



מכון ון ליר בירושלים

THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE

معهد فان لير في القدس

Jewish Culture and Identity



Torah Study, Exegesis and Research

International Conference Marking the Centenary of Nehama Leibowitz's Birth
in cooperation with Yeshiva University, New York, and Tel Aviv University

Monday-Tuesday

2-3 January 2006

The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

The conference is devoted to clarifying basic issues connected with the study and teaching of Torah in Israel and in Jewish communities around the world – with special reference to the exegetic and educational life-work of Nehama Leibowitz, z"l

Academic Committee:

Ruth Ben Meir, Menahem Ben-Sasson, Gabriel H. Cohn, Yair Hoffman, Bryna Levy, Naftali Rothenberg, Dafna Schreiber, Uriel Simon, Moshe Sokolow, Yair Zakovitch

Monday, January 2, 2006

10:00-10:15

Assembly and registration

10:15-11:30

The Nehama Leibowitz Method: Studying Chapters of the Prophets and the Scriptures – Classes in Parallel Sessions

Lea Himmelfarb

"Joshua the Son of Nun, the Servant of the Lord, Died" – a Comparison of Joshua 24 and Judges 2

Nava Cohen

"A Man Hath No Better Thing Under the Sun, than to Eat, and to Drink, and to be Merry" (Ecclesiastes 8:15)

11:30-11:45 **Break**

11:45-13:45

New Readings of the Classic Commentaries

Chair: **Rachel Elior**

Daniel J. Lasker	The Karaites: How Biblical Exegesis Shapes a Community
Yeshayahu Maori	Following "Some Distance" in Rashi and His Commentators
Baruch J. Schwartz	Resigned to the Peshat: R. Judah heHasid's Commentary on Gen 48:20-22
Mordechai Sabato	The Order of the Comments on Biblical Verses in Nahmanides' Torah Commentary as an Expression of his Exegetical Approach

13:45-14:45 **Break**

14:45-16:15

Exegesis Research and Teaching

Chair: **Dafna Schreiber**

Moshe Ahrend	Bible Research and Teaching in a Jewish Academy
Moshe Sokolow	Authority and Validity in Parshanut ha-Mikra
Elazar Touitou	Distinguishing Goals and Means in the Commentaries of our Sages of the Middle-Ages

16:15-16:30 **Break**

16:30-18:00

Nehama's Torah: An Exegetical System or a Teaching Method?

Chair: **Ben Hollander**

Mira Ofran	Nehama's Method and the Sephardic Talmudic Interpretation ("Ha'Iyun Hasfaradi")
Erella Yedgar	Between Actualization and Relevance: Nehama's Treatment of the Holocaust and Israel's Rebirth
Uriel Simon	Nehama's "Pshat" versus Yeshayahu's "Drash"

18:00-18:45 **Reception**

18:45-20:45

Festive Evening Session

Chair: **Naftali Rothenberg**

Greetings: **Shimshon Zelniker** Head, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute
Dany Leviatan Rector, Tel Aviv University
David J. Schnall, Dean of the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish
Education and Administration, Yeshiva University, New York

Is There a Unique Jewish Approach to the Bible?

Yair Zakovitch
Gabriel H. Cohn
Sara Japhet

16:30-18:00

Literature and Culture as Components of Bible Study

Chair: **Yotam Benziman**

Yonatan Grossman	Repetition in the Biblical Narrative as a Basis for Ambiguous Expressions
Mordechai Z. Cohen	“Reproducing” the Text – Traditional Biblical Exegesis in Light of Ludwig Strauss' Literary Theory
Michael Fishbane	Values and Interpretation: The Commentator and Cultural Pedagogy

18:00-18:15

Break

18:15-20:15

Public Discussion: The Influence and Contribution of Nehama Leibowitz

Chair: **Avraham Grossman**

Opening:

Zeev W. Harvey

Eliezer Schweid

Nurit Fried

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There is no parking at the Institute. Free parking is available in the multilevel car park off Chopin St. next to The Jerusalem Theatre.

Participants

Prof. Yairah Amit, Department of Hebrew Culture Studies, Tel Aviv University

Prof. Moshe Ahrend, School of Education, Bar-Ilan University; Dean, Lander Institute

Dr. Ruth Ben Meir, Head of Bible Teachers Training Program, School of Education, and The Midrasha for Women, Bar-Ilan University

Dr. Yotam Benziman, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Dr. Gabriel H. Cohn, Department of Bible, Bar-Ilan University

Dr. Jonathan Cohen, The Melton Center for Jewish Education, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Mandel Leadership Institute

Prof. Mordechai Z. Cohen, Department of Bible, Bernard Revel Graduate School, Yeshiva University, New York

Nava Cohen, Matan – Machon Torani L'Nashim, Jerusalem, Midreshet Shuva, Ofra

Prof. Rachel Elior, Head, The Department of Jewish Thought, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Prof. Michael Fishbane, Jewish Studies, The University of Chicago

Dr. Yochi Fischer, The Department of History, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Dr. Marla Frankel, The David Yellin College of Education, Jerusalem

Dr. Miriam Frenkel, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Deputy Chair, Ben-Zvi Institute

Nurit Fried, Director, The Institute for Women Court Advocates, Jerusalem

Prof. Ed Greenstein, Head of Biblical Studies, Department of Hebrew Culture Studies, Tel Aviv University

Prof. Avraham Grossman, Department of the History of the Jewish People, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Yonatan Grossman, Department of Bible, Bar-Ilan University; The Yaakov Herzog College, Alon Shvut

Prof. Zeev W. Harvey, Department of Jewish Thought, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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Prof. Sara Japhet, Department of Bible, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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Prof. Dany Leviatan, Rector, Tel Aviv University

Dr. Bryna Levy, Dean of the Graduate Program in Bible and Biblical Interpretation, Matan- Machon Torani L'Nashim, Jerusalem

Prof. Yeshayahu Maori, Department of Bible, University of Haifa

Dr. Mira Ofran, Science Teaching Center, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Prof. Shalom Paul, Department of Bible, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Rabbi Prof. Naftali Rothenberg, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Dr. Mordechai Sabato, Department of Talmud, Bar-Ilan University

Nili Samet, Matan- Machon Torani L'Nashim, Jerusalem; The Yaakov Herzog College, Alon Shvut

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Prof. Eliezer Schweid, Department of Jewish Thought, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Prof. Uriel Simon, Department of Bible, Bar-Ilan University

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Prof. Elazar Touitou, Department of Bible, Bar-Ilan University; Orot Israel College, Elqana

Dr. Shmuel Wygoda, Head, The Yaakov Herzog College, Alon Shvut; The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Erella Yedgar, Efrata College and Lifshitz College, Jerusalem

Prof. Yair Zakovitch, Department of Bible, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Dr. Shimshon Zelniker, Head, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute