



# Dr. C. John "Jack" Collins

## Professor of Old Testament



### Contact

To reach me, please call 314.434.4044 or email [faculty@covenantseminary.edu](mailto:faculty@covenantseminary.edu)

### Faculty Member Since

1993

### Select Courses Taught

Old Testament Historical Books  
 Old Testament Prophetical Books  
 Psalms and Wisdom Literature  
 Advanced Hebrew & Greek

### Education

University of Liverpool, Liverpool, England

School of Archaeology and Oriental Studies, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Hebrew language (1989)

Thesis supervisor: A. R. Millard

Thesis title: "Homonymous Verbs in Biblical Hebrew: An Investigation of the Role of Comparative Philology"

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, Tacoma, WA

Master of Divinity (MDiv) (1985)

Thesis title: "Divorce and Remarriage in the Bible: A Problem in Hermeneutics"

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

Bachelor of Science (BS) and Master of Science (MS) in computer science and systems engineering (1978)

### Ministry Experience

Faith Presbyterian Church, Spokane, WA

Church Planter (1989–92)

Great Britain

Preaching and teaching engagements (1986–89)

COVENANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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Faith Presbyterian Church, Tacoma, WA  
Pastoral Internship (1983–84)

Crisis Pregnancy Center, Tacoma, WA  
Founding Board Member (1983–85)

Navigators, MIT campus, Cambridge, MA  
Campus Evangelism and Discipleship (1974–78)

### Academic/Teaching Experience

Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO  
Professor of Old Testament (2000–present; department chair since 2005)  
Associate Professor of Old Testament (1995–2000)  
Assistant Professor of Old Testament (1993–95)

Carl Henry Center for Theological Understanding, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL  
Senior Research Fellow, Creation Project (Sept. 2016–Aug. 2017)

### Books

*Reading Genesis Well: Navigating History, Poetry, Science, and Truth in Genesis 1–11.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.

*Did Adam and Eve Really Exist?: Who They Were and Why You Should Care.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.

*ESV Study Bible.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008. Old Testament editor and contributor.

*The English–Greek Reverse Interlinear New Testament: English Standard Version.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2006. ESV text editor.

*Genesis 1–4: A Linguistic, Literary, and Theological Commentary.* Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2006.

*Science and Faith: Friends or Foes?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2003. Russian translation, 2005.

*English Standard Version.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2001. Chairman, Old Testament Committee.

*The God of Miracles: An Exegetical Examination of God's Action in the World.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2000; Leicester: Inter-Varsity, 2001.

*Holman Christian Standard Bible.* Broadman-Holman. Initial translator, Psalms 102–105.

### Articles, Book Chapters, and Conference Papers

"When should we translate *poieō* 'to make' as 'to reckon'?" *Selected Technical Articles Related to Translation 16* (October 1986), 12–32.

"Ambiguity and theology in Ruth: Ruth 1.21 and 2.20," *Presbyterion* 19:2 (Fall 1993), 97–102.

"The (intelligible) Masoretic text of Malachi 2:16, or, How does God feel about divorce?" *Presbyterion* 20:1 (Spring 1994), 36–40.

"How old is the earth? Anthropomorphic days in Genesis 1:1-2:3," *Presbyterion* 20:2 (Fall 1994), 109-130.

"From literary analysis to theological exposition: The Book of Jonah," *Journal of Translation and Textlinguistics* 7:1 (1995), 28-44.

The wayyiqtol as 'pluperfect': When and why," *Tyndale Bulletin* 46:1 (1995), 117-140.

"Psalm 49:15 [ET v. 14] *māwet yir'ēm*: 'Death will be their shepherd' or 'Death will feed on them?'" *The Bible Translator* 46:3 (Fall 1995), 320-326.

"John 4:23-24, 'In spirit and truth': An idiomatic proposal," *Presbyterion* 21:2 (Fall 1995), 118-121.

"A syntactical note (Genesis 3:15): Is the woman's seed singular or plural?" *Tyndale Bulletin* 48:1 (1997), 139-148.

"Coherence in James 1:19-27," *Journal of Translation and Textlinguistics* 10 (1998), 80-88.

"James 5:14-16a: What is the anointing for?" *Presbyterion* 23:2 (Fall 1997), 79-91.

"What a piece of work is a man!" *In Covenant* 12:5 (October-November 1997), 8-10.

Articles for *The New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis* (W. van Gemeren, ed.; Zondervan, 1997): "portion," "sending," "kissing."

"Reading Genesis 1:1-2:3 as an act of communication: Discourse analysis and literal interpretation," in Joseph Pipa, Jr. and David Hall, eds., *Did God Create in Six Days?* (Taylors: Southern Presbyterian Press, 1999), 131-151.

"Psalm 139:14: 'fearfully and wonderfully made?'" *Presbyterion* 25:2 (Fall 1999), 115-120.

"Discourse analysis and the interpretation of Genesis 2:4-7," *Westminster Theological Journal* 61:2 (1999), 269-276.

"*miqreh* in 1 Samuel 6:9: 'chance' or 'event?'" *The Bible Translator* 51:1 (2000), 144-47.

