

It is my pleasure to distribute the ICI REPORT for September 2009

(a) PLEASE PASS THE INFORMATION

Feel free 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. There is still a significant number of colleagues who have not heard about the initiative.

(b) LET'S TALK

There will be a meeting of the ICI advisory council during the coming meeting of the SBL in November. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 21, 3:30-4:30 PM (Room: Crescent – SH). Everyone in this list is invited to come and share ideas or concerns and to provide feedback. Please write this meeting in your calendars and make every possible effort to come. Your input is absolutely necessary for this initiative.

Those who are unable, for whatever reason, to come to New Orleans may send written comments by e-mail to leigh.andersen@sbl-site.org or saul_olyan@brown.edu or myself (ehud.benzvi@ualberta.ca) and we will bring them up at the meeting.

(b) INTERNATIONAL TEACHING COLLABORATION

The number of scholars who have volunteered to take part in this initiative is by now quite large. See

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

If you are still not in the list and wish to participate, please go to

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

The list of institutions is still quite minimal. Please consult with your institution and include it as appropriate. To do so, please follow this link

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

(c) INTERNATIONAL TEACHING COLLABORATION: A LOCAL INITIATIVE

I would like to share with you a local initiative at my own institution. This is only a modest initiative that by itself will not have any "large" impact, but if many more institutions develop similar initiatives, then we may be beginning to develop true collaboration in teaching. Of course, every institution is different and has its own bureaucratic traditions, but this model or variants of it may apply to many other institutions.

The University of Alberta has initiated its own "International Cooperation in Teaching in the Field of Biblical Literature, Ancient Israel, Early Judaism and Early Christianity" aimed at developing a "two way learning experience" across and beyond the financial boundaries that limit the scope of many international teaching collaborations. According to the pilot program, qualified (grad. or top undergraduate) students from countries whose GDP per person is substantially lower than the average between the EU and the USA will be able to apply for registration as visiting (or open) students in classes taught by profs. Braun, Landy and myself. If accepted-- the basic requirements for admission to graduate courses at the University of Alberta apply--they will become e-learners in the course, but as any other

student in the course, they will have to complete the required assignments and will receive the same feedback. If they register as “visiting students,” they will also receive official credits from the University of Alberta, as any other student. Funds will be fundraised to pay for the equivalent of full tuition for one student for one course per year. Qualified students who may be interested in this initiative may contact me at ehud.benzvi@ualberta.ca.

I want to stress that the same initiative allows now students at the University of Alberta (be them graduate or top undergraduate) in the pertinent areas to take up to two courses relevant to their studies as e-participants in academic institutions in countries whose GDP per person is substantially lower than the average between the EU and the US, provided that they have received approval from their advisor/supervisor and the Faculty office, before registering to the course. Should you have a course in mind that U of A students in the relevant areas may consider taking as e-students, please let me know and I will pass the information to the students.

Again, please consider whether your institution may launch a similar initiative, and if it does, please let me know. We shall talk further about this type of “local action” at the ICI, face to face meeting in November, but again, if you cannot participate, please feel free to send written comments.

(d) PUBLICATIONS: NEW ONLINE BOOKS

A list of new online books is included at the end of this message. We will continue adding books each month, but the fact that we have already posted so many books (see list at http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ICIbooks.aspx) means that we have taken care of many of the volumes that could be posted without creating files too large for easy download. We will keep adding new online books every month, but it is unlikely that we will keep the pace of ten or more books per month. We keep looking at software that will allow us to compress e-versions of “older” books, but all we have seen till now is not there. We are also beginning to explore adding a few books from publishers other than SBL to our online books.

(e) PUBLICATIONS: IVBS

The editors of the series International Voices in Biblical Studies (IVBS) have the opportunity to see a draft version of series site and have commented on it. Their feedback is now being taken into consideration as we move to create the series site. If you will be in New Orleans, and wish to talk in person with one of the editors of the series please send an e-mail to Monica Melanchthon (monixm@gmail.com). Both Monica and Louis Jonker (lcj@sun.ac.za) are accepting manuscripts for consideration for publication in the series. Please keep in mind that manuscripts for this series do not have to be written in English.

(f) PUBLICATIONS: ANEM/MACO

If you have a manuscript for the Ancient Near East Monograph Series/Monografias Sobre el Antiguo Cercano Oriente (ANEM/MACO) please contact Roxana Flammini (roxflamm@yahoo.com.ar) or Billie Jean Collins (billie.collins@sbl-site.org) or myself (ehud.ben.zvi@ualberta.ca). Keep in mind that Ancient Near East includes Ancient Israel.

(g) EVENTS

There are a number of other events that may be of interest to this group, in addition to the SBL Annual Meeting in New Orleans (Nov 21-24, 2009), for instance:

10/5-10/9 The International Council for Evangelical Theological Education International Consultation for Theological Educators; Sopron, Hungary.

The distinguished international evangelical scholars Bishop Hwa Yung of Malaysia and Professor Henri Blocher of France will be among principal speakers at the event. The Consultation's theme is: "Energising Community: Theological Education's Relational Mandate." Those interested in attending the Consultation should begin registration proceedings immediately, by contacting [the ICETE Consultation Directorate](#).

