

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2017

(a) 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 has closed already. See this link: <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Internationalmeeting.aspx>

A forum meeting of ICI will take place at the Berlin conference. A panel will discuss the topic “Biblical interpretation between many continents”. The idea will be to facilitate discourse between biblical scholars from various continents, in order to examine continuities and discontinuities in methods, approaches, etc. More information (speakers, time slot, venue) will be provided in due time. Watch this space.

(b) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2017, BOSTON

The next SBL Annual Meeting will take place in Boston, Massachusetts, from 18-21 November 2017. The Call for Papers has closed already. See this link: <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Annualmeeting.aspx>

(c) 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>

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

(d) 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

(e) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

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

Scholastic Rabbinism: A Literary Study of the Fathers According to Rabbi Nathan

Saldarini, Anthony J. *Scholastic Rabbinism: A Literary Study of the Fathers According to Rabbi Nathan*. Brown Judaic Studies 14. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1982.

(no further description)

Hittite Diplomatic Texts, 2nd Edition.

Beckman, Gary. *Hittite Diplomatic Texts, 2nd Edition*. Writings from the Ancient World 7. Atlanta: Scholars Press 1999.

This work presents full translations of more than 50 documents from the files of the "foreign office" of the Hittite Empire: 21 treaties, 18 diplomatic letters, and 18 royal edicts and miscellaneous records concerning the relations of the Hittites with their Anatolian and Syrian vassals, as well as with other great powers such as Egypt, Assyria, and Babylonia. Originally composed in Hittite or in the Akkadian lingua franca of the day, many of these texts have never before appeared in English. A short introduction places each document in its historical and cultural context, and a general essay acquaints the reader with the diplomatic practice of the Late Bronze Age. This collection of documents is a major source book for historians of the Ancient Near East and for students of cuneiform and Biblical law. It will also prove useful for those investigating the relationship between Biblical covenant theology and its possible antecedents in older Near Eastern treaty patterns.

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 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

(f) 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 [Jackie du Toit](#).

(g) 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. All articles in those volumes can be downloaded for free!

(h) 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/>

(i) 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.

March 28, 2017**Extended CFP Deadline for OBSA**

The 2017 gathering (21-22 April 2017) of the Oceania Biblical Studies Association is an opportunity to assess, energize, navigate and sanction biblical studies in Pacifika, mindful of the struggles with the occupation of island nations and the concern for solidarity and cooperation between island groups and peoples. In those interests, we invite presentations within the currents of the streams (on methodology; on scriptures; on practices) of OBSA.

For more information:

See <https://sites.google.com/site/wavesofthemoana/obsa-2017>

April 9-12, 2017**2017 Annual Meeting of the New Testament Society of Southern Africa (NTSSA)**

Meeting will be held at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. The 2017 NTSSA Annual Meeting will be directed by the subgroup for Pauline Studies. Closing date for proposals: 13 February 2017. Email for more [Information](#)

April 21-22, 2017**2017 Meeting of Oceania Biblical Studies Association**

The 2017 gathering is an opportunity to assess, energize, navigate and sanction biblical studies in Pacifika, mindful of the struggles with the occupation of island nations and the concern for solidarity and cooperation between island groups and peoples. In those interests, we invite presentations within the currents of the streams (on methodology; on scriptures; on practices) of OBSA.

For more information:

See <https://sites.google.com/site/wavesofthemoana/obsa-2017>

June 15, 2017**Call for Papers: The Dead Sea Scrolls Seventy Years Later. Manuscripts, Traditions, Interpretations, and Their Biblical Context**

John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland

The contributions may deal with any topic related to the Dead Sea scrolls, be it archeological, paleographic, literary, historical, social, biblical, or religious—again, in their widest understandings. The preferred approach is to present a particular theme from the perspective of the development of the related scholarly research, beginning with the first publications of a Qumran manuscript, or first/early interpretations concerning a particular topic related to Qumran research. Any other analysis or approach is also acceptable.

For more information:

See <http://ocs.academicon.pl/index.php/test/DSS2017>

July 8-22, 2017

Philosophical Investigation of the Hebrew Scriptures, Talmud and Midrash

This conference will seek to elucidate the classical Jewish theology of *torah from heaven* in light of recent challenges. We are especially interested in papers that seek a better understanding of the views presented in the Hebrew Bible, Talmud and Midrash, according to which the torah is to be seen as entering the world through, or being given shape by, God's speech to Moses and Israel at Mt. Sinai.

Please direct correspondence to gavriell@herzlinstitute.org

August 7-11, 2017

2017 SBL International Meeting

Berlin, Germany

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

October 25-26, 2017

The Dead Sea Scrolls Seventy Years Later. Manuscripts, Traditions, Interpretations, and Their Biblical Context

John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland.

The huge impact of the scrolls on the field of biblical studies (in its most expansive sense!) makes it imperative that we undertake today an effort to examine and review the large field of Dead Sea Scrolls studies. The seventieth anniversary of the first discoveries seems an opportune time. The conference creates a platform for scholarly exchange concerning the present state of professional research in the field of Qumran studies.

For more information:

See <http://ocs.academicon.pl/index.php/test/DSS2017>

November 18-21, 2017

2017 SBL Annual Meeting

Boston, Massachusetts

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

(j) 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!

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

(k) 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, [Jackie du Toit](#), 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