*

Baptist High School, Jos, Nigeria 1979-81.

## PERSONAL

*Born* Lexington, Kentucky, September 21, 1957.

*Hobbies* include coaching youth sports (soccer, baseball, basketball), detective novels, Film *Noir*, Westerns movies, music listening, choral participation, and songwriting.

## BIOGRAPHY

Gregory Mobley is Professor of Christian Bible (and more specifically, the brilliant first half of the canon known as the “Old Testament” or “Tanakh”). Since 1997, Mobley has been conducting experiments in intuition and spontaneity at Andover Newton, trying to break through his modern conditioning in order to understand the strange and beautiful world of the

ancient prophets and poets who gave us the Bible. For the results of these experiments, see, for instance, *The Return of the Chaos Monsters – and Other Backstories of the Bible* (Eerdmans, 2012).

Mobley is entranced by Judaism and spends as much time as possible at neighboring Hebrew College where we are running a different set of experiments, in interfaith learning, and discovering that it is possible to love your own faith without hating someone else's. For the results of these experiments, see Jennifer Peace, Or Rose, and yours truly, editors, *My Neighbor's Faith: Stories of Interreligious Encounter, Growth, and Transformation* (Orbis, 2012).

Mobley did receive formal education – at public primary and secondary schools in central Kentucky, Campbellsville College (B.A. 1979), Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div. 1984), Harvard Divinity School (Th.M. 1986), and Harvard University (Ph.D. 1994) – but it was only partially successful. Mainly, Mobley seeks to hear and hum the Song of Life that flows out of the pores of the universe and between the lines of Scripture.