

Dear student

In following the simple format outlines and detailed instructions, you are empowered to plan and write, your Research Draft Proposal as required.

- ❖ A complete study guide ***Post Graduate Skills: Research Proposal*** is available under paragraph three (3) under the ***link*** Post Graduate Guidelines. The attached document is a prototype and model as contained within the study guide. Writing the Research Proposal is the first part in writing your dissertation.

Please study the guidelines carefully and then utilise this template to write the Research Proposal:

- ❖ Number your headings as done in the example.
- ❖ The headings as indicated in the **colour RED** are compulsory and to be utilised as per the example.
- ❖ There are many guidelines, suggestions and examples provided within the example.
- ❖ The “cosmetics” of your proposal is of utmost importance. Stay within the boundaries as outlined within the example below.
- ❖ Please feel free to contact the Academic Dean, should you need assistance with the drafting of your Proposal. Proflieb@hrti.co.za

DRAFT PROPOSAL

TITLE OF THE DISSERTATION

“The title of the Dissertation should contain approximately sixteen words, reflecting the academic research nature of the proposal”

BY

STUDENT NAME

Master of Divinity in Messianic Studies

at

UNIVERSITY NAME

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(Compulsory: utilise this heading and page example)

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RESEARCH PROPOSAL (utilise this heading)

1. INTRODUCING EXPECTED VALUE AND MOTIVATION (utilise this heading)

Provide short description (a few paragraphs) of the problem to be studied, the purpose of the research, or a combination of the foregoing. This must be complete that the appointed tutor can approve the research or suggest alternatives.

Utilise the information as points as outlined in your **Statement of Research Intent**:

For example: Prior to the laying of the earth's foundation, YAHWEH Elohim, as Creator, planned for man to dwell on the face of the earth. Yet, on the preamble to the Torah, Moshe (Moses) did not start with mankind; He informed the reader of the then current status of the planet; and then immediately the role of the Holy Ruach HaKodesh after hearing the (Bat Kol (voice) of Yahweh. Gen 1:1 say, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen 1:2 "Now the earth was formless and empty. Darkness was on the surface of the deep. God's Spirit was hovering over the surface of the waters, AND THEN God SAID".* A planet in chaos that needs a Word to bring life and order, a Word that will activate the Holy Ruach into restoring that order on the earth - and make it habitable for man.

2. FORMULATION OF THE PROBLEM STATEMENT (utilise this heading)

Formulating the Problem Statement is part of the general steps needed before the dissertation writing stage can begin.

The following steps are proposed:

2.1 Detailed development of the purpose of the research (value and motivation)

The detailed statement comprises logical reasons and basis for raising a problem relating to specific research. This will consist of the ideal situation, the reality, and the consequences for the reader that you need to convince the reader of the necessity of this research – especially if you can prove that the topic at hand (your topic) has not been adequately been researched and therefore, there is a lack of knowledge in your specific field.

Your statement should contain the

- *Perfect scenario:* all people are well, not one sick person
- *The reality of the situation:* Believers and sinners alike are ill – with little hope of healing
- *The Consequences:* the benefit of this research should emphasise that healing is possible by suggesting solutions after investigating the "problem/cause" of diseases, whatever your field of research.

For example: Through the ages, Jew and Gentile alike have begun to trust in medical

science for disease management. In this modern day and age, it seems that trusting Yehovah Rophechah for divine healing is the last way out, because of the challenges involved. It is only when people are experiencing incipient death, that they begin to look for an alternative way of healing to their sick bodies, but by then it is, for them, almost too late.

Ministering the healing power of Yehovah has become a lost art and due to lack of knowledge, many prematurely fall asleep (die). Can we identify the different sources of diseases; measure them against the Torah and especially the book of Deuteronomy, and with the gained knowledge, minister Divine healing and break the power of the curses?

When the researcher studies Psa 105:37, it makes this profound statement: *He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one FEEBLE person among their tribes.* How did this happen, disease free for 40 years and no active curses? There must be a secret to receiving Divine health and redemption from curses. The **search for the clues to this secret** has prompted the writer to study the Exodus 15 proclamations. In Num 23:19, Yahweh makes another remarkable declaration; that *He is not a man that He should lie.* If He is not a liar, why is almost everybody sick, Jew and Gentile alike? Where did man go wrong and can this Divine Covenant of Healing be re-instated? Can a believer receive healing by living the Torah? Does that mean one is under the Law again? What happened to the Grace Dispensation then? Can one become sick under the Perfect Law of Liberty? Can one trespass the Perfect Law of Liberty?

Example: How can the researcher conduct this investigation? One method of performing this research is by doing interviews with Torah observant Believers. (Add your own *how* methodology).

Example: What or which sources can be utilised in the research process? There are many sources of information available, i.e. conducting an investigation through utilising questionnaires, doing interviews with the sick; etc.

