

Curriculum Vitae
Rev. Travis M. West, PhD
travis-west.com

EDUCATION

Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam Ph.D., Old Testament	Amsterdam, Netherlands 2018
Western Theological Seminary Th.M.	Holland, MI 2009
Western Theological Seminary M.Div.	Holland, MI 2008
Calvin College B.A. Major: Religion/Theology Minor: Communication Arts and Sciences	Grand Rapids, MI 2002

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Western Theological Seminary	2025–Present Holland, MI
Associate Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Western Theological Seminary	2020–2024 Holland, MI
Assistant Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Western Theological Seminary	2016–2019 Holland, MI
Instructor of Biblical Hebrew Western Theological Seminary	2011–2016 Holland, MI
Adjunct Professor of Biblical Hebrew Western Theological Seminary	2009–2011 Holland, MI
J–term Hebrew Instructor Heritage Christian Academy (Middle and High School)	January, 2010 Kalamazoo, MI
Instructional Assistant, Hebrew and Various Courses Western Theological Seminary	2006–2009 Holland, MI

COURSES TAUGHT

BL310–BL311 – Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (In-Residence and Online)
BL111C – Hebrew Tools (Online)
BL501-DL – Exodus: Explorations in Liberation (Online)
BL506-DL – Prophetic Narratives (Online)
BL516 – The Days of Elijah and Elisha
BL522 – Old Testament Narratives (In-Residence and Online)
BL525 – The Art of the Sabbath (In-Residence and Online)
BL536-DL – Spirit and Letter (Online)
BL614 – Hebrew Reading and Performance
BL618 – Advanced Biblical Hebrew
Hebr 171–172 – Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (Muskegon Correctional Facility)
PR40X – Abbey
PR450 – Intercultural Immersion (Isr./Palestine, Border, N. Ireland/Rotterdam, Hungary)
PR450H – Intercultural Immersion (fully online version)
TH700 – ThM Orientation Seminar
Training for Wonder
A 9-month continuing-ed course (not for credit)
Engaging the God of the Old Testament
A 5- and 7-week continuing-ed course (not for credit)

CHURCH/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Delegate to General Synod, Holland Classis	June 2023
Teach/Preach in Various Local Congregations	Approx. 1/month
Co-Editor, <i>She Is Called: Women of the Bible Study</i> , Vols. 1–4	2019–2026
Member, Church of the Servant, Grand Rapids, MI	2018–Present
Member, Maple Avenue Ministries, Holland, MI	2014–2018
Board Chair, Kairos West Michigan, Holland, MI	2014–2019
Teacher-in-Residence, Christ Memorial Church, Holland, MI	2012–2013
Ordained as a Specialized Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America	June 2010
Director of Worship, The Community: An RCA Ministry in Ada, MI	2007–2008
Director of Worship and Youth, The Community	2006–2007
Pastoral Intern, The Community	2004–2006
High School Youth Co-Director, Oakdale Park CRC, Grand Rapids	2001–2003

PUBLICATIONS: BOOKS

Biblical Hebrew: an interactive approach, Revised and Expanded (Wilmore, KY: GlossaHouse, 2025).

The Sabbath Way: Making Room in Your Life for Rest, Connection, and Delight (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2025).

The Art of Biblical Performance: Biblical Performance Criticism and the Drama of Old Testament Narratives (Wilmore, KY: GlossaHouse, 2023).

Hebrew for Regular People, an 8-Week Congregational Curriculum, co-authored with Hannah Stevens (Wilmore, KY: GlossaHouse, 2022).

Biblical Hebrew: an interactive approach (Wilmore, KY: GlossaHouse, 2016).

PUBLICATIONS: ARTICLES AND BLOGS

"Sabbath: An Apprenticeship in Becoming Ourselves," *In All Things* at Dordt University, <https://www.dordt.edu/in-all-things/sabbath-an-apprenticeship-in-becoming-ourselves> (August 4, 2026)

"Loosening the Grip on Power," Review of Christopher Nolan's "The Odyssey," *Reformed Journal* <https://reformedjournal.com/2026/07/29/loosening-the-grip-on-power/> (July 29, 2026)

"The Sabbath Saves Us From Achievement and Productivity," *Rapt Online Magazine*, www.raptinterviews.com/articles/how-the-sabbath-frees-us-from-achievement-and-productivity (June 9, 2025).

