

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2014

(a) SBL ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN DIEGO, CA

The SBL Annual Meeting will take place in San Diego, California, from 22-26 November. The Call for Papers is closed, and the online program book is available now.

See: http://sbl-site.org/meetings/Congresses_ProgramBook.aspx?MeetingId=25

A list of lower budget **accommodation** options in San Diego is available on request from Louis Jonker (lcj@sun.ac.za).

An **ICI forum meeting** will be held at the San Diego conference, where any interested person will be welcome to join us to share their ideas and views on how the work of the ICI can be expanded/improved. The meeting will take place on SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER at 09:30-10:30AM in San Diego Ballroom Salon A (Lobby level) - Marriott Marquis (MM). We look forward to meeting you there! *(If you can't attend, but nevertheless would like make a suggestion or propose something, feel free to send an e-mail in advance to Louis Jonker lcj@sun.ac.za).*

(b) THE NEXT SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING

We are very excited about the fact that the next SBL International Meeting will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 20-24 July 2015. It would be good to see scholars from all over the world attending this meeting, in order to deliberate and interact with our colleagues from Latin-America!

For more information, see: <http://sbl-site.org/meetings/Internationalmeeting.aspx>

Take note that the Call for Papers is now open on the system and it closes on 12 February 2015.

(c) PUBLICATION IN ANEM/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 Ehud Ben Zvi and Roxanna Flammini. 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

The latest volume in ANEM/MACO is:

Israel and the Assyrians: Deuteronomy, the Succession Treaty of Esarhaddon, and the Nature of Subversion

Authored by C.L.Crouch

Israel and the Assyrians undermines the popular interpretation of Deuteronomy as an anti-imperial, subversive tract. The book draws on theories of adaptation and allusion to provide the theoretical foundation for a discussion of subversion and its detection and thereby tests the idea of subversive intent against the social context in which it would have functioned. It contains detailed textual analyses of Deuteronomy 13 and 28 in relation to the Succession Treaty of Esarhaddon and other ancient Near Eastern curse and treaty traditions. It also reflects on the historical circumstances of the seventh century BCE, with particular attention to questions of bilingualism of authors and audiences. The book's argument challenges the preexilic dating of Deuteronomy and problematizes the Israelites' wider relationship with the Assyrian Empire.

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

<http://sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9781628370263.pdf>

(d) PUBLICATION IN 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:

Migration and Diaspora: Exegetical Voices of Women in Northeast Asian Countries

Edited by Hisako Kinukawa

The third meeting of the Society of Asian Biblical Studies was held at Sabah in June 2012, addressing the theme of Migration and Diaspora. This book contains five essays written by women from Northeast Asian countries for this occasion. Three are on Hebrew Scriptures and two are on the Christian Testament. All writers used a cultural analysis of their own social locations, and literary, historical, and postcolonial criticism as their methods of reading the texts, even though they may not explicitly mention which criticisms are used.

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

<http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/uploads/IVBS%20PAPERS1.pdf>

(e) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

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

Jerusalem and the Nations: Studies in the Book of Isaiah

Clements, Ronald E. *Jerusalem and the Nations: Studies in the Book of Isaiah*, Hebrew Bible Monographs, 16. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2011.

This volume contains the fruit of three decades of Ronald Clements's researches on prophecy in the Old Testament. In sixteen papers, seven of them not previously published, he broaches several leading questions about the origins of written prophecy in the Old Testament. A major focus is on the impact of the events of 701 BCE on the formation of the Isaiah book as a whole and the rise of Jerusalem as a centre of religious hope.

Further studies deal with the role of the Isaiah book in current biblical interpretation and the failure of twentieth-century interpreters to explain its unity. Other subjects concern ideas of divine providence, theodicy, and the links between ancient scribal methods of book formation and canonical authority. Special attention is given to the

attempts to retain traditional Christian approaches to a book, the interpretation of which has been greatly transformed by modern critical study.

