

## ICI REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2011

### (a) ICI MEETING/S AT THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING.

The SBL Annual Meeting will be held Nov. 18-22. The Advisory Board/Forum meets on Saturday from 2:00-3:00 pm at Pacific H - Marriott Marquis. Needless to say, all are invited. If you cannot come, and we are aware of the fact that most of us cannot come, we do want to have your voice heard at the meeting. Please send a note by e-mail to me ([ehud.benzvi@ualberta](mailto:ehud.benzvi@ualberta)) or to Leigh Andersen ([leigh.andersen@sbl-site.org](mailto:leigh.andersen@sbl-site.org)) and we will do our best to bring your concerns, ideas, and comments to the ICI meeting.

### (b) ONLINE OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATIONS:

IVBS (International Voices in Biblical Studies)

The following volume has just been published in this series:

Nasili Vaka'uta, *Reading Ezra 9-10 Tu'a-wise: Rethinking Biblical Interpretation in Oceania*

Abstract: Reading tu'a-wise (Tongan: lau faka-tu'a) is an attempt to interpret the Bible through the 'eye-/I-s' of a Tongan commoner (tu'a). The primary concern of this book is to develop, on the one hand, an 'alternative' approach to biblical interpretation from a Tongan standpoint and to depart, on the other hand, from theories and methods that dominate biblical scholarship. Lau faka-tu'a puts more emphasis on contextualizing the "pact" of biblical interpretation rather than the Bible per se.

All volumes in this SBL series are open access and can be downloaded for free from the IVBS website <http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/home.aspx>. Please consider submitting a proposal to this series.

ANEM/MACO

The following volume has been published in this series:

Lester L. Grabbe and Martti Nissinen (eds.), *Constructs of Prophecy in the Former and Latter Prophets and Other Texts*.

The contents of the present volume come from the PTAC meetings in Washington, D.C. in 2007 (“Constructs of Prophecy in the Former Prophets and Daniel”) and in Boston in 2008 (“Constructs of Prophecy in the Latter Prophets”). As indicated by the overall theme of each session, the emphasis was on the “constructs of prophecy” as found in both the Former and Latter Prophets, but more controversially, the question of prophecy in some other literature (such as Chronicles and the Quran) is also addressed. There is a good reason for broadening the scope of the volume in this way. Contributors include Pancratius Beentjes, Jonathan Ben-Dov, Steve Cook, Serge Frolov, Lester L. Grabbe, Mark Leuchter, Christoph Levin, Jill Middlemas, Martti Nissinen, David L. Petersen, Marvin A. Sweeney, Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer and Peter Matthews Wright.

Two months ago, *Reading Akkadian Prayers and Hymns*, edited by Alan Lenzi, was also published in this series.

All volumes in this SBL series are open access and can be downloaded for free from the ANEM/MACO webpage at

[http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books\\_ANEmonographs.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ANEmonographs.aspx).

Please consider submitting a proposal to this series.

(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) Bergen, Wesley J. and Armin Siedlecki, eds. *Voyages in Unchartered Waters: Essays on the Theory and Practice of Biblical Interpretation*. Hebrew Bible Monographs 13. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2006. (246 pages, 1.3 MB)

This volume honours the work of David Jobling, the distinguished Professor of Old Testament Language and Literature at St Andrew's College, Saskatoon, Canada. Jobling has been noted for his adventurous forays into the theory and practice of biblical interpretation, especially of the Hebrew Bible, and for his interdisciplinary bridge-building. The volume is divided into three sections corresponding to three

of Jobling's principal interests, each section being prefaced with an introduction to his work in that area by the editors.

Section 1 is on Post-Structuralism, with contributions by Gary Phillips, George Aichele, Francis Landy, Robert Culley and Matthew Mitchell. In Section 2, on Ideological Criticism, the authors are Roland Boer, David Gunn, Volker Greifenhagen and Tina Pippin. Section 3, on Global Readings, contains papers by Gerald West, Jione Havea, Ed Conrad and Norman Habel.

The Festschrift concludes with personal tributes by Christopher Lind and Norman Gottwald.