➤ **Describe the areas of inquiry:**

- How will you research the problem?
- What sources of information, types of research, or tools will you utilise to find solutions, and make recommendations to resolve the problem?

➤ **Test the Problem Statement: Practical considerations**

- Is the study feasible? Time constraints? Financial constraints?
- Ask yourself: how long will this study take to accomplish? How much research, reading, and studying were done before this application was considered.
- Are there important ethical constraints that need consideration?
- Can you achieve the needed co-operation to make this project successful? i.e. do you have enough people to do questionnaires and interviews?
- Does the problem statement contain a succinct **critical review of what is currently known** so that the Board or a reader is not left pondering as to how the work fits into the broader scheme of things?
- Do note: if questionnaires are utilised: please attach it to the dissertation as an Annexure.



3. **RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND AIMS OF THIS RESEARCH** (utilise this heading)

3.1 **Research Questions** (utilise this heading)

The research questions will guide the research, therefore, it is of paramount importance that the researcher ask the right questions:

- There should be a **direct link** between the research question and the field of study: i.e. is healing mentioned in the Torah?
- The questions should be **descriptive** i.e. the question should describe the very nature of your research;
- The questions should be **relational**: there must be a relationship between two variables, i.e. healing and Covenant or healing and disobedience to the Word;
- The questions should be **causal**: these questions would centre on the cause and effect and are sometimes regarded as confrontational. i.e. the causes of diseases, do they have a spiritual root, do diseases stem from a bloodline curse and the effect would be that the majority Christians do believe that curses are active anymore.

3.2 **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH** (utilise this heading)

The next stage of the process are the designing and planning of the research project – the focus being the Aims and Objectives.

3.3 **The (Research) Aims consist of**

- Broad statement of the desired outcomes or general intentions of the research.
Example: To establish and proof that Divine Healing, according to the Torah, is still for this day of modern medicine and specialised medical aid.
- To emphasise **what** is to be accomplished.
Example: During this research, it needs to be established if the Word of YHWH still carries a value when it comes to Divine Healing.
- Determine the **long-term project** outcomes.
Example: A study group will live for a **time-period** within the Instructions and Directions of the Law, as outlined in the Torah. The resulting health and other benefits should for once and all authenticate the validity of the Torah on healing.
- **Example:** To elicit and clarify the views and perceptions of major stakeholders regarding the outcomes of the research, i.e. that Believers and unbelievers alike will reconsider and seek the value of living the Torah principles in a modern society;
- **Example:** To proof i.e. that curses are activated by man's own actions and deeds . . .

- **Example:** To identify the assumptions
- **Example:** To study in greater depth the
- **Example:** To Recommend
- **Example:** To Propose

3.4 Objectives

Once the Aims are established, the next step would be to formulate the **objectives** of the research

- The objectives are the **steps** you are going to take to answer your research questions;
- Emphasise how **aims** are going to be **accomplished**;
- Must be **focussed** and feasible;
- Address the immediate project outcomes;

4. THE THESIS AND HYPOTHESIS AS A RESEARCH STATEMENT (utilise this heading)

Forming a hypothesis

A hypothesis can be defined as an educated guess about the relationship between two or more variables. For example, a researcher might be interested in the relationship between study habits and test anxiety. They would then propose a hypothesis about how these two variables are related, such as "test anxiety decreases as a result of effective study habits."

In order to form a hypothesis, you must start by collecting as many observations about something as you can. Next, it is important to evaluate these observations and look for possible causes of the problem. Create a list of possible explanations that you might want to explore. After you have developed some possible hypotheses, it is important to think of ways that you could confirm or disprove each hypothesis through experimentation.¹

A **hypothesis** is a specific, testable prediction about what you expect to happen in your study. For example, an experiment designed to look at the relationship between study habits and test anxiety might have a hypothesis that states, "We predict that students with better study habits will suffer less test anxiety." Unless your study is exploratory in nature, your hypothesis should always explain what you **expect** to happen during the course of your experiment or research.²

For example the title **“THE CONDITIONS AND CRITERIA CONTAINED IN THE TORAH FOR RESTORING YHWH’S COVENANT BLESSINGS AND DIVINE HEALTH”** is the central argument of a dissertation or treatise – or research report. Every essay should have a thesis statement which is a one- or two- sentence condensation of the argument as a thesis statement.

¹ <http://psychology.about.com/od/researchmethods/a/form-a-hypothesis.htm>

² http://psychology.about.com/od/researchmethods/ss/expdesintro_2.htm



While the terms are sometimes used interchangeably in everyday use, the difference between a theory and a hypothesis is important when studying experimental design. Some important distinctions to note include:

- A theory predicts events in general terms, while a hypothesis makes a specific prediction about a specified set of circumstances.
- A theory has been extensively tested and is generally accepted, while a hypothesis is a speculative guess that has yet to be tested.
- A **theory** is a well-established principle that has been developed to explain some aspect of the natural world. A theory arises from repeated observation and testing and incorporates facts, laws, predictions, and tested hypotheses that are widely accepted.