Is Samuel Among the Deuteronomists? Current Views on the Place of Samuel in a Deuteronomistic History

Edenburg, Cynthia and Juha Pakkala, eds. *Is Samuel Among the Deuteronomists? Current Views on the Place of Samuel in a Deuteronomistic History*, Ancient Israel and Its Literature, 16. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013.

First Samuel tells the story of the origins of kingship in Israel in what seems to be an artistically structured, flowing narrative. Yet it is also marked by an inconsistent outlook, divergent styles, and breaks in the narrative. Though Martin Noth believed a Deuteronomistic historian constructed the narrative by piecing together early sources, recent studies have called into question the extent of sources incorporated, their redaction history, and the textual growth of the book as a whole in light of evidence from Qumran and Greek texts. Contributors Graeme Auld, Hannes Bezzel, Philip R. Davies, Walter Dietrich, Cynthia Edenburg, Jeremy M. Hutton, Jürg Hutzli, Axel Knauf, Reinhard Müller, Richard D. Nelson, Christophe L. Nihan, Kurt L. Noll, Juha Pakkala, and Jacques Vermeylen turn fresh eyes to the question of how Samuel connects to a Deuteronomistic History—if it connects at all.

Formation and Intertextuality in Isaiah 24-27

Hibbard, J. Todd and Paul Kim. *Formation and Intertextuality in Isaiah 24-27*, Ancient Israel and Its Literature, 17. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013.

Isaiah 24–27, the so-called Isaiah Apocalypse, is often regarded as one of the latest sections added to the book of Isaiah. The formation and interpretation of these chapters are widely recognized as important matters for understanding the compositional history of Isaiah, emerging religious thought in the Persian period, and scribal techniques for late biblical materials. The essays in this volume explore these and other important issues of Isaiah 24–27 in light of the abundant recent research on these chapters. In addition, this volume outlines new directions forward for research on these pivotal chapters and their place in Isaiah and the prophetic literature generally. The contributors are Micaël Bürki, Paul Kang-Kul Cho, Stephen L. Cook, Wilson de A. Cunha, Carol J. Dempsey, Janling Fu, Christopher B. Hays, J. Todd Hibbard, Hyun Chul Paul Kim, Beth Steiner, John T. Willis, Archibald L. H. M. van Wieringen, and Annemarieke van der Woude.

Hittite Instructions and Related Administrative Texts

Miller, Jared L., *Royal Hittite Instructions and Related Administrative Texts*, Writings from the Ancient World, 31. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013.

Few compositions provide as much insight into the structure of the Hittite state and the nature of Hittite society as the so-called Instructions. While these texts may strike the modern reader as didactic, the Hittites, who categorized them together with state treaties, understood them as contracts or obligations, consisting of the king's instructions to officials such as priests and temple personnel, mayors, military officers, border garrison commanders, and palace servants. They detail how and in what spirit the officials are to carry out their duties and what consequences they are to suffer for failure. Also included are several examples of closely related oath impositions and oaths. Collecting for the first time the entire corpus of Hittite Instructions, this accessible volume presents these works in transliteration of the original texts and translation, with clear and readable introductory essays, references to primary and secondary sources, and thorough indices.

Bible, Art, Gallery, Bible in the Modern World

O'Kane, Martin, ed. *Bible, Art, Gallery, Bible in the Modern World*, 21. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2011.

While Old Masters' paintings of biblical scenes held by major galleries in many countries are visited and seen by thousands, gems of biblical art in smaller, provincial galleries seldom get the recognition and attention they deserve. Over two years, assisted by funding from the British Academy, conferences were held at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, and at the Manchester Art Gallery, highlighting some of the significant biblical paintings held in the collections of both galleries. The papers presented at these conferences, drawn from the worlds of biblical studies, art history, philosophy, sociology and music, and collected in this volume, reflect the interdisciplinary goals of the project. These essays serve not only to showcase biblical paintings by lesser-known artists but also to illustrate the wide range of perspectives and insights brought by the different academic disciplines.