"The Sabbath Way: Finding the Rest Your Soul Craves," a 7-Day Devotional/Reading Plan for the YouVersion Bible App, and the Life-Bible App. Life-Bible Plan: <https://tbibles.com/Kpfw>.

"An Invitation to The Sabbath Way," blog post for Church Connect by Tyndale House Publishers (June, 2025).

Rapt Interview with *Rapt Interviews*, www.raptinterviews.com/features/travis-west (June 2, 2025).

"Seeing With Sabbath: A Vision for Creation's Flourishing," in *Like a Watered Garden*, ed. James Hart Brumm (Grand Rapids: Reformed Church Press, 2025).

"The Little Girl: The Power of Boundless Compassion," Bible Study for *She Is Called: Women of the Bible Study*, Vol. 4 (Grand Rapids: Reformed Church Press, 2025).

"The Sabbath Way: Time is Love," *Reformed Journal* (June 2, 2025).

"Advanced Biblical Hebrew: How to Design L2 Input to Facilitate Comprehension of a Biblical Text," *Hebrew Higher Education* 26 (2024) (peer-reviewed), 1-13.

"Naomi: Resilient Hope in a World of Grief," Bible Study for *She Is Called: Women of the Bible Study*, Vol. 3 (Grand Rapids: Reformed Church Press, 2022).

“Cosmic Companionship,” *Reformed Journal* (August 30, 2021).

“Ben’s Quad Aflame: Notes on Shame,” *Reformed Journal* (May 31, 2021).

“Learning Lament: Remembering Tina,” *Reformed Journal* (March 8, 2021).

Reformed Journal Blog, Four Sabbath-themed blog posts
(<https://blog.reformedjournal.com/posts/>, November 1, 8, 15, 22; 2020).

“The Sabbath, Food, and Creation Care,” *Evangelical Environmental Network Blog*
(November 3, 2020).

Retreat Where You Are, a blog of the Mount Olivet Conference and Retreat Center, Two
Sabbath-themed blog posts (<https://retreatwhereyouare.org/blog-3/>, October 11,
18; 2020).

“The Art of Biblical Performance: Biblical Performance Criticism and the Old Testament
Narratives,” in *Journal of Biblical Text Research* 47 (October, 2020) (peer-reviewed),
301–327.

“Hospitality of the Heart: How Changing Our Metaphor Can Change Our Relationship With
the Bible,” in *Before the Face of God: Essays in Honor of Dr. Tom Boogaart*, ed. Dustyn
Keepers (Grand Rapids: Reformed Church Press, 2019).

“What is Happening in Israel and Palestine?,” on the Do Justice blog of the Christian
Reformed Church Office of Social Justice (April 11, 2018).

“Kinesthetic Language Learning: How an Accident Led to a Revelation” in the Wabash
Journal Teaching Theology and Religion, (October, 2016).

“Christian School Strike in Israel a Tragic, But Opportune Moment,” Op-Ed in the Holland
Sentinel, September 16, 2015.

“Unseen Grace: Lent in the Book of Exodus,” *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought* 26,
no. 3 (March, 2011), 5–8.

SELECT TEACHINGS/PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES

“Walking the Sabbath Way on God’s Good Earth,” Thornapple Community Church, August 9,
2026, Grand Rapids, MI.

“Sabbath in an Age of Time Sickness,” First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara, May 20,
2026, Santa Barbara, CA.

“Sabbath in a Temporally Discombobulated Society,” Rising Day Ministry’s Sabbath
Symposium, Keynote Speaker, April 18, 2026, Arlington, VA.

“The Sabbath Way” Weekend Event, Wabash Friends Church, Wabash, IN, January 31-February 1, 2026.

“The Sabbath Way,” Retreat with Grand Valley State University Campus Ministry staff, January 5, 2026, Conference Grounds, Grand Haven, MI.

“Searching for Peace in Troubling Times: The Abiding Wisdom of 2 Kings 5-6,” Keynote speaker for the Network of Biblical Storytelling, International’s annual conference, Baltimore, August 6-8, 2025.

