

ICI REPORT FOR JANUARY 2013

(a) SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND

The meeting will be held from July 7 to July 11. Proposals for papers can be submitted until February 15.

The meeting will include an informal ICI session to exchange ideas, provide feedback and the like.

For [more information about the I-SBL](#).

Future I-SBL meetings:

- Vienna, Austria; July 6-10, 2014
- Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 20-24, 2015.

(b) TEACHING COLLABORATION INITIATIVE

Please remind students, including graduate students (and their supervisors), of the opportunities created through this initiative, which range from mentoring to actually taking courses on areas of specialization that may not be available in their home institution, without ever leaving town. For more information:

<http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICITeaching.aspx>

(c) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – INTRODUCTIONS

In one of our previous meetings, colleagues asked ICI to explore the possibility that Introductions be included in our depository of online books. I am glad to announce the inclusion of the following two introductions:

- (1) Brueggemann, Walter and Tod Linfelt. *An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination, Second Edition*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2012.
- (2) Gravett, Sandra L.; Karla G. Bohmbach; F. V. Greifenhagen and Donald C. Polaski. *An Introduction to the Hebrew Bible: A Thematic Approach*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2008.

As you may notice, both are from Westminster John Knox Press, our newest partner in our initiative

(d) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

(For the full list, please go to http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ICIbooks.aspx)

- (1) Eberhart, Christian A., ed. *Ritual and Metaphor: Sacrifice in the Bible*. Resources for Biblical Study 68. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.

The sanctuary and rituals that formed the heart of ancient Judaism ceased to exist a long time ago, yet their images and concepts, especially that of “sacrifice,” have remained essential to the rhetoric of politics, religion, and secular culture. Pervasive sacrificial metaphors range from religious foundations for human ethics to attempts to glorify victims of military or natural disasters to much-debated ideas of vicarious atonement within Christianity. The essays in this volume investigate central aspects of sacrificial rituals and processes of metaphor development and spiritualization in Judaism and Christianity. The contributors include Christian A. Eberhart, Göran Eidevall, Stephen Finlan, George P. Heyman, Dominika Kurek-Chomycz, Jeffrey S. Siker, Jason Tatlock, Timothy Wardle, and James W. Watts.

- (2) Hanneken, Todd R., *The Subversion of the Apocalypses in the Book of Jubilees*. Early Judaism and Its Literature, Number 34. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012.

In spite of some scholars' inclination to include the book of Jubilees as another witness to “Enochic Judaism,” the relationship of Jubilees to the apocalyptic writings and events surrounding the Maccabean revolt has never been adequately clarified. This book builds on scholarship on genre to establish a clear pattern among the ways Jubilees resembles and differs from other apocalypses. Jubilees matches the apocalypses of its day in overall structure and literary morphology. Jubilees also uses the literary genre to raise the issues typical of the apocalypses—including revelation, angels and demons, judgment, and eschatology—but rejects what the apocalypses typically say about those issues, subverting reader expectations with a corrected view. In addition to the main argument concerning Jubilees, this volume's survey of what is fundamentally apocalyptic about apocalyptic literature advances the understanding of early Jewish apocalyptic literature and, in turn, of later apocalypses and comparable perspectives, including those of Paul and the Qumran sectarians.

- (3) Fischer, Irmtraud and Mercedes Navarro Puerto, with Andrea Taschl-Erber, eds. *Torah. The Bible and Women: Hebrew Bible/Old Testament 1.1*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.

This volume is the first in The Bible and Women series, which presents a new interpretation of the Bible and its reception in the West focused on the history of

women and issues of gender. It introduces the series, explaining the choice of the Hebrew canon in connection with the Christian tradition and opening the way for a changed view of women throughout the series. The contributors explore the theological meaning of the collection of canonical writings and the social-historical background of ancient Near Eastern women's lives, both of which play key roles in the series. Turning to the Pentateuch, essays address a variety of texts and issues still relevant today, such as creation and male-female identity in the image of God, women's roles in the genealogies of the Pentateuch and in salvation history, the rights and responsibilities of women according to the Hebrew Bible's legal and ritual texts, and how archaeology and iconography can illustrate the texts of the Torah. Contributors include Sophie Démare-Lafont, Dorothea Erbele-Küster, Karin Finsterbusch, Irmtraud Fischer, Mercedes García Bachmann, Thomas Hieke, Carol Meyers, Mercedes Navarro Puerto, Jorunn Økland, Ursula Rapp, Donatella Scaiola, Silvia Schroer, Jopie Siebert-Hommers, and Adriana Valerio.

- (4) Lipton, Diana. *Universalism and Particularism at Sodom and Gomorrah: Essays in Memory of Ron Pirson*. *Ancient Israel and Its Literature*, Number 11. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012.

This book reexamines the Sodom and Gomorrah narrative in Genesis 18-19, an ethically charged text that has significantly influenced views about homosexuality, stereotyping the other, the rewards and risks of hospitality, and the justice owed to outsiders. Its twelve essays, reflecting their authors' considerable geographical, religious, methodological, and academic diversity, explore this troubling text through the lens of universalism and particularism. Biblical Sodom is read as the site of multiple borders—fluid, porous, and bi-directional—between similar and different, men and angels, men and women, fathers and daughters, insiders and outsiders, hosts and guests, residents and aliens, chosen and nonchosen, and people and God. Readers of these exegetically and theologically attentive essays published in memory of Ron Pirson will experience a rare sense of an ancient text being read in and for the modern world. The contributors are Calum Carmichael, Diana Lipton, William John Lyons, Nathan MacDonald, Amira Meir, Yitzhak (Itzik) Peleg, T. A. Perry, Ron Pirson, Jonathan D. Safren, Megan Warner, Harlan J. Wechsler, and Ellen J. van Wolde.

(e) JSTOR INITIATIVE

JSTOR has initiated a program to offer free, read-online access to individual scholars and researchers. A January 2013 [press release](#) announces the expansion of the program to 1,200 journals. For more information, please click [here](#).

(f) LIAISON NETWORK

The Liaison Network is active and working. The ICI Liaisons list, along with contact information for each liaison, is posted on the SBL web site at <http://www.sbl-site.org/InternationalCoopInitiative.aspx>. If you wish to be part of this initiative and serve as a country or local representative, please contact Tim Langille tim.langille@gmail.com.

(g) EVENTS

The SBL maintains a significant list of events taking place anywhere in the globe. For the full list please go to <http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/events.aspx>

Please provide information on conferences in your region, including calls for papers, to Sharon Johnson at sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org.

July 7-11

SBL International Meeting

To be held in St. Andrews, Scotland. (As mentioned above, the meeting will include an informal ICI session to exchange ideas, provide feedback and the like). [More information](#)

July 30- Aug 2

EABS Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting of the European Association of Biblical Studies

Hosted by the University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany

[More information](#)

August 2013

8/4–8/9 International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT)

The 21st Congress of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT) will take place at the University of Munich, Germany. As usual it will be joint with the Congresses of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies (IOSCS, 1.-3. of August), of the International Organization for Qumran Studies (IOQS), the International Organziation for Masoretic Studies (IOMS), the International Organization for Targum Studies (IOTS) and the International Syriac Language Project (ISLP).

[More Information](#)

(h) PLEASE PASS THE INFORMATION

You are encouraged to distribute this report among all those you think might find it helpful. If you are a member of other professional organizations related to biblical studies, we urge you to send our newsletters to those responsible for communication within those groups as well.

Ehud

Ehud Ben Zvi, SBL - International Cooperation Initiative