

It is my pleasure to distribute the ICI REPORT for April 2011.

(a) ICI MEETING AT THE SBL INTERNATIONAL IN LONDON

An ICI Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday July 5, from 13:30-14:30 at the International Meeting in London. Please let us know if you can come to the meeting; we want to be sure we reserve enough space for everyone.

(b) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – GORGIAS PRESS

We welcome [Gorgias Press](#) into the project and thank Dr. George Kiraz, the president, for becoming a partner with us in this initiative.

(c) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

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

The following books were added since the last report:

(1) Bartor, Assnat. *Reading Law as Narrative: A Study in the Casuistic Laws of the Pentateuch*. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 5. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2010.

Casuistic or case law in the Pentateuch deals with real human affairs; each case law entails a compressed story that can encourage reader engagement with seemingly “dry” legal text. This book is the first to present an interpretive method integrating biblical law, jurisprudence, and literary theory, reflecting the current “law and literature” school within legal studies. It identifies the narrative elements that exist in the laws of the Pentateuch, exposes the narrative techniques employed by the authors, and discovers the poetics of biblical law, thus revealing new or previously unconsidered aspects of the relationship between law and narrative in the Bible.

(2) Heil, John Paul. *Colossians: Encouragement to Walk in All Wisdom as Holy Ones in Christ*. Early Christianity and Its Literature 4. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2010.

This book investigates Colossians as a “captivity” letter from the primary implied author, the imprisoned Paul, to an implied audience of mainly Gentile converts

currently in danger of influence by local Jews or Jewish Christians. Utilizing a text-centered, literary-rhetorical, and audience-oriented method, it demonstrates new chiasmic structures for the entire letter that progressively encourage the audience to resist deceit and conduct themselves according to all the wisdom at their disposal as holy ones in Christ.

(3) Heil, John Paul. *Philippians: Let Us Rejoice in Being Conformed to Christ*. Early Christianity and Its Literature 3. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2010.

This volume employs a text-centered, literary-rhetorical, and audience-oriented method to demonstrate how the implied audience of Philippians are persuaded and exhorted by the dynamic progression of the letter's chiasmic structures to rejoice along with Paul and other believers in being conformed, with all of the broad implications of such conformity, to Christ. This reading assumes that Philippians is a single, unified letter written to be read and heard in a public setting as an oral performance substituting for the personal presence of the imprisoned Paul, and it proposes new chiasmic structures for the entire letter as a key to understanding it.

(4) Hiebert, Robert J. V., editor. *"Translation Is Required": The Septuagint in Retrospect and Prospect*. Septuagint and Cognate Studies 56. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2010.

This volume, which includes papers delivered at an international conference sponsored by the [Septuagint Institute](#) of Trinity Western University, addresses topics such as the nature and function of the Septuagint, its reception history, and the issues involved in translating it into other languages. The collection highlights the distinction between the Septuagint as produced (i.e., the product of the earliest attempt to translate the Hebrew Bible) and the Septuagint as it subsequently came to be received (i.e., as an autonomous text independent of its Semitic parent). It also reflects the kind of discourse currently taking place in the field of Septuagint research, celebrates the appearance of three modern-language translations of the Septuagint, and sets the stage for the next level of investigation: the hermeneutical/interpretative task associated with the production of commentaries.

Contributors include Cameron Boyd-Taylor, Dirk Büchner, Brian Anastasi Butcher, Leonard Greenspoon, Robert J. V. Hiebert, Jan Joosten, August Konkell, Wolfgang Kraus, Larry Perkins, Melvin K. H. Peters, Albert Pietersma, Alison Salvesen, and Benjamin G. Wright III.

(5) Whybray, Norman. *Job. Readings: A New Biblical Commentary*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2008.

This is non-technical commentary on the book of Job, but full of Whybray's most mature reflections on the book. The Introduction deals with the nature and purpose of the book, its specific and distinctive theology, its themes and its various parts and their mutual relationship. Thereafter, Norman Whybray, who is renowned for his insightful commentaries, usually comments on small sections of the text, and verse-by-verse in some especially difficult passages. As a whole, his commentary is illustrative of the fact that the book of Job is more concerned with the nature of God than with the problem of suffering. This is a reprint of the original edition in 1998.