“Sabbath: Making Room To Experience Delight,” Keynote speaker for the Great Getaway, Crossroads Presbyterian Church, Wisconsin, November 8-10, 2024.

“Psalm 133: A Prayer for Unity Across Borders,” reflection for Frontera de Cristo Board Meeting (virtual), May 17, 2024.

“Resilient Faith, Resilient Hope, Resilient Love,” keynote speaker for one-year anniversary service of the arson of First Presbyterian Church, Douglas, AZ, May 22, 2024.

“The Sabbath Way: Finding the Rest Our Souls Crave,” Keynote speaker for the District 10 Texas Library Association Fall Conference, San Antonio, October 20, 2023.

“Sabbath and the *Raqi’a*,” Presentation to Refugia D.Min Cohort, October 10, 2023.

“Enacting the Narrative: Biblical Enactment” at Mars Hill, Grandville, May 3 & 10, 2023.

“The Practice(s) of Inner Peace,” Abbey Retreat Plenary Speaker, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI, February 2023.

“Hospitality of the Heart,” presentation to Mars Hill School of Formation, annually in September, 2019–2022.

“Rest and Delight: A Sabbath Retreat,” day-long retreat with City Chapel, Grand Rapids, April 10, 2022.

“Hebrew For Regular People,” Calvin Institute for Christian Worship Grant Event (virtual), June 24, 2020.

“Race and the Church: A Christian Response to the Death of George Floyd,” Panelist, Webinar offered by Western Theological Seminary on June 10, 2020.

“The Sabbath,” a 4-part video series on the Sabbath during the early days of COVID, in conjunction with Ann Arbor CRC, April-May, 2020.

“Ruth 2.1–13,” performance in Hebrew for Biblical Performance Criticism Networking Session, SBL Annual Meeting, San Diego, 2019.

“Performance and Play in the Seminary Classroom,” co-presented with Rev. Abby DeZeeuw, “Using Performance to Teach the Bible Workshop,” SBL Annual Meeting, San Diego, 2019.

“Performing the Golden Calf Workshop: Exodus 32,” Ann Arbor CRC, November 2–3, 2019.

“Hosting the Word: A Workshop on Scripture Enactment,” at Moline CRC, April 6–7, 2019.

“Teaching the Bible Through Enactment,” Co-presented with Rev. Dr. Pam Bush at the CSI Bible Instruction Symposium, Washington, D.C., February 13–15, 2019.

“Hosting the Word: A Workshop on Scripture Enactment as an Act of Hospitality,” at Ann Arbor CRC, October 13–14, 2018.

“A Performance of Ezekiel 3.22–27 in Hebrew,” at the “Biblical Performance Criticism Networking Event,” at the Annual Meeting of SBL in Boston, MA, November 2017.

“Using Music to Teach Hebrew,” presented at the “Using Performance to Teach the Bible” workshop, sponsored by the Bible in Ancient and Modern Media division at the Annual Meeting of SBL in Boston, MA, November 2017.

“Embodied Education: Learning Biblical Hebrew as Spiritual and Pastoral Formation,” co-presented, with Rev. Pam Bush and six WTS students at the Pedagogical Possibilities Conference, hosted by the Program of Theology and Practice at Vanderbilt University, June, 2015.

Performance of 2 Kings 5 in Hebrew, with Dr. Tom Boogaart and eight WTS students at the “Using Performance to Teach the Bible” workshop, sponsored by the Bible in Ancient and Modern Media at the Annual Meeting of SBL in San Diego, November, 2014.

“Language Learning as Spiritual Formation: Teaching Hebrew in a Seminary Context,” a Performance of 2 Kings 5, with Dr. Tom Boogaart and eight WTS students, presented at the joint session of Applied Linguistics for Biblical Languages and the National Association of Professors of Hebrew at the Annual Meeting of SBL in San Diego, November, 2014.

“Human Origins and Adam and Eve,” Contemporary Christian Life Issues session at Christ Memorial Church, October 26, 2014.

“Temple as Wellspring of Missional Theology,” at the Western Theological Seminary Wabash Pre-Tenure Missional Pedagogies retreat in San Francisco, March 2014.