"Miracles, intelligent design, and God-of-the-gaps," presented at the Gifford Bequest International Conference on Natural Theology, Its Problems and Prospects, 26-29 May, 2000, in Aberdeen, Scotland (150 papers submitted, 42 accepted). Published in *Perspectives in Science and Christian Faith* 55:1 (March 2003), 22-29.

"What happened to Adam and Eve? A literary and theological reading of Genesis 3," *Presbyterion* 27:1 (Spring 2001), 12-44.

"The power and the glory," *Covenant* 16:5 (October-November 2001), 4-7.

"Without form you lose meaning," Appendix to Leland Ryken, *The Word of God in English* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2002), 295-319.

"Can God's Actions be Detected Scientifically?" – for the *Apologetics Study Bible* (Broadman-Holman).

"Galatians 3:16: What kind of exegete was Paul?" *Tyndale Bulletin* 54:1 (2003), 75-86.

"1 Peter 3:15a – A critical review of English versions" (with Charles Kuykendall), *Presbyterion* 29:2 (Fall 2003), 76-84.

"Enjoying God's gift of rest," *Covenant* 18:3 (Fall 2003), 2-5.

"The Eucharist as Christian sacrifice: How Patristic authors can help us read the Bible," *Westminster Theological Journal* 66 (2004), 1-23.

"What the reader wants and the translator can give: 1 John as a test case," in *Translating Truth* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2005), 77-111 and in R. A. Peterson and S. M. Lucas, eds., *All for Jesus* (Fearn, Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2006), 333-359.

"Psalm 1: Structure and Rhetoric," *Presbyterion* 31:1 (Spring 2005), 37-48.

"Malachi 2:16 again," posted at <http://www.esv.org/assets/pdfs/malachi.2.16.collins.pdf> in 2005, updated edition at [https://www.academia.edu/5304267/Malachi\\_2\\_16\\_again\\_](https://www.academia.edu/5304267/Malachi_2_16_again_).

"Ephesians 5:18: What does πληροῦσθε ἐν πνεύματι mean?" *Presbyterion* 33:1 (2007), 12-30.

"Proverbs and the Levitical system," *Presbyterion* 35:1 (Spring 2009), 9-34.

"The refrain in Genesis 1: A critical review of its rendering in the English Bible," *The Bible Translator* 60:3 (July 2009), 121-31.

Adam and Eve as historical people, and why it matters," *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* 62:3 (September, 2010), 147-65; originally presented at the annual meeting of the American Scientific Affiliation, August 2, 2009.

"Echoes of Aristotle in Romans 2:14-15: Or, maybe Abimelech was not so bad after all," *Journal of Markets and Morality* 13:1 (Spring 2010), 123-73.

"Adam and Eve in the Old Testament," *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* 15:1 (2011), 4-25.

"Always alleluia: Recovering the true purpose of the Psalms in the Old Testament context," in Richard Wells and Ray Van Neste, eds., *Forgotten Songs: Reclaiming the Psalms for Christian Worship* (Nashville: B&H, 2012), 17-34.

"A peculiar clarity: How C. S. Lewis can help us think about faith and science," in John G. West, ed., *The Magician's Twin: C. S. Lewis on Science, Scientism, and Society* (Seattle: Discovery Institute Press, 2012), 69-106.

"What does baptism do for anyone? (Part 1)," *Presbyterion* 38:1 (2012), 1-33.

"What does baptism do for anyone? (Part 2)," *Presbyterion* 38:2 (2012), 74-98.

Replies to reviews of *Did Adam and Eve Really Exist*, in *Journal of Creation Theology and Science Series B: Life Sciences* 2 (2012), 43-47.

"Noah, Deucalion, and the New Testament," *Biblica* 93:3 (2012), 403-26.

"Reading Genesis 1-2 with the Grain: Analogical Days," in J. Daryl Charles, ed., *Reading Genesis 1-2: An Evangelical Conversation* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 2013).

"Historical Adam (Old earth)," in Matthew Barrett and Ardel Canaday, eds., *Four Views on the Historical Adam* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013).

"Colossians 1,17 'hold together': A co-opted term," *Biblica* 95:1 (2014), 64-87.

"Adam and Eve in the Old Testament," in Michael Reeves and Hans Madueme, eds., *Adam, the Fall, and Original Sin* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2014), 3-32.

"The Christian worldview and the early chapters of Genesis," in David Dockery and Trevin Wax, eds., *The Worldview Study Bible* (Nashville: B&H, 2017).

"The origin of the universe" (with Arend J. Poelarends) for a revision of the *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* (Daniel Treier, ed.).

"Christians Can't Help Abiding in Christ," *Christianity Today* 60:2 (March 2016).

"Psalms 111-112: Big story, little story," *Religions* 2016, 7(9), 115; doi:10.3390/rel7090115.

"How to think about God's action in the world," in J.P. Moreland, Stephen Meyer, Chris Shaw, and Wayne Grudem, eds., *Theistic Evolution* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2017).