(d) IVBS and ANEM/MACO

Reviews of the first volume published in IVBS, Knut Holter and Louis C. Jonker (eds.) *Global Hermeneutics?: Reflections and Consequences*, have been published. To read them please click [here](#).

We anticipate the publication of two substantial volumes in the ANEM/MACO series in the coming months .

Those who like to hold a book in their hands will be delighted to know that books published in ANEM/MACO and IVBS will be made available in hard copy through the SBL's print-on-demand program. Needless to say, the printed volumes will not be free, but the e-version will remain fully and completely open access in perpetuity. Please watch for the announcement that will be made when the books can be ordered.

(e) FUTURE SBL WEBSITE

With the support of an NEH grant, the SBL will be building an interactive website that invites general audiences to engage with biblical scholarship. The site will begin production immediately, with a planned launch in 2013.

(f) 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>. Events that may be of interest to you include:

June 21-24/2011 MELANESIAN ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS (MATS)
INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

Offers of papers are now invited. Abstracts of 250 words should be sent by post, fax, or email (as Word attachments) to: Ms. Sandra Iga, Secretary - School of Theology, Pacific Adventist University, Private Mail Bag, Boroko NCD, Papua New Guinea. Tel: (675) 328 0324/328 0342 Fax: (675) 328 1257 Email: sandra.iga@pau.ac.pg Papers will be accepted in four broad areas of theological enquiry – Old Testament, New Testament, Theology (Systematic and Historical), and Applied Theology (Ministry, Ethics, Missiology) – and presenters will be encouraged to submit expanded versions of their papers for publication in the *Melanesian Journal of Theology*. The last day for receipt of abstracts is 30 April 2011. It is envisaged that the MATS conference will become an annual gathering of educators and postgraduate students from the theological schools of Melanesia and the wider South Pacific. A meeting to reconstitute the association will be held on the last day of MATS 2011. From 2012 the conference will be hosted by other theological schools in Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific islands. For details and further information please contact Scott Charlesworth at sdchar@gmail.com

July 1-2 EMPIRE, MIGRATION AND OCEANIC BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

A conference of the Oceania Biblical Studies Association (OBSA) to be held at Malua Theological College in Samoa. The deadline for all paper proposals is May 31st, 2011. For further information, please contact Dr Nasili Vaka'uta (n.vakauta@auckland.ac.nz) or send an email to OBSAMail@gmail.com.

July 4-8/ 2011 SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING, London, England (see above)

August 8-11 THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF BIBLICAL STUDIES (EABS), Thessaloniki, Greece.

For information <http://www.eabs.net/conf.aspx>

Sept. 5-9 8TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HITTITOLOGY, University of University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

[More information](#)

Sept. 6-9 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

The NTSSA will meet at the University of North West in Potchefstroom, South Africa.

For further information, please visit the Society's webpage at <http://newtestament.co.za/>

Sept. 19-22 IN SEARCH OF WELL-BEING: PERSPECTIVES ON HEALTH AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS, University of South Africa, Pretoria, RSA

Presentations are invited on the following areas:

- New Testament and early Christian perspectives on healing and well-being
- Religious traditions and human well-being: towards salvation or damnation
- Well-being and health in an age of the HIV/AIDS pandemic
- Collective well-being and quality of life: globalisation and ecology
- Cross disciplinary and cross-cultural explorations of well-being
- Individuals, societies and environment: faith and the pursuit of well-being
- How do we define well-being in the 21st century?
- Is well-being the new religion of the 21st century?

Please submit abstracts of appr. 200 words via e-mail attachment to Prof Pieter F.Craffert (craffpf@unisa.ac.za) and/or Prof. Pieter J.J. Botha bothapij@unisa.ac.za by April 30, 2011.

For more information please contact Prof. Pieter Craffert (tel.: +27 12 429 4062 /+27 83 324 4485) or Prof. Pieter Botha (tel. +27 12 429 4062 or +27 12 803 0933).

Note:

Please submit basic information about events to Sharon Johnson at sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org.

(g) 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.

Best wishes,
Ehud

Ehud Ben Zvi, SBL - International Cooperation Initiative