Genesis and Exodus in Antiquity

Jewish, Christian, and Qur’anic Traditions in Interaction

Sunday - Wednesday, March 5-8
Feldman Building, Room 130
Edmond J. Safra Campus, Giv‘at Ram, the Hebrew University

Sunday, March 5, 2017

15:30 – 16:00  Registration and Gathering

16:00 – 18:30  Opening Session: The Variety of Biblical Interpretation in Antiquity
  Greetings: Michal Linial, Menahem Kister
  Harold Attridge, “Debates about Origins: Variety in ‘Gnostic’ and Hermetic Accounts of Creation”
  Menahem Kister, “‘Ascending and Descending’ and the Fate of Israel: Themes and Variations”

18:30 – 20:00  Reception
Monday, March 6, 2017

9:30 – 10:50  Pseudepigraphic Writings of the Second Temple Period
LOREN STUCKENBRUCK, “The Integrity of Creation in the Book of Watchers: A Reading of 1 Enoch Chapters 6-16 in Literary Context”
ESTHER ESHEL, “Teaching and Transmission of Knowledge in the Genesis Apocryphon and Related Texts”

10:50 – 11:10  Coffee break

11:10 – 12:30  Philo the Exegete
THOMAS H. TOBIN, SJ, “Philo and the Allegorical Reinterpretation of Genesis”

12:30 – 14:00  Lunch (12:30 – 14:00)

14:00 – 15:20  Rabbinic Literature: Exegesis in Context
CHAIM MILIKOWSKY, “The Years of Israel in Egypt: Hermeneutical Strategies and Interpretive Decisions”
YAKIR PAZ, “‘He Who Created This Did Not Create This’: A Rabbinic Polemic against an Audian Melothesian Anthropogony”

15:20 – 15:40  Coffee break

15:40 – 17:00  Hellenistic Jewish Writings, Pseudepigrapha, and Rabbinic Literature
JAN JOOSTEN, “The Divinization of Joseph in Hellenistic Judaism”
JAMES KUGEL, “The Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs and Rabbinic Exegetical Traditions”
Tuesday, March 7, 2017

9:30 – 10:50  Christian Exegesis of Biblical Themes
EMMANOUELA GRYPEOU, “The Reception of the Story of Moses and the Egyptian Magicians in Christian Literature”
HILLEL NEWMAN, “Jerome’s Exegesis of Genesis in Light of Jewish Exegetical Traditions”

10:50 – 11:10  Coffee break

11:10 – 12:30  Christian and Anti-Christian Interpretations of Genesis
CHRISTOPH MARKSCHIES, “Origen on Genesis”
PIETER W. VAN DER HORST, “The Pagan Opponents of Christianity on the Book of Genesis”

12:30 – 14:00  Lunch

14:00 – 15:20  From Exodus to Sinai in the Qur’an
URI RUBIN, “The Israelite Exodus and the Promised Land: The Qur’anic Viewpoint”

Coffee break

15:40 – 17:00  Abraham in the Qur’an
NICOLAI SINAI, “Abraham in the Qur’an: From Anti-paternal Dissenter to Paternal Forbear”
Wednesday, March 8, 2017

9:00 – 10:20  Syriac Christian Exegesis of Genesis

ALISON SALVESEN, “Jacob of Edessa’s Hexaemeron: Exegesis or Encyclopedia?”
BAS TER HAAR ROMENY, “‘From Whence Was the Ram?’ Aspects of Genesis 22 in Syriac Biblical Interpretation”

10:20 – 10:40  Coffee break

10:40 – 12:00  Samaritan and Byzantine Interpretations of Genesis

WILLIAM ADLER, “The Story of Abraham and Melchizedek in the Palaea Historica”

12:00 – 12:30  Coffee break

12:30 – 14:00  Concluding Session