(f) JBL ARCHIVE

Take note that an archive with JBL articles from volume 122.1 of 2003 through volume 130.1 of 2011 is now available online to people accessing the SBL website from any ICI

country. See http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI_JBLarchive.aspx. All articles in those volumes can be downloaded for free!

(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>

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.

November 22-25, 2014

SBL Annual Meeting

The SBL Annual Meeting is the largest gathering of biblical scholars in the world. Each meeting showcases the latest in biblical research, fosters collegial contacts, advances research, and focuses on issues of the profession. The Annual Meeting will be held in San Diego, California. (See note above about accommodation sharing.)

December 15, 2014

Call for Papers Deadline: Holiness: On the Holy, the Holy One, Sanctification and Saints

Proposals due for “Holiness: On the Holy, the Holy One, Sanctification and Saints”

The Bi-annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality to be held at Saint Augustine College, Johannesburg, South Africa on 21-24 May of 2015 (see below).

Submissions on any topic of current interest within the field of Spirituality are invited. Particularly welcome are proposals for papers, panels and workshops on topics related to the specific theme of holiness. The conference will explore holiness through a range of questions: What is “the holy”? How have understandings of holiness developed; how are they critiqued? How have people in various contexts expressed and embodied their desire to grow in holiness, and how do they—or others—evaluate its fruits?

Proposals are especially encouraged in the following tracks:

- (1) Analytical, historical, or comparative studies, for instance on the notion of holiness, of holy figures, and of artistic depictions of holiness;
- (2) Studies of holiness, including case studies, from interdisciplinary perspectives, for instance from the vantage point of Psychology or Spiritual Direction;
- (3) Studies of the relationship between holiness and social engagement;
- (4) Contextual studies of “the holy” in indigenous spiritualities, particularly in African contexts and underrepresented groups;

- (5) Studies of the Christian experience of the “the holy”, including practices of sanctification, within the natural world.

Proposals for papers should include contact information of the proposer/s, a title and an abstract of not more than 150 words, sent to spirasa@gmail.com. Proposals for panels, sessions and workshops should include contact information of the proposer/s, a title, a proposal of 1,000 words, with an abstract of not more than 150 words for each individual paper, sent to spirasa@gmail.com. For questions about the conference and this call for papers, please contact Pieter de Villiers at pgdevilliers@mweb.co.za.

January 1, 2015

Sabbatical Grant Application Deadline

A funded research opportunity is open to post-doctoral scholars throughout the Majority World, although preference will be given to those from South Asia. The Center for South Asian Research at SAIACS provides a space for small cohorts of scholars to gather for an extended period of time (4 months) with access to resources, to write and interact together for the purpose of producing publishable material for dissemination to the church and academy in South Asia, the broader Majority World and the West.

[More information](#)

May 7-9, 2015

East-West Theological Forum

The 4th conference of the East-West Theological Forum will be held on 7-9 May 2015 at Sogang University, Seoul, Korea. The 2015 conference has been called for on the theme: “Crisis and Hope: The Church in a Changing World”. We cordially invite you to our coming conference and to submit papers for EWTF Prize (10,000 US\$) or proposals for parallel session.

[More information](#)

May 21-24, 2015

Holiness: On the Holy, the Holy One, Sanctification and Saints: The Bi-annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality

Saint Augustine College, Johannesburg, South Africa

Announcing its second biannual conference, the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality (SSCS), in collaboration with the Spirituality Association of South Africa (SPIRASA), warmly welcomes researchers on Spirituality to a meeting at the campus of St. Augustine College in Johannesburg, South Africa. Submissions on any topic of current interest within the field of Spirituality are invited. Particularly welcome are proposals for

papers, panels and workshops on topics related to the specific theme of holiness. (See above.)

(h) 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. This portal offers wonderful educational resources, but also resources for broader popular audiences. Use this site to popularize our academic studies in faith communities!

(i) PLEASE PASS 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 for 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