"RIP, Genre: The idea has run its course," *Sapientia*, April 4, 2017.

"We need more dimensions: Or, sometimes you have to complicate in order to clarify," *Sapientia*, May 19, 2017.

"Breaking News: Science disproves the Bible," *Sapientia*, August 3, 2017.

"Adam as federal head of humankind," in Stanley Rosenberg et al., eds., *Finding Ourselves after Darwin* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2018), 143-59.

"1 Corinthians 8:6 and Romans 11:36: A Pauline confession with a Hellenistic setting," *Presbyterion* 43:2 (Fall 2017), 55-68.

"Inerrancy studies and the Old Testament: 'Ancient science' in the Hebrew Bible," *Presbyterion* 44:1 (2018), 42-66 (presented at Evangelical Theological Society, November 2107).

"Mortal before the Fall? I don't know, I don't think you do, and it doesn't matter," *Sapientia*, May 24, 2018.

"How does the Hebrew Bible speak about God's action in the world," *Presbyterion* 45:1 (Spring 2019), 19–40 (Originally presented at The Revelation at Sinai: What does "Torah from Heaven" Mean?, Hebrew Bible and Philosophy conference at the Herzl Institute, Jerusalem, Israel, June 2017).

"The New Covenant and redemptive history," in Max Rogland, ed., *Faithful Ministry: An Ecclesial Festschrift in Honor of the Rev. Dr. Robert S. Rayburn* (Portland: Wipf & Stock, 2019), 67–91.

"Freedoms and Limitations: C. S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer as a tag team," in Doug Serven, ed., *Firstfruits of a New Creation: Essays Honoring Jerram Barrs* (Oklahoma City: White Blackbird Books, 2019), 185–209, and *Theofilos* 12:1 (2020), 166–83.

"The Place of the 'Fall' in the Overall Vision of the Hebrew Bible," *Trinity Journal* 40 n.s. (2019), 165–84.

"May We Say that Adam and Eve 'Fell'? A Study of a Term and its Metaphoric Function," *Presbyterion* 46:1 (Spring 2020): 53–74.

"Divine Action in the Hebrew Bible: 'Borrowing' from Ancient Near Eastern Cultures and 'Inspiration'," in Daniel Block et al., eds., *Write that They May Read: Studies in Literacy and Textualization in the Ancient Near East and in the Hebrew Scriptures, Essays in Honour of Alan R. Millard* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2020), 221–39.

"Psalms 111–112: Big Story, Little Story," *Presbyterion* 46:2 (Fall 2020), 89–98. (Originally presented for Encourage One Another and Build One Another Up, 2020 Francis Schaeffer Lecture Series at Covenant Theological Seminary.)

"Introduction" and "Concluding thoughts," Sapiientia symposium on Jonathan Haidt, *The Righteous Mind*, April 2021.

"Romans 1:20—'From the Creation of the World' (πὸ κτίσεως κόσμου)," *Presbyterion* 47:2 (Fall 2021), 88–104.

## Reviews

Many reviews in scholarly journals.

## Editorial Projects

ESV Text Editor for The *English-Greek Reverse Interlinear New Testament: English Standard Version*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2006; John Schwandt, General Editor.

Chair, Old Testament Translation Committee, Old Testament Editor, and Contributor, *English Standard Version of the Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway. General Editor, J. I. Packer.

Initial Translator, Psalms 102–150, for *Holman Christian Standard Bible*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman.

## Presentations

Many lectures, seminars, and other presentations in a variety of schools, churches, and scholarly venues around the world.

## Professional Societies and Memberships

American Scientific Affiliation  
Evangelical Theological Society  
Society of Biblical Literature

## Presbytery and Denominational Service

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) Ad Hoc Study Committee on Creation (1998–2000)

Missouri Presbytery (PCA) Ad Hoc Study Committee on the New Perspective on Paul, the Federal Vision, and New Thinking on the Sacraments (2004–06)

Program Director, Not a World Apart: Exploring the Intersection of Science and Faith (conference on ministry to people in the sciences)

### **In Preparation**

*Numbers*, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament (Zondervan).

*Isaiah*, Biblical Theology for Christian Proclamation Commentary (B&H).

*Psalms*, ESV Bible Expository Commentary (Crossway). (Manuscript submitted)

*Seeing the Forest without Missing the Trees: Reading the Bible for what it is*

“Proverbs 31:1-9 and natural law.”

### **Awards**

1996-97 – Templeton Science and Religion Course Program Award (for designing and teaching a new course at Covenant Theological Seminary, “ST508: Christian faith in an age of science”). Renewed in 2001.

1998-99 – Research Fellowship from the Center for the Renewal of Science and Culture, Discovery Institute (for work on project entitled, Natural, supernatural, miracles, and God-of-the-gaps, published as *The God of Miracles: An Exegetical Examination of God’s Action in the World*). Renewed for 1999-2000.

2016–2017 – Senior Research Fellowship at the Carl Henry Center for Theological Understanding, Trinity International University (grant from the Templeton Religion Trust). Project title: *Genesis 1–11: Poetry, History, Science, Truth*.