

B^erit – Diatheke – Foedus – Covenant – Bund

November 19–22, 2019



The Program in Jewish Studies at Rice University in Houston and the Religious Studies Program at the University of Houston are organizing an international, interdisciplinary, and interdenominational conference in cooperation with the Universität des Saarlandes, Saarbrücken (Germany) and the Universität Rostock (Germany) and in collaboration with the Lanier Theological Library in Houston.

The theme of the conference is “B^erit, Diatheke, Foedus, Covenant, Bund” (the topic of “covenant” in five different languages, among them Biblical Hebrew and Greek). The conference convenes 20 national and international scholars who explore the origins, development, and later reception of a central theological theme that permeates most parts of the Bible. This academic event is for scholars, clergy, students of religion, and all who want to learn more about the Bible.

The daily conference program is below.

Attendance: free for visitors.

Location: Lanier Theological Library, Houston <https://www.laniertheologicallibrary.org/>

This event is co-sponsored by Rice University, Program in Jewish Studies, University of Houston–Religious Studies Program, University of Houston–Global Strategies and Studies, University of Houston–Department of History, University of Houston–The Honors College.

The Organizers:

Christian A. Eberhart is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Houston.

Matthias Henze is Professor of Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism at Rice University in Houston.

Wolfgang Kraus is Professor of New Testament Studies at Universität des Saarlandes, Saarbrücken, Germany.

Martin Rösel is Professor of Old Testament Studies at Universität Rostock, Germany.

Please note: for visitors, attendance of the conference is free. Meals cannot be provided for them. For nearby dining options and lodgment, visitors may check:

<https://www.laniertheologicallibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Nearby-Hotels-and-Restaurants-Revised-7-19-19.pdf>

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Conference in Houston, Texas

Lanier Theological Library

(Except for the opening presentation, every conference unit consists of two 30 min. presentations followed by 30 min. discussion)

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

6:00pm

Charles Mickey, Christian Eberhart, Wolfgang Kraus: Start of conference/Eröffnung der Tagung

6:30-7:15pm

Chair: Martin Rösel

Siegfried Kreuzer: Origins of Covenant Theology in the HB/OT/Ursprung der atl. Bundestheologie

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

9:00-10:30am

Chair: Matthias Henze

Ancient Near East:

Manfred Oeming: Covenant in the Achaemenid Empire/Bund im Perserreich

HB/AT I:

Thomas Hieke, Abram/Abraham as Prefiguration of the Covenant in the Torah

11:00am-12:30pm

Chair: Eberhart Bons

HB/AT II:

Richard Bautch: Priestly Polemics in the Covenant of Levi

Karin Finsterbusch: On Transforming Old Covenants, Cutting New Ones, and Making Existing Ones Disappear: Rationales for Changing Covenant Realities

According to Prophetic Texts

3:00-5:00pm

Chair: Wolfgang Kraus

HB/AT III:

Martin Rösel: Is "*diatheke*" an appropriate translation for *berit*? Covenant and contract in the Septuagint.

Eberhard Bons: Bund / Diatheke in den Psalmen: MT und LXX/Covenant / Diatheke in the Psalms: MT and LXX

Early Judaism/Frühes Judentum I (LXX und Philo):

Gert Steyn: Bund bei Philon/Covenant in Philo's Writings

Thursday, November 21, 2019

9:00-10:30am

Chair: Florian Wilk

Early and Rabbinic Judaism/Frühes und Rabbinisches Judentum II:

Sara Ronis: Covenant in Rabbinic Literatur/Bund in der rabbinischen Literatur

Jewish and Christian Apocryphal Writings:

Matthias Henze: Covenant in the Old Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

11:00am-12:30pm

Chair: Wolfgang Kraus

NT I (Eucharist/Abendmahl):

Christian Eberhart: Between “My Blood of the Covenant” and the “New Covenant in My Blood”: Origins, Meanings, Ramifications

NT II (Paul):

Florian Wilk: Terminology and Concepts of Covenant in the Corinthian Correspondence of Paul/Bundes-Terminologie und Bundes-Vorstellungen in den Korintherbriefen des Paulus

3:00-5:00pm

Chair: Christian Eberhart

Jens Herzer: Covenant in Romans and Galatians

NT III (Late NT Period/Spätschriften NT):

Wolfgang Kraus: Diatheke in Hebrews

Martin Karrer: The Ark of the Covenant in Revelation (11:19) / Die Lade des Bundes in der Theologie der Apokalypse (11:19)

Friday, November 22, 2019

9:00-10:15am

Chair: Matthias Henze

Tobias Nicklas: Ideas of Covenant in Christian Apocryphal Writings

Martin Meiser: Covenant in the Early Church/Bund in der Alten Kirche

10:30am-11:15pm

Chair: Richard Bautch

Covenant in Systematic Discourse:

Margit Ernst-Habib: From Covenant to Convivence: The Relevance of Covenantal Theology in Contemporary Theological Discourse

11:30am-12:00pm

Christian Eberhart, Matthias Henze, Wolfgang Kraus, Martin Rösel: Final Discussion