

Birmingham Theological Journal

2026 Guidelines for Submission

1. The *Birmingham Theological Journal* will accept submissions of original research articles and book reviews by BTS students, faculty, and alumni in the following fields of study: Old and New Testament studies, biblical theology, church history, systematic theology, biblical counseling, Christian education, and related disciplines. In the case of multi-authored works, at least one author should be associated with BTS.
2. By submitting a work to the *Birmingham Theological Journal*, you are affirming that:
 - a. You are not submitting a previously published work or an AI-generated work.
 - b. You are not submitting this work to other journals until the review process at BTS is complete.
 - c. The work uses proper citations and does not plagiarize another's work. All submissions are subject to review using plagiarism and AI detection software.
 - d. You assign copyright to Birmingham Theological Seminary for publication of accepted essays and book reviews, with permission granted to author for continued non-commercial reproduction of the work, along with credit to Birmingham Theological Seminary (e.g., Birmingham Theological Seminary © 2026).
 - e. No interviews, surveys, or questionnaires were conducted by the author for use in the paper.
3. Submissions must be in MS Word format using Times New Roman 12- point font.
4. Submissions must conform to the Turabian style guide, using *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th Edition, supplemented by the BTS Form and Style Guide.
5. Research Articles
 - Research articles should be between 3,000 - 7,000 words, exclusive of footnotes, and include an abstract of approximately 250 words.
 - Use footnotes (no endnotes).
 - Include a bibliography of peer-reviewed journal articles, scholarly books, and primary sources.
6. Book Reviews
 - Book reviews should be between 1300 - 2000 words.
 - Use parenthetical notes before the final punctuation mark when citing the work under review.
 - Books should not be popular or self-published works and should not be more than 5 years old, preferably no more than 3 years old.
7. For research articles and book reviews, sources should not include wiki pages, blogs, corporate and news websites, social media posts, magazines, popular or self-published works, newsletters, social media posts, AI-generated content, or outdated research.

8. Any foreign words, such as Greek or Hebrew words, and diacritical marks should be in Unicode font. Avoid transliteration of all except the most common words in the biblical languages, such as *agape*. Do provide a translation of Greek or Hebrew words, either in the text of the paper or in a footnote. Personal translations should be noted in a footnote upon their first use. For example: “All parenthetical translations of the original biblical languages were made by the author.”
9. Introduce any abbreviations at the outset of the paper, such as: Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF), Masoretic text (MT), Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS). Please avoid Latin abbreviations in the body of the paper, such as: “e.g.,” “i.e.,” “viz.,” unless the abbreviation is used in a quote, and be consistent with the formatting throughout the paper. In formatting, priority should be given to both Turabian format and consistency.
10. For English translations, formal equivalence translations are preferred. Free translations or paraphrases should be avoided.
11. Submissions may be emailed by 05/01/26 to the General Editor at writingcenter@bts.education. Please use the subject line: *BTJ* Submission. For each issue, *BTJ* will accept no more than one article and one book review per person.
12. To see previous *BTJ* volumes, please see btswritingcenter.net/btj.
13. What’s next? The steps to publication generally follow this outline:
 - a. Your submission will be sent to both internal and external reviewers.
 - b. Just before the fall semester begins, the editors will analyze all of the reviews and choose the submissions to accept.
 - c. All authors will be notified of the editors’ decision on their submissions.
 - d. If the decision is to accept, the author will be asked to make revisions per the reviewers’ suggestions.
 - e. The revisions will be proofread and a pre-publication proof will be sent to each author for final approval.
 - f. The editors will assemble the accepted, revised, and proofread submissions into the issue to be released by the end of the year.
 - g. A PDF of the issue will be uploaded to the *BTJ* website, and authors will receive a print copy as well.

This document is subject to update as needed.

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