- (2) Bodner, Keith. *David Observed: A King in the Eyes of His Court*. Hebrew Bible Monographs 5. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2008. (247 pages, 754 KB)

From his earliest anointing in 1 Samuel 16 until his deathbed discourse in 1 Kings 2, David is surrounded by a remarkable cast of supporting characters -- an ensemble whose varying perspectives on him create some of the complexity of this royal character in the biblical narrative.

David's older brother Eliab speaks only once to his younger sibling, but this conversation has significant implications for the larger narrative. The encounter with Ahimelech the priest in 1 Samuel 21-22 in many ways symbolizes the 'crossing fates' of David and Saul in the sanctuary at Nob. Abner is the rival general who wants to make a deal, but his actions are difficult to gauge: does he have his own set of royal ambitions? Joab is pre-eminently a man of action and a key commander of David's troops, but this military figure surprisingly turns out to be as well an innovative reader and royal exegete.

Nathan the prophet has a tendency to surface at pivotal moments in the story, as a decisive influence on the spiritual and political affairs of the king. Ahithophel is a senior counsellor in the Davidic administration who becomes mysteriously embittered against David in the rebellion of Absalom; in narratives about him there is a confluence of tangled motives and prophetic words. Finally, Solomon is the younger son who accedes to the coveted Davidic throne, and curiously shares traits with his ancestor Jacob and has a swearing problem in 1 Kings 1-2.

- (3) Culbertson, Philip and Elaine M. Wainwright, eds. *The Bible in/and Popular Culture: A Creative Encounter*. Semeia Studies 65. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2010. (218 pages, 1.2 MB)

In popular culture, the Bible is generally associated with films: *The Passion of the Christ*, *The Ten Commandments*, *Jesus of Montreal*, and many others. Less attention has been given to the relationship between the Bible and other popular media such as hip-hop, reggae, rock, and country and western music; popular and graphic novels; animated television series; and apocalyptic fantasy. This collection of essays explores a range of media and the way the Bible features in them, applying various hermeneutical approaches, engaging with critical theory, and providing conceptual resources and examples of how the Bible reads popular culture—and how popular culture reads the Bible. This useful resource will be of interest for both biblical and cultural studies. The contributors are Elaine M. Wainwright, Michael Gilmour, Mark McEntire, Dan W. Clanton Jr., Philip Culbertson, Jim Perkinson, Noel Leo Erskine, Tex Sample, Roland Boer, Terry Ray Clark, Steve Taylor, Tina Pippin, Laura Copier, Jaap Kooijman, Caroline Vander Stichele, and Erin Runions.

- (4) Lawrence, Jonathan David. *Washing in Water: Trajectories of Ritual Bathing in the Hebrew Bible and Second Temple Literature*. Academia Biblica 23. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2006. (314 pages, 215.6 MB)

Although most scholars recognize that Christian baptism is related to Jewish ritual bathing, many assume that Christians transformed and rejected Jewish bathing practices. To correct this overly simplistic view, Lawrence mines archaeological and textual materials to outline a larger context for Jewish and Christian bathing. Using archaeological data from Jerusalem, Judea, Qumran, and the Galilee, as well as his own close reading of the Hebrew Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and other Second Temple literature, Lawrence identifies a spectrum of functions—ritual, metaphorical, or initiatory—that bathing served during the Second Temple period. He thus offers a new approach to the study of ritual bathing and suggests that, despite the polemics of later Christian and Jewish texts, the earliest Christians drew on a tradition shared with the Qumran community and other Jewish groups, in which each group chose its own emphases for ritual bathing.

(d) ICI TEACHING COLLABORATION

Please keep in mind the multiple ways open for teaching collaboration and mentoring.

For more information, go to

<http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICITeaching.aspx>

(e) 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:

Nov. 18-22 SBL ANNUAL MEETING.

The SBL Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco, CA. For further information

<http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting.aspx>

June 13-15, 2012 SOCIETY OF ASIAN BIBLICAL STUDIES (SABS)

The next meeting of the Society of Asian Biblical Studies will be held in Sabah, Malaysia from the 13-15 June 2012. Arrival the 12th and departure on the 16th. Kindly block these dates in your calendar and look for updates on the SABS website.

<http://www.sabs-site.com>

August 28–30, 2012 OCEANIA BIBLICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

will be held at the Sia'atoutai Theological College in Tonga, [More information](#) or [OBSAMail@gmail.com](mailto:OBSAMail@gmail.com)

**Note:**

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

(f) 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.