5. **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY** (*utilise this heading*)

In order to achieve the aims outlined in the above, the researcher has to follow and apply the different Research Methodologies to gather the required data. The approach to gather data could of one or more of the following basic research methodologies:

- **Historical:** the researcher performs an objective and accurate reconstruction of the past, i.e. study the great Exodus from Egypt – until the implementation of the Healing Covenant
- **Descriptive:** systematic description of situation or area of interest, i.e. study the health of the Hebrew nation in the Sinai desert and the criteria for Divine health.

Example: Furthermore, the study will be descriptive, where the patterns of certain detrimental lifestyles are highlighted

- **Developmental:** the investigation of *patterns* and *sequences* of the field of interest – or - This study will be developmental as a model for restoration
- **Qualitative:** Intensive study of background and status, i.e. Is there sufficient background provided so that the Board can appreciate the research problems that you are to tackle, and the objectives of the dissertation?

Example: This research will be qualitative and causal as the background and status of curses in the life of a Believer will be highlighted

- **Quantitative:** this research involves information or data in the form of numbers or surveys; therefore, questionnaires are utilised as questions are standard.
- **The Survey Method:** Survey and questionnaires are one of the most common methods used in psychological research. In this method, a random sample of



participants completes a survey, test, or questionnaire that relates to the variables of interest. Random sampling is a vital part of ensuring the generalisability of the survey results.³

- **Correlational:** Correlational studies are used to look for relationships between variables. There are three possible results of a correlational study: a positive correlation, a negative correlation, and no correlation.⁴
- **Causal-Comparative/Retrospective:** When most people think of scientific experimentation, research on **cause and effect** is most often brought to mind. Experiments on causal relationships investigate the effect of one or more variables on one or more outcome variables. This type of research also determines if one variable causes another variable to occur or change. An example of this type of research would be altering the amount of (*medical*) treatment and measuring the effect on study participants.⁵
- **Scientific method:** Scientific method refers to a body of techniques for the investigation of phenomena and the acquisition of new knowledge of the natural world, as well as the correction and integration of previous knowledge, based on observable, empirical measureable evidence and subject to laws of reasoning.

Example: Einstein's ideas are called “theories” because they were initially unproven. They did not start out as facts; they were ideas that had to be tested. This aspect is, in and of itself, unremarkable. Most large-scale ideas that present new information, or suggest a reversal of old information, are going to be questioned by someone; as such, they will be considered theories until most people agree on their validity. *This is what is called the “scientific method” – the method by which science tries to develop more and more accurate descriptions of the natural world around us.*⁶

- **Combination of Research Methods: Example:** A historical, philosophical approach is the most viable avenue of addressing the study field. Therefore, a thorough systematic literature review will be done on existing material, i.e. internet, CD's, DVD's and books. This will enable the author to study the social-cultural factors that led to the development of this resistance to understand that there are still curses and curse related diseases active today.

You may utilise as many as needed research methodologies – just define and qualify the reasons for utilising them.

³ <http://psychology.about.com/od/researchmethods/a/correlational.htm>

⁴ <http://psychology.about.com/od/researchmethods/a/correlational.htm>

⁵ <http://psychology.about.com/od/researchmethods/ss/expdesintro.htm>

⁶ <http://www.netplaces.com/einstein/blank/the-scientific-method.htm>

6. **LITERATURE SURVEY OF EXISTING KNOWLEDGE** (utilise this heading)

Literature Survey is the most important part of the research – and consists mostly of the study of other work (**existing**) of a similar nature done by researchers over the world. It is therefore, important to spend ample time and effort on literature research at the beginning. Typical research areas include:

- *History* of the subject matter being researched;
- *Survey* of papers/trends and publications;
- *Survey* of related areas/techniques and existing models or theories;
- *Critical evaluation* of the practical application of the various models.
- *Assessment* of research requirements in the development of a new model or solution to the problem.

Consideration should be given to whilst doing the literature survey:

- Provenance – what are the credentials of the author? Are the authors' arguments supported by evidence?
- Objectivity – is the authors perspective even-handed or prejudicial?
- Persuasiveness – which of the authors theses are mos/least convincing?
- Does the authors arguments add value to your own research?

The four stages of Literature Survey

- *Problem formulation*: which topic of field is be examined?
- *Literature search* - finding materials relevant to the subject being explored.
- *Data evaluation* – determining which literature makes a significant contribution to the understanding of the topic at hand.
- *Analysis and interpretation* - discussing the findings and conclusions of pertinent literature.

