

It is my pleasure to distribute the ICI REPORT for May 2011.

(a) ICI MEETING AT THE SBL INTERNATIONAL IN LONDON

An ICI Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday July 5, from 13:30-14:30 at the International Meeting in London. Please let us know if you can come to the meeting; we want to be sure we reserve enough space for everyone.

(b) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS

Please consider suggesting publishers of academic books to join our initiative.

(c) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

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

The following books were added since the last report:

- (1) Jarick, John. *1 Chronicles. Readings: A New Commentary*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2007.

The books of Chronicles have a certain fantasy quality about them. They create an imaginary world in which things happen just so, and in which any potentially untidy loose ends in their narrative of the past are tied together in a highly systematic way. This is storytelling with the didactic purpose of inculcating a particular ideology, bombarding the reader with a kaleidoscopic procession of heroes and villains and presenting a frontierland of danger and opportunity.

John Jarick's focus on the literary world of Chronicles provides a fresh reading of the work, foregrounding the often unrecognized artistry in the telling of the tale—including at times a distinctly musical language and a careful mathematical precision. But at the same time he does not hide the dark underbelly of the writing, with its persistent note of conformity to the political and religious system advocated by the storytellers.

- (2) Maidman, Maynard Paul. *Nuzi Texts and Their Uses as Historical Evidence*. Writings from the Ancient World 18. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2010.

Ancient Nuzi, buried beneath modern Yorghān Tepe in northern Iraq, is a Late Bronze Age town belonging to the kingdom of Arrapha that has yielded between 6,500 and

7,000 legal, economic and administrative tablets, all belonging to a period of some five generations (ca. 1475–1350 B.C.E.) and almost all from known archaeological contexts. The tablets were excavated from the government administrative complexes, from houses in all the urban neighborhoods, from each of the suburban villas, and even a few dozen from the temple complex. These Akkadian-language documents include contracts for labor, deeds of sale, testamentary wills, slave sales, ration lists, inter-office memoranda, trial records, scholastic texts, and much more. The ninety-six texts presented here in transliteration and translation are divided into five groups dealing with topics of historical interest: Nuzi and the political force responsible for its demise; the crimes and trials of a mayor of Nuzi; a multigenerational legal struggle over title to a substantial amount of land; the progressive enrichment of one family at the expense of another through a series of real estate transactions; and the nature of the *ilku*, a real estate tax whose dynamic is crucial in defining the economic and social structure of Nuzi as a whole.

(3) Moore, Stephen D. *Empire and Apocalypse: Postcolonialism and the New Testament*. Bible in the Modern World 12. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2006.

In *Empire and Apocalypse*, Stephen Moore offers us the most complete introduction yet to the emergent field of postcolonial biblical criticism.

It includes an indispensable in-depth introduction to postcolonial theory and criticism together with a detailed survey of postcolonial biblical criticism. Next come three substantial exegetical chapters on the Gospels of Mark and John and the Book of Revelation, which together demonstrate how postcolonial studies provide fresh conceptual resources and critical strategies for rethinking early Christianity's complex relations to the Roman Empire. Each of these three texts, to different degrees, Moore argues, mimic and replicate fundamental facets of Roman imperial ideology even while resisting and eroding it.

The book concludes with an amply annotated bibliography whose main section provides a comprehensive listing of work done to date in postcolonial biblical criticism.

(4) Person, Raymond F., Jr. *The Deuteronomistic History and the Book of Chronicles:*

*Scribal Works in an Oral World*. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 6. Atlanta, Society of Biblical Literature, 2010.

This volume reexamines and reconstructs the relationship between the Deuteronomistic History and the book of Chronicles, building on recent developments such as the

Persian-period dating of the Deuteronomic History, the contribution of oral traditional studies to understanding the production of biblical texts, and the reassessment of the relationship of Standard Biblical Hebrew and Late Biblical Hebrew. These new perspectives challenge widely held understandings of the relationship between the two scribal works and strongly suggest that they were competing historiographies during the Persian period that nevertheless descended from a common source. This new reconstruction leads to new readings of the literature.

(5) Reventlow, Henning Graf. Trans. By Leo G. Perdue. *History of Biblical Interpretation, Volume 1: From the Old Testament to Origen*. Resources for Biblical Study 50. Atlanta, Society of Biblical Literature, 2009.

From the very beginning, Holy Scripture has always been *interpreted* Scripture, and its interpretation determined the development and the history of both early Judaism and the first centuries of the Christian church. In this volume, the first of four on the *History of Biblical Interpretation*, readers will discover how the earliest interpreters of the Bible made the Scriptures come alive for their times—within the contexts and under the influences of Hellenism, Stoicism, and Platonism, as well as the interpretive methods developed in Alexandria. Particular attention is paid to innerbiblical interpretation (within the Hebrew Bible itself and in the New Testament’s reading of the Hebrew Bible), as well as to the interpretive practices reflected in the translation of the Septuagint and the writings of Qumran, Philo, the early rabbis, the apostolic fathers Barnabas and Clement, and early Christian leaders such as Justin Martyr, Marcion, Irenaeus, and Origen.

(6) Stone, Michael E., Aryeh Amihay, and Vered Hillel, eds. *Noah and His Book(s)*. Early Judaism and Its Literature 28. Atlanta, Society of Biblical Literature, 2010.

