

## SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2016

### (a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2016, SAN ANTONIO

The SBL Annual Meeting will be held from November 19-22, 2016 in San Antonio, Texas. The Call for Papers is now closed.

**Registration** and **accommodation reservations** are still open. See: [http://sbl-site.org/meetings/meetings\\_registrationAM.aspx](http://sbl-site.org/meetings/meetings_registrationAM.aspx).

The online programme book is also available at:

[https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Congresses\\_ProgramBook.aspx?MeetingId=29](https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Congresses_ProgramBook.aspx?MeetingId=29)

An ICI **Forum discussion** will be held at this meeting. Please attend the meeting to be updated on the work of ICI, but also to make your suggestions and give your input. In the past the forum meeting clashed with conference sessions, which resulted into poor attendance. **We have now moved the meeting to the lunch hour which will enable you to attend, without losing out on conference sessions!** The time slot and venue for the forum meeting are the following:

**Time:** Saturday 19 November at 12:00-13:00 PM

**Venue:** Bowie (2nd Level) - Marriott Riverwalk (MRW)

We hope to see you there!

### (b) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2017, BERLIN

The next SBL International Meeting will take place in Berlin, Germany, from 7-11 August 2017. The Call for Papers opens on 9 November 2016, and will close on 21 February 2017. See this link: <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Internationalmeeting.aspx>

### (c) SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS 2018 and 2019

The following has been announced in the most recent SBL Newsletter about future International Meetings:

"We are delighted to announce that the Faculty of Theology at the University of **Helsinki** will host a joint meeting of the European Association of Biblical Studies and the Society of Biblical Literature. The University's Faculty of Theology is one of the largest theological faculties in the world, with 1,700 undergraduate students and 300 postgraduate students, and with expertise in an unusually wide array of topics, ranging from Assyriology to Gnosticism. The conference is provisionally scheduled for 30 July – 3

August 2018. Many thanks to Dr. Ismo Dunderberg, Dean of the Faculty of Theology, and Dr. Outi Lehtipuu, University Lecturer at the University of Helsinki, for their support. SBL is also pleased to announce that the 2019 International Meeting will be held at the United Theological College in **Bangalore**, India—the first SBL meeting in India—from July 22nd to the 26th. The United Theological College is a premier theological institution in South Asia with a rich legacy of commitment to interfaith dialogue and social justice. SBL thanks Dr. John Samuel Raj, the current Principal of United Theological College, Dr. Chilukuri Vasantha Rao, Principal-elect, and Dr. David Joy, UTC's Faculty Representative, for their willingness to host this historic meeting. Special thanks also to Dr. Raj Nadella, Columbia Theological Seminary, for his key role in this partnership.”

**(d) PUBLICATION IN ANCIENT NEAR EAST MONOGRAPHS (ANEM) / MONOGRAFÍAS SOBRE EL ANTIGUO CERCAÑO ORIENTE (MACO)**

ANEM/MACO is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and which is co-edited by Alan Lenzi and Juan Tebes. The series publishes volumes on the Ancient Near East (including ancient Israel) electronically and makes them freely available for download. (Paperback and hardback versions of the volumes are available too, for a reasonable price.) Any work published in ANEM/MACO is freely available in electronic version to anyone in perpetuity. To view the volumes published in the series, please go to [http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books\\_ANEmonographs.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ANEmonographs.aspx)

The latest volume in ANEM/MACO is:

**Mapping Judah's Fate in Ezekiel's Oracles against the Nations**

By Lydia Lee

Ezekiel 25–32 contains some of the most virulent speeches directed against Judah's neighboring nations. Some scholars emphasize that the destruction of the nations in chapters 25–32 signals the upcoming salvation of God's people. Other scholars presuppose that the nations are judged by a separate moral standard and render the judgment executed upon the nations irrelevant to that upon Judah. In this study, Lydia Lee postulates a third way to perceive the rhetorical roles of the nations in Ezekiel 25–32. Unraveling the intricate connections between the oracles against the nations and those against Judah, Lee argues that Ezekiel 25–32 contains a daring message of judgment against not only the foreign nations but also Judah's land, temple, and nation. Lee places Ezekiel 25–32 in a broader context, considering how samples of its early reception within the prophetic book affirm or transform the bleak message about the

oblique judgment for the house of Judah. For scholars interested in Ezekiel or the oracles against the nations, this study will offer a new way of thinking about the corpus concerning foreign nations.