7. **DEMARCATON OF RESEARCH INCLUDING SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS** (utilise this heading)

The demarcation problem in the philosophy of science is about how and where to draw the lines around science. Related to this problem is the need for you to indicate how you draw the lines around the field you study. You do this by indicating which you are working in and defining it. i.e. Hebraic Roots and healing. The Whitesmoke on-line dictionary defines demarcation as: **Demarcation** is the act of creating a boundary around a place or thing⁷. Therefore, the researcher has to define the boundaries of the research to be conducted.

⁷ www.whitesmoke.com

Don't become involved with related problems i.e. paganism in the Church, etc.

Define the limitations to your research:

- **Example:** For now, the research needs to be done in Southern Africa.
- **Example:** Only South African Rabbis can be approached for their input and co-operation, although the researcher will endeavour to contact Rabbis' in Israel and utilise the information where applicable.
- **Example:** is it possible to read everything in your field of research?
- **Example:** can you be sure that your research is going to give accurate results if you do not include i.e. paganism?
- **Example:** what assumptions is this going to give rise to?
- **Ensure** that stay within the demarcation of your topic, don't go too broad. For every research question asked, you have to provide a research answer.
- **Stay focussed:** don't get lost in irrelevant information and data
- **A weak problem statement:** will result that you lose direction in the research and writing process.
- **A lack of evidence:** will make you lose focus. Do not begin to write before you have thoroughly explored and mastered your field of interest.
- **Study the different research methodologies:** you may need apply more than one methodology as stated earlier.
- **Stay focussed when doing referencing:** be meticulous when you are citing sources consulted. Give honour where it is due. Do not commit plagiarism. Clearly define between your own work and that of the source that you are citing. Do in-text referencing, and then cite the source in Bibliography as well – according to the MLA referencing method.
- **Utilise footnotes:** to elaborate or clarify a point.
- **Ensure that you discuss your literature clearly and in context.**
- **Do not become prescriptive:** forcing your opinion on a reader. Be objective.
- **Be logical and reasonable:** formulate your arguments for or against a statement as cited in a source.

7.1 Scope and Limitations

Scope means the extent of your investigation.

Limitations: are the limits of things you did not investigate.

- **Example Scope:** The following Bibles will be utilised: The Amplified Bible, The King James Bible, E-Sword Electronic Bible, The Dake Electronic Bible, and if needed, all other translations will be cited, should they be utilized.
- **Example Scope :** Various Hebrew names and words will be used as well as the interpretation.
- **Example Limitation:** For now, the research needs to be done in Southern Africa. Only South African Rabbis can be approached for their input and co-operation, although the researcher will endeavour to contact Rabbis' in Israel and utilise the information where applicable.

8. **METHOD OF CITATION AND REFERENCING** (*utilise this heading*)

- Choice of citation will be footnotes for the dissertation – as seen within this model.
- For Bibliography, the Havard style will be used.

9. **SPECIAL TERMINOLOGY and DEFINITIONS** (*Utilise this heading*)

Under this heading the researcher defines words that are not common knowledge or commonly utilised. The researcher also defines concepts that are related and in context to the research.

Example: Hebrew words and names will be used to gain better understanding of them in order to emphasise a certain statement made. Explanation or definition of these words will be included in the first instance the word is used in the thesis.

Example: The most commonly used words are included in the glossary below:

- *Abad* Word translated "labour" in Exod 20:9, It means "to do," "to serve"
- *Bat Kol* In Rabbinic literature a reference is made to "a voice from heaven" called "Bat Kol," which literally means a "daughter of a voice." The Bat-kol, Shekinah, and the *Ruach HaKodesh* are all feminine in the Hebrew
- *Bet Midrash* A house of study – where the Torah and Scriptures are Studied (Midrash study guide of the Torah and Scriptures).
- *Brit* or *Bris* meaning pact or covenant.

10. **PLANNED CHAPTER CONTENT** (*utilise this heading*)

Under this heading the researcher plans each chapter with its related paragraphs names and numbers. This assists the researcher to stay focussed and create a logical workflow.

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- 4.2 *Results: The Person of Ruach HaKodesh (description)*
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- 5.1 *Critical assessment of results (Researchers own ideas)*
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6. BIBLIOGRAPHY (No page number)

- 6.1 *Bibles*
- 6.2 *Books*
- 6.3 *Journal Articles*
- 6.4 *Websites*
- 7. *Appendix*
- *Holy Spirit Questionnaire*

- Spiritual Gifts Discovering Tool
- Copy of News Paper Article.dd. 20Sept 2009.

11. PROJECT MANAGEMENT (utilise this heading) (see page 31 of the Research Proposal studyguide).

Project Schedule

The objective of the schedule should be to do most of the foundational work during the first five months of study. This planning and writing of the drafts are to be discussed with your Tutor. Deadline dates will be set which the student will adhere to. This will prevent procrastination.

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