“Water From the Rock,” homily during Vespers Service, Symposium on Worship, Calvin College, January 2014.

“Enacting Elisha: A Performance Critical Analysis of the Widow’s Oil in 2 Kings 4.1–7,” to the Western Theological Seminary/Hope College Theology Seminar, Holland, MI, October 10, 2013.

“The Art of Biblical Performance: Performance Criticism and the Genre of the Biblical Narratives,” at the PhD Seminar, VU University Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 21, 2013.

“Theological Reflections on Eating,” at *The Earth Is The Lord’s* conference, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI, keynote speakers Dr. Ellen Davis and Dr. Norman Wirzba, September 25, 2010.

MEDIA/PODCASTS:

- *Here Not There* Podcast with Colleen Ramser, May 18, 2026.
- *Sanctuary Stirrings* Podcast with Lori Melton, April 22, 2026.
- *Unwriting the Bible* Podcast, October 19, 2025.
- “Rest Is More Than a Day Off” on *Unhurried Living*, October 6, 2025.
- “The Sabbath Way” Parts 1-2 on *The Hashcast*, September 15, 22, 2025.
- “Can I Choose Sabbath? With Travis West” on the *4:13 Podcast With Jennifer Rothschild*, September 4, 2025.
- *The Pinkleton Pull-Aside*, 2-part interview, July 24, 31, 2025.
- “The Sabbath Way,” on Chris Fabry Live, June 16, 2025.
- “Call the Sabbath a Delight,” *Unfolding Short Stories* on *The Unfolding Podcast*, June 10, 2025.
- “How to Find True Rest in the Sabbath,” *The Manly with Andy Podcast*, episode 124, June 6, 2025.
- “The Sabbath Way,” *The Church Around the World Podcast*, June 2, 2025.

INNOVATIVE ACADEMIC RESOURCING:

WTSHebrewPlayers YouTube Channel

- Over 4,650 subscribers
- Grammar Instruction videos, Hebrew song videos, theological reflection videos, Scripture enactment videos, Hebrew vocabulary videos, Sabbath teaching videos
- Several videos with over 10k views (over 25 with more than 5k views, some with over 20k views)
- Over 300 videos uploaded
- Over ½ Million views over the life of the channel

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS

Inaugural Teacher-Scholar Grant Recipient, Calvin Institute for Christian Worship, 2019–20
Wabash-Sponsored WTS Pre-Tenure Theological Faculty Group, 2012–14
Th.M. Award, 2009

Henry Beukema Graduate Scholarship, 2008–2009
Seminary Award in Biblical Studies (OT), 2008
Seminary Award in Biblical Language and Exegesis, 2008
Publishers' Award, 2008
George Nathan Makely Award in OT Language and Literature, 2006

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Network of Biblical Storytellers Scholars' Seminar, Baltimore, August 3–5, 2025.

Network of Biblical Storytellers Scholars' Seminar, Baltimore, July 28–30, 2024.

Doxology, hosted by the Eugene Peterson Center for Christian Imagination, Pillar Church, Holland, October 2–3, 2023.

Calvin Institute for Christian Worship Annual Grant Event (online), June 24–25, 2020.

Latinx Theological Education, webinar, Calvin Institute for Christian Worship, June 4–5, 2020.

Through Hispanic Eyes, hosted by the Hispanic Summer Program, at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, June 24–27, 2018.

Pedagogical Possibilities Conference, hosted by the Program of Theology and Practice at Vanderbilt University, June, 2015.

SBL/AAR Annual Meeting: 2011 – present

Bast Preaching Festival, hosted at Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI, various years.

The Earth is the Lord's, keynote speakers Dr. Ellen Davis and Dr. Norman Wirzba, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI, September 23–35, 2010.

Jeremiah: A Practice in Counter-Imagination, keynote speaker Dr. Walter Brueggemann, Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI, March 4–5, 2010.

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP/ROLES

<i>The Society of Biblical Literature</i> , member	2011–Present
Biblical Performance Criticism Networking Event, co-chair	2019–Present
HA'ARETS Series Editor, GlossaHouse	2017–Present
WTS Representative to Hispanic Summer Program Board	2017–2019

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