10/15-10/17 "Reading Scriptures, Reading America: Interruptions, Orientation, and Mimicry among U.S. Communities of Color," Institute for Signifying Scriptures, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont CA 91711

See [More information](#) or contact iss@cgu.edu.

10/15-10/17 10th Unisa Classics Colloquium/First Symposium Of The Department Of New Testament And Early Christian Studies: "Family as Strategy in the Roman Empire and Early Christianity"

University of South Africa, Pretoria

See [Call for Papers PDF](#); Contact: Professor Johannes N Vorster (Dept of New Testament and Early Christian Studies) at Olympus@yebo.co.za or vorstjn@unisa.ac.za or [Dr P Bosman](#) (Dept of Classics and World Languages)

November 2009

11/30 Deadline; Call for Papers

Claiming Conceptual Space. Reimagining the Study of Religion and Theology: Changing Contexts and Social Discourse Huguenot College, Wellington, Western Cape, South Africa
The organizers invite proposals for papers (30 minute presentations which include discussion time) that address the theme of the conference to be held at Huguenot College, Wellington, Western Cape (South Africa), April 6-9, 2010. Proposals for papers are invited to address the issues announced in the conference call. Papers that explore the intersection between religion, theology, and other theoretical domains are particularly invited, as well as papers that reflect on and theorize changed disciplinary practices and their institutionalization in research regimes and scholarly discourses. While related papers are also encouraged, contributions exploring the following themes are particularly invited:

- Conceptuality and construction: the proprium of 'religious discourse' and the nature of 'theology'
- Technologies of transcendental discourses: embodied cognition, the politics of religion, identity, and memorialisation
- Reimagining disciplinary practices: testing the boundaries – intra-, inter-, and transdisciplinarity; thinking out/insider viewpoints
- Conceptualizing from a place: contextualization, relevance, and practices

Proposals should be sent to the organizers: [Gerhard van den Heever](#) or [Naas Swart](#).

Confirmation of acceptance or rejection of proposals will be sent by December 30, 2009.

December 2009

12/30 [Call for Papers](#) Deadline

The Society of Asian Biblical Studies (SABS) will hold its next meeting at the Divinity School, Chung Chi College, Chinese University of Hong Kong, June 14-16 2010.

SABS seeks to bring together scholars interested in and committed to Biblical Studies in various contexts of Asia/Oceania, including those in diaspora. For further information, please contact [Monica Melanchthon](#) or [Tat -siong Benny Liew](#).

(h) MEMBERSHIP

Please keep encouraging your colleagues and graduate students to join the Society and to contribute to shaping its future. Students from countries whose GDP per person is significantly lower than the average of the USA and EU (i.e., most of the world) have to pay only US \$ 10 and scholars from the same countries only US \$ 15 to become full members. Anyone who wish to become a member and for whom this amount represents undue hardship is encouraged to contact Leigh.

Best wishes,

Ehud

LIST OF RECENTLY ADDED ONLINE BOOKS

(1) Amidon, S.J., Philip R, translator. *Philostorgius: Church History*. Writings from the Greco-Roman World 23. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2007.

Philostorgius (born 368 c.e.) was a member of the Eunomian sect of Christianity, a nonconformist faction deeply opposed to the form of Christianity adopted by the Roman government as the official religion of its empire. He wrote his twelve-book *Church History*, the critical edition of the surviving remnants of which is presented here in English translation, at the beginning of the fifth century as a revisionist history of the church and the empire in the fourth and early-fifth centuries. Sometimes contradicting and often supplementing what is found in other histories of the period, Christian or otherwise, it offers a rare dissenting picture of the Christian world of the time.

(2) Boda, Mark J., Daniel K. Falk, and Rodney A. Werline, eds. *Seeking the Favor of God, Volume 3: The Impact of Penitential Prayer beyond Second Temple Judaism*. Early Judaism and Its Literature 23. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2008.

This book represents the third in a series tracing the development of a tradition of prayer that arose in the Jewish Second Temple period. Its critical essays trace the impact of the Second Temple penitential prayer traditions on the development of prayers and thought in rabbinic Judaism and Christianity during late antiquity and the early medieval periods. Contributors include Paul Bradshaw, Carsten Claussen, Lawrence Fine, Cornelia Horn, Reuven Kimelman, Ruth Langer, Laura Leiber, Robert Phenix, Stefan Reif, Richard Sarason, Bryan Spinks, and Rodney Werline.

(3) Cosaert, Carl P. *The Text of the Gospels in Clement of Alexandria*. New Testament in the Greek Fathers 9. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2008.

This volume applies the latest methodological advances in patristic textual analysis to explore the nature of the Gospel text used by Clement, an early Alexandrian father who wrote extensively on the Christian faith and filled his writings with thousands of biblical citations. After examining Clement's life and use of the New Testament writings, the book

lists all of his quotations of the Four Gospels and compares them to those of other Alexandrian Christians and to the most significant ancient Greek and Latin manuscripts. The book demonstrates that the form of the Gospels in Alexandria was in transition at the end of the second century and argues that Clement's Gospel text reveals an Alexandrian influence in John and Matthew and a stronger Western influence in Luke and his citations of Mark 10.

