



THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM  
ISRAEL INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

# From Creation to Sinai: Jewish, Christian, and Quranic Traditions in Interaction

March 5-8, 2017

All lectures will take place at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies,  
on the Edmond J. Safra, Givat Ram Campus, room 130

## Organizers:

**Shlomi Efrati** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Esther Eshel** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Menahem Kister** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

# Program

## Sunday, 5 March

15:30 - 16:00 Registration

16:00 - 18:30 Opening Session: The Variety of Biblical Interpretation in Antiquity  
Chair: **Guy Stroumsa** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Harold W. Attridge** (Yale University)  
Debates about Origins: Variety in 'Gnostic' and Hermetic Accounts of Creation

**Menaheem Kister** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
'Ascending and Descending' and the Fate of Israel: Themes and Variations

**Gary Anderson** (University of Notre Dame)  
Divine Testing in Second Temple Literature: The Correlation of Abraham, Job and Tobit

18:30 - 20:00 Reception

## Monday, 6 March

09:30 - 10:50 Pseudepigraphic Writings of the Second Temple Period  
Chair: **Devorah Dimant** (University of Haifa)  
**Loren T. Stuckenbruck** (Ludwig Maximilians Universität, München)  
The Integrity of Creation in the Book of Watchers: A Reading of 1 Enoch Chapters 6-16 in Literary Context

**Esther Eshel** (Bar-Ilan University)  
Learning and Transmission of Knowledge in the Genesis Apocryphon and Related Texts

- 10:50 - 11:20 Coffee Break
- 11:20 - 12:40 Philo the Exegete  
 Chair: **Maren Niehoff** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- Thomas H. Tobin** (Loyola University, Chicago)  
 Philo and the Allegorical Reinterpretation of Genesis
- Gregory Sterling** (Yale University)  
 Thunderous Silence: Philo of Alexandria on the Sinai Pericope
- 12:45 - 14:15 Lunch
- 14:15 - 15:35 Rabbinic Literature: Exegesis in Context  
 Chair: **Vered Noam** (Tel-Aviv University)
- Chaim Milikowsky** (Bar-Ilan University)  
 The Years of Israel in Egypt: Hermeneutical Strategies and Interpretive Decisions
- Yakir Paz** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
 'He Who Created This Did Not Create This': A Rabbinic Polemic against an Audian Melothesian Anthropogony
- 15:35 - 16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:00 - 17:20 Hellenistic Jewish Writings, Pseudepigrapha, and Rabbinic Literature  
 Chair: **Moshe David Herr** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- Jan Joosten** (Oxford University)  
 The Divinization of Joseph in Hellenistic Judaism
- James Kugel** (Bar-Ilan University)  
 The Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs and Rabbinic Exegetical Tradition

## Tuesday, 7 March

- 09:30 - 10:50 Christian Exegesis of Biblical Themes  
Chair: **Ora Limor** (Open University of Israel)  
**Hillel Newman** (University of Haifa)  
Jerome's Exegesis of Genesis in Light of Jewish Exegetical Traditions  
**Bas Ter Haar Romeny** (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)  
'From Whence Was the Ram?' Aspects of Genesis 22 in Syriac Biblical Interpretation
- 10:50 - 11:20 Coffee Break
- 11:20 - 12:40 Christian and Anti-Christian Interpretations of Genesis  
Chair: **Marc Hirshman** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
**Christoph Marksches** (Humboldt Universität Berlin)  
Origen on Genesis  
**Pieter van der Horst** (Utrecht University)  
The Pagan Opponents of Christianity on the Book of Genesis
- 12:45 - 14:15 Lunch
- 14:15 - 15:35 From Exodus to Sinai in the Qur'an  
Chair: **Sara Sviri** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
**Uri Rubin** (Tel-Aviv University)  
The Israelite Exodus and the Promised Land: The Qur'anic Viewpoint  
**Joseph Witztum** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
Sinning at Sinai: Qur'anic Variations on Biblical and Post-Biblical Themes

15:35 - 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:20 Abraham in the Qur'an  
Chair: **Haggai Ben-Shammai** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Angelika Neuwirth** (Freie Universität Berlin)  
The Change of the Direction of Prayer and the Akedah: A Hypothetical Relationship

**Nicolai Sinai** (Oxford University)  
Abraham in the Qur'an: From Anti-paternal Dissenter to Paternal Forbear

### Wednesday, 8 March

09:30 - 11:45 Samaritan and Christian Exegesis of Genesis  
Chair: **Adiel Schremer** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Alison G. Salvesen** (Oxford University)  
Jacob of Edessa's Hexaameron: Exegesis or Encyclopedia?

**Stefan Schorch** (Martin Luther Universität Halle-Wittenberg)

Concepts of Creation in the Early Samaritan Liturgical Poetry

**William Adler** (North Carolina State University)  
The Story of Abraham and Melchizedek in the Palaea Historica

11:45 - 12:15 Refreshments

12:15 - 13:45 Concluding Session: Transmission, Evolution, and Interaction of Traditions

Chair: **Gary Anderson** (University of Notre Dame)