In a collection of original essays, this book offers new insights on the question of the lost “book of Noah,” as well as studies of Noah’s figure in postbiblical literature. It focuses on ancient Jewish literature, including the Septuagint, the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Philo, Josephus, and rabbinic literature, but Christian sources, especially Christian iconography, gnostic literature, and Syriac material, as well as later sources such as the Qur’an and Jewish medieval traditions, are also consulted. The contributors are Michael E. Stone, Vered Hillel, Aryeh Amihay, Michael Tuval, Daniel A. Machiela, Claire Pfann, Esther Eshel, Jeremy Penner, Rebecca Scharbach, Benjamin G. Wright III, Nadav Sharon and Moshe Tishel, Albert Geljon, Sergey Minov, Erica Martin, and Ruth Clements.

(d) ANEM/MACO - IVBS

A substantial volume is about to be published in ANEM/MACO. Louis Jonker (lcj@sun.ac.za) will meet with some IVBS editors at the International Meeting in London.

Those who like to hold a book in their hands will be delighted to know that books published in ANEM/MACO and IVBS will be made available in hard copy through the SBL's print-on-demand program. Needless to say, the printed volumes will not be free, but the e-version will remain fully and completely open access in perpetuity. Please watch for the announcement that will be made when the books can be ordered.

(e) FUTURE SBL WEBSITE

With the support of an NEH grant, the SBL will be building an interactive website that invites general audiences to engage with biblical scholarship. The site will begin production immediately, with a planned launch in 2013.

(f) 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>. Events that may be of interest to you include:

June 21-24/2011 MELANESIAN ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS (MATS) INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

Offers of papers are now invited. Abstracts of 250 words should be sent by post, fax, or email (as Word attachments) to: Ms. Sandra Iga, Secretary - School of Theology, Pacific Adventist University, Private Mail Bag, Boroko NCD, Papua New Guinea. Tel: (675) 328 0324/328 0342 Fax: (675) 328 1257 Email: [sandra.iga@pau.ac.pg](mailto:sandra.iga@pau.ac.pg) Papers will be accepted in four broad areas of theological enquiry – Old Testament, New Testament, Theology (Systematic and Historical), and Applied Theology (Ministry, Ethics, Missiology) – and presenters will be encouraged to submit expanded versions of their papers for publication in the *Melanesian Journal of Theology*. The last day for receipt of abstracts is 30 April 2011. It is envisaged that the MATS conference will become an annual gathering of educators and postgraduate students from the theological schools of Melanesia and the wider South Pacific. A meeting to reconstitute the association will be held on the last day of MATS 2011. From 2012 the

conference will be hosted by other theological schools in Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific islands. For details and further information please contact Scott Charlesworth at [sdchar@gmail.com](mailto:sdchar@gmail.com)

July 1-2 EMPIRE, MIGRATION AND OCEANIC BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

A conference of the Oceania Biblical Studies Association (OBSA) to be held at Malua Theological College in Samoa. The deadline for all paper proposals is May 31st, 2011. For further information, please contact Dr Nasili Vaka'uta ([n.vakauta@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:n.vakauta@auckland.ac.nz)) or send an email to [OBSAMail@gmail.com](mailto:OBSAMail@gmail.com).

July 4-8/ 2011 SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING, London, England (see above)

August 8-11 THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF BIBLICAL STUDIES (EABS), Thessaloniki, Greece.

For information <http://www.eabs.net/conf.aspx>

Sept. 5-9 8TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HITTITOLOGY, University of University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

[More information](#)

Sept. 6-9 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

The NTSSA will meet at the University of North West in Potchefstroom, South Africa.

For further information, please visit the Society's webpage at <http://newtestament.co.za/>

Sept. 19-22 IN SEARCH OF WELL-BEING: PERSPECTIVES ON HEALTH AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS, University of South Africa, Pretoria, RSA

Presentations are invited on the following areas:

- New Testament and early Christian perspectives on healing and well-being
- Religious traditions and human well-being: towards salvation or damnation
- Well-being and health in an age of the HIV/AIDS pandemic
- Collective well-being and quality of life: globalisation and ecology
- Cross disciplinary and cross-cultural explorations of well-being
- Individuals, societies and environment: faith and the pursuit of well-being
- How do we define well-being in the 21st century?
- Is well-being the new religion of the 21st century?

Please submit abstracts of appr. 200 words via e-mail attachment to Prof Pieter F.Craffert ([craffpf@unisa.ac.za](mailto:craffpf@unisa.ac.za)) and/or Prof. Pieter J.J. Botha [bothapij@unisa.ac.za](mailto:bothapij@unisa.ac.za) by April 30, 2011.

For more information please contact Prof. Pieter Craffert (tel.: +27 12 429 4062 /+27 83 324 4485) or Prof. Pieter Botha (tel. +27 12 429 4062 or +27 12 803 0933).

**Note:**

Please submit basic information about events to Sharon Johnson at [sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org](mailto:sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org).

(g) PLEASE PASS THE INFORMATION

You are encouraged to distribute this report among all those you think might find it helpful. If you are a member of other professional organizations related to biblical studies, we urge you to send our newsletters to those responsible for communication within those groups as well.

Best wishes,  
Ehud

Ehud Ben Zvi, SBL - International Cooperation Initiative