(4) Kelle, Brad E. and Frank Ritche Ames, eds. *Writing and Reading War: Rhetoric, Gender, and Ethics in Biblical and Modern Contexts*. Symposium Series 42. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2008.

War is not only waged on the battlefield, but is written and read in contexts that influence meaning and reception. The essays in this collection examine how ancient Israelites wrote about war and how war-related texts in the Hebrew Bible have been read in ancient and modern contexts. They explore writing and reading war in contexts ranging from ancient Israel to early Judaism to contemporary Christianity. The contributors—both established and newer voices—apply a variety of historical, literary, and comparative methods to biblical texts and present new perspectives on the rhetoric, gender, and ethics of war. A foreword by Susan Niditch and introduction by Victor H. Matthews offer a literature review of recent major works in this field and orient readers to past research and future directions for the study of the discourse and realities of war.

The contributors are Frank Ritche Ames, Claudia D. Bergmann, Frances Flannery, Michael G. Hasel, L. Daniel Hawk, Alice A. Keefe, Brad E. Kelle, Brian Kvasnica, Victor H. Matthews, Megan Bishop Moore, Susan Niditch, Daniel L. Smith-Christopher, Jeremy D. Smoak, and Jacob L. Wright.

(5) Ben Zvi. Ehud and Michael H. Floyd, eds. *Writings and Speech in Israelite and Ancient Near Eastern Prophecy*. Symposium Series 10. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2000.

When the term prophet is mentioned, do you think of an oral communicator of a divine message or of a character in a prophetic book? When the term "prophetic text" is mentioned, do you imagine an oral or a written text? This collection of ten timely essays deals with matters of writings and oral speeches, of writtenness and orality that stand at the heart of issues central to the study of the prophetic books in the Hebrew Bible, prophets and prophecy in ancient Israel, and Israelite history at large. The volume sets an agenda for research in this area from a historical perspective and stresses the importance of comparative material and social realia from the Mesopotamian and Egyptian world. It includes both essays of a methodological nature and particular case studies, and illustrates how the conversation among scholars who follow different approaches and areas of expertise contributes to the elucidation of central issues of research. The international team of scholars gathered for this volume consists of Ronald E. Clements, James L. Crenshaw, Robert C. Culley, Philip R. Davies, Martti Nissinen, Donald B. Redford, Karel van der Toorn, John Van Seters, and the two editors of the volume, Michael H. Floyd and Ehud Ben Zvi.

Contents include: *Introduction: Writings, Speeches, and the Prophetic Books—Setting an Agenda*, Ehud Ben Zvi; *Transmitting Prophecy across Generations*, James L. Crenshaw; *Orality and Writtenness in the Prophetic Texts*, Robert C. Culley; *"Pen of iron, point of diamond" (Jer 17:1): Prophecy as Writing*, Philip R. Davies; *Prophetic Orality in the Context of the Ancient Near East: A Response to Culley, Crenshaw, and Davies*, John Van Seters; *The Prophet as an Author: The Case of the Isaiah Memoir*, R. E. Clements; *"Write the revelation!" (Hab 2:2): Re-imagining the Cultural History of Prophecy*, Michael H. Floyd; *Scribe and Speaker*, Donald B. Redford; *From the Oral to the Written: The Case of Old*

Babylonian Prophecy, Karel van der Toorn; *Spoken, Written, Quoted, and Invented: Orality and Writteness in Ancient Near Eastern Prophecy*, Martti Nissinen.

(6) van de Sandt, Huub and Jürgen K. Zangenberg, eds. *Matthew, James, and Didache Three Related Documents in Their Jewish and Christian Settings*. Symposium Series 45. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2008.

Sharing many traditions and characteristics, the Gospel of Matthew, the letter of James, and the Didache invite comparative study. In this volume, internationally renowned scholars consider the three writings and the complex interrelationship between first-century Judaism and nascent Christianity. These texts likely reflect different aspects and emphases of a network of connected communities sharing basic theological assumptions and expressions. Of particular importance for the reconstruction of the religious and social milieu of these communities are issues such as the role of Jewish law, the development of community structures, the reception of the Jesus tradition, and conflict management. In addition to the Pauline and Johannine "schools," Matthew, James, and the Didache may represent a third religious milieu within earliest Christianity that is especially characterized through its distinct connections to a particular ethical stream of contemporary Jewish tradition.

The contributors are Jonathan Draper; Patrick J. Hartin; John S. Kloppenborg; Matthias Konradt; J. Andrew Overman; Boris Repschinski, S.J.; Huub van de Sandt; Jens Schröter; David C. Sim; Alistair Stewart-Sykes; Peter Tomson; Martin Vahrenhorst; Joseph Verheyden; Wim J. C. Weren; Oda Wischmeyer; Jürgen K. Zangenberg; and Magnus Zetterholm.