To download the book for free, paste the following link into your browser:

[https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9780884141808\\_OA.pdf](https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9780884141808_OA.pdf)

#### **(e) PUBLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL VOICES IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (IVBS)**

IVBS is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and which is co-edited by Monica Melanchthon and Jione Havea. IVBS encourages in particular submissions from scholars in the present seven international regions for which it has editorial boards: Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East-South Asia, Northeast Asia, Pacific, and Southeast Asia. Interregional collaborations are also welcome. IVBS publishes works in English and in any other language for which its editors can find qualified peer reviewers. Any work published in IVBS is freely available to anyone in perpetuity. The series publishes work generally in the area of reception history and criticism. The scope is not limited to any particular biblical text or historical timeframe. The works will mainly be published in English and, wherever possible, also in primary languages of authors. For more information please go to <http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/home.aspx>. If you would consider publishing your work in this series, feel free to contact one of the two general editors, [Monica Melanchthon](#) or [Jione Havea](#).

The latest volume in IVBS is:

#### **Reading Ruth in Asia**

Edited by Jione Havea and Peter Lau

This monograph contains readings of texts and themes from the Book of Ruth by scholars from Asia. There is a strong mix of postcolonial and contextual flavors in the essays, which together give readers a taste of Biblical Criticism in Asia. Special attention is given to the literary, cultural, gender and minoritized subjects in the Book of Ruth.

To download the book for free, paste the following link into your browser:

[http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/uploads/9780884141006\\_OA.pdf](http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/uploads/9780884141006_OA.pdf)

**(f) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED**

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

**The Qumran Paradigm: A Critical Evaluation of Some Foundational Hypotheses in the Construction of the Qumran Sect**

by Gwynned de Looijer, 2015, EIJ 43

Gwynned de Looijer reexamines the key hypotheses that have driven scholars' understandings of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the archaeological site of Khirbet Qumran, and the textual descriptions of the Essenes. She demonstrates that foundational hypotheses regarding a sect at Qumran have heavily influenced the way the texts found in the surrounding caves are interpreted. De Looijer's approach abandons those assumptions to illustrate that the Dead Sea Scrolls reflect a wider range of backgrounds reflecting the many diverse forms of Judaism that existed in the Second Temple period.

**Royal Apologetic in the Ancient Near East**

by Andrew Knapp, 2015, WAWSup 4

Andrew Knapp applies modern genre theory to seven ancient Near Eastern royal apologies that served to defend the legitimacy of kings who came to power under irregular circumstances. Knapp examines texts and inscriptions related to Telipinu, Hattusili III, David, Solomon, Hazael, Esarhaddon, and Nabonidus to identify transhistorical common issues that unite each discourse.

**Exploring Philemon: Freedom, Brotherhood, and Partnership in the New Society**

by Roy R. Jeal, 2015, RRA 2

*Exploring Philemon* shows how this letter entered the world of the ancient Mediterranean and the early church with a dramatic and powerful rhetorical force by analyzing the range of textures interwoven with each other to produce a profound effect on an early Christian (Philemon) and on the church that met in his home. It demonstrates that many striking and subtle features work together to present a rhetorical argument that the new Christian society must be one of freedom, brotherhood, and partnership not just for the powerful, but for all.

### **Evagrius's *Kephalaia Gnostica*: A New Translation of the Unreformed Text from the Syriac**

Ilaria L. E. Ramelli, 2015, WGRW 38

Evagrius exerted a striking impact on the development of spirituality, of Origenism, and of the spiritual interpretation of the Bible in Greek, Syriac, and Latin Christianity. This English translation of the most complete Syriac version of *Kephalaia Gnostika* makes Evagrius Ponticus's thoughts concerning reality, God, protology, eschatology, anthropology, and allegorical exegesis of Scripture widely available.

#### **EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENT: Other Publishers' Resources and Resources in Spanish**

Oxford University Press offers free and reduced rate access to dozens of countries. Learn more on their [website](#).

We are also very excited to announce that we have managed – through the facilitation of one of our ICI executive members (Juan Manuel Tebes) – to include some Spanish publications in our initiative. We thank the Instituto Multidisciplinario de Historia y Ciencias Humanas who is willing to make some direct links to free Spanish publications available on the ICI book repository page. See the following [link](#). Links are available there to the following books (in Spanish):

- Excavation reports of Tell el-Ghaba (Egypt)
- Study of Stela of Gebel Barkal (Egypt)
- Proceedings I institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)
- Proceedings II institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)
- Proceedings III institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)

There is also a link to the following Spanish journal:

- Journal of Egyptological Studies

#### **(g) ICI TEACHING COLLABORATION PROGRAM**

In order to facilitate the exchange of scholars and institutions in biblical studies across the globe, a teaching collaboration program is run by the ICI. The facility consists of lists of scholars and institutions interested in exchanges that are made available on the SBL website. See: <http://sbl-site.org/educational/ICITeaching.aspx>. If you or your institution is interested in such collaboration, please visit the site and enroll yourself in these lists. For more information, contact [Tim Langille](#).

**(h) JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE (JBL) ARCHIVE**

Take note that an archive with JBL articles from volume 122.1 of 2003 through volume 130.1 of 2011 is available online to people accessing the SBL website from any ICI country. See [http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI\\_JBLarchive.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI_JBLarchive.aspx). All articles in those volumes can be downloaded for free!

**(i) THE SBL WEBSITE**

The SBL website (on the SBL Press page) has a facility where one can search the full text of all SBL books! For this very convenient tool, see:

<http://sbl-site.org/publications/default.aspx>

For searching reviews of a vast number of academic publications, see the website of Review of Biblical Literature (RBL) at (you have to log in with your membership number):

<http://www.bookreviews.org/>

**(j) 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>

A selection of events is listed below—mainly those taking place in ICI regions. Please provide information on conferences in your region, including calls for papers, to Sharon Johnson at [sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org](mailto:sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org).

**November 18, 2016****Voices of Israel: Isaiah and Micah**

A biblical studies conference jointly sponsored by St. Edward's University and the Katholischen Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt will be held at the St. Edward's campus in Austin. The conference will focus on the books of Isaiah (1-39) and Micah to examine issues in the religious life of ancient Israel and specifically Judah in the eighth century. A key issue across the papers will be the relationship between Isaiah and Micah, both literarily and historically. Invited speakers and respondents include Richard Bauckham (Austin), Joachim Eck (Eichstätt-Ingolstadt), Michael Floyd (Austin), Christopher B. Hays (Pasadena), J. Todd Hibbard (Detroit), Ndikho Mtshiselwa (Pretoria), James Nogalski (Waco) and Burkard Zapff (Eichstätt-Ingolstadt).

There will be a concurrent exhibit of art by Jenn Hassin that allows conference participants to engage questions that arise in biblical text from another perspective, that of the creative arts. Ms. Hassin is renowned for a style of art that features rolled paper. During the luncheon portion of the conference, Ms. Hassin will speak about her work

and her experiences creating art inspired by accounts from Israel as well as her own experiences there.

The Austin conference is one hour by car from the SBL Annual Meeting in San Antonio, which begins the next day.

See more at: <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/events.aspx#sthash.AeouBaY0.dpuf>

**November 19-22, 2016**

**2016 SBL Annual Meeting**

San Antonio, Texas

<https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Annualmeeting.aspx>

**August 7-11, 2016**

**2017 SBL International Meeting**

Berlin, Germany

<https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Internationalmeeting.aspx>

**November 18-21, 2017**

**2017 SBL Annual Meeting**

Boston, Massachusetts

<https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Annualmeeting.aspx>

**(k) SBL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FREELY AVAILABLE**

There are links to numerous educational resources on the SBL website. The following are freely available: (i) Resources on Teaching the Bible; (ii) Freely downloadable Hebrew, Greek and Transliteration fonts (amongst others); (iii) Resources on Bible translations and commentaries; and (iv) Research tool resources.

See <http://sbl-site.org/educational/default.aspx>

Also remember to check the newly-developed **Bible Odyssey** online portal. See [www.bibleodyssey.org](http://www.bibleodyssey.org). This portal offers wonderful educational resources, but also resources for broader popular audiences. Use this site to popularize our academic studies in faith communities!

Any topics you would like to see Bible Odyssey address? Just send a message to: [bow@sbl-site.org](mailto:bow@sbl-site.org)

**(l) PLEASE PASS ON THE INFORMATION**

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues and students and become a liaison for your institution and SBL. (Please contact our liaison officer, [Tim Langille](#), if you would like to assist as contact person in your region.) Your advocacy for ICI strengthens biblical

studies as a discipline and builds relationships in the global community. Thank you to those who have done so in the past—we also receive letters from people who received the newsletter from someone else.

With best wishes for your Bible scholarship!

Louis Jonker, SBL – International Cooperation Initiative