

**The Biblical Literary:
Inventions of the Idea of Literature in the Bible
and in Secular Texts Interacting with the Bible**

*A Conference in Honor of Professor Lawrence Besserman
on the Occasion of His Retirement*

**Sponsored by the Center for Literary Studies
of the Faculty of Humanities, The Hebrew University**

Date: 13-15 June 2010

Place: Beit Meirsdorf, The Hebrew University, Mount Scopus

Sunday, 13 June 2010

18:00

Greetings:

Israel Bartal, Dean, Faculty of Humanities

Reuven Amitai, Dean Elect, Faculty of Humanities

Jon Whitman, Director, Center for Literary Studies

Ruth Nevo, Department of English

18:30

Elements of Pre-Biblical and Biblical Literariness

Chair: Sanford Budick (Hebrew University)

Ed Greenstein (Bar-Ilan University), "Signs of Poetry Past: Literariness in Pre-Biblical Hebrew Literature"

Meir Sternberg (Tel Aviv University), "Dialogue in Historical Evolution"

19:30

Reception: fourth-floor lobby

Monday, 14 June 2010

10:00

Biblical Poetry and Imagination: Origins and Instantiations

Chair: David Satran (Hebrew University)

Avigdor Shinan (Hebrew University), "Midrashizing First Names: The Bible and Beyond"

Yair Zakovitch (Hebrew University), "The Bible in the Song of Songs, Song of Songs in the Bible"

11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:30

Textual and Interpretive Pregnancy

Chair: Andrew Burrows (Hebrew University)

Chanita Goodblatt (Ben-Gurion University), "Why Ruth? Interpretive Potential in the Biblical Text"

Linda Weinhouse (Community College of Baltimore County), "The Purloined Esther: A Lacanian Analysis"

Noam Reisner (Tel Aviv University), "The Literary Pauline Epistles and the New Pauline Miltonic Reader"

13:00 lunch

14:30

Structure, Self, and Providence in Biblical Interpretation

Chair: Ilana Pardes (Hebrew University)

Harvey Goldberg (Hebrew University), "Lévi-Strauss in Genesis and the *Megillot*: Structuralism and the Hebrew Bible Revisited"

Joshua Levinson (Hebrew University), "From Poetics to Practice: Literary Anthropology and the Rabbinic Sense of Self"

Betty Rojzman (Hebrew University), "Biblical Stories: From Narrative Logic to the Logic of Providence"

16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:30

The Bible, Romance Form, and Romantic Theory

Chair: Esther Cohen (Hebrew University)

Cyril Aslanov (Hebrew University), "The Saul Syndrome in Chrétien de Troyes's Romances"

Alexander Rofeh (Hebrew University), "Antecedents of the Romance in Biblical Psalmody"

Lilach Naishtat (Tel Aviv University), "Romantic Genres as a Key to Interpreting *Shir Hashirim*"

Tuesday, 15 June 2010

09:30

Biblical Typologies

Chair: Deborah Gera (Hebrew University)

Dennis Sobolev (Haifa University), "Between Typology and Theodicy: Hopkins Rereading Jeremiah"

Jonathan Stavsky (Hebrew University), "Custance's Prayer: Typology and Reflexivity in the *Man of Law's Tale*"

Shira Wolosky (Hebrew University), "Biblical Typology in Puritan America: Edward Taylor"

11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:30

From Medieval to Early Modern Biblical Hermeneutics

Chair: Lee Levine (Hebrew University)

Karl Reichl (University of Bonn), "'Song that delights the heart': The Music and Poetry of the Psalms in Medieval Christian Thought"

R. F. Yeager (University of West Florida), "Biblical Plasticity in John Gower's *Confessio Amantis*"

Jon Whitman (Hebrew University), "Christian Scripture as Imaginative Literature: From Late Medieval Hermeneutics to Early Modern Poetics"

13:00 lunch

14:30

Biblical Impulses in the Evolution of Prose Fiction

Chair: H. M. Daleski (Hebrew University)

Noam Flinker (Haifa University), "Chapman's Biblical Homer Anticipates Bunyan and the Twentieth Century"

Nancy Rosenfeld (Max Stern College, Jezreel Valley), "*The Pilgrim's Progress* and the Biblical Literary"

Efraim Sicher (Ben-Gurion University), "Rescripting Scripture: George Eliot's Rereading of Judah and Tamar"

16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:30

Through Modern Eyes

Chair: Tzachi Zamir (Hebrew University)

Emily Miller Budick (Hebrew University), " Nicole Krauss's Jewish Messiah: *The History of Love* as Jewish Scripture and the Jewish Scripture as a History of Love"

Leona Toker (Hebrew University), "The Legend of Job in the Work of Elie Wiesel"

17:30

Response: Lawrence Besserman