



מרכז שלם
THE
SHALEM
CENTER

**Philosophical Investigation of the Hebrew Bible, Talmud and Midrash
Jerusalem, June 26 – 30, 2011**

(kd v10 June 21, 2011)

Sunday, June 26, 2011

12:00-17:00 Arrival and check-in at The Konrad Adenauer Conference
Center and Hotel at Mishkenot Sha'ananim

17:00-17:30 Opening Remarks, Gilbert de Botton Auditorium

Meirav Jones, Associate Fellow, The Shalem Center

Martin Kramer, President Designate, Shalem College

Yoram Hazony, Provost, The Shalem Center

17:30-18:30 **Session I**

**1. Lenn Goodman (Vanderbilt University)
"God and Israel as Lovers: The Song of Songs"**

Chair: Meirav Jones (Shalem Center)

18:30-19:30 Reception, Gallery

Monday, June 27, 2011

8:00-8:30 Registration, The Gilbert de Botton Auditorium,
Mishkenot Sha'ananim
(refreshments served)

8:30-10:30 **Session II**

2. Asa Kasher (Tel Aviv University)

“Radical Negative Theology”

**3. Kenneth Seeskin (Northwestern University)
“The Destructiveness of God”**

Chair: Menachem Kellner (Shalem Center)

10:30-11:00

Break

11:00-13:00

Session III

Five-Minute Book Comment

**4. Yoram Hazony (Shalem Center)
“Wrestling With God”**

**5. Louis Blond (University of Cape Town)
“The Paradox of Perfection Theology”**

Chair: Daniel Kaganovich (Hebrew University)

13:00-14:15

Lunch, Restaurant Montefiore

14:15-16:15

Session IV

**6. Michael Fagenblat (Monash University)
“Kabod: Phenomenological Metaphysics in the Hebrew Bible”**

**7. Roslyn Weiss (Lehigh University)
“‘Kol Tuvi’ – The Transcendent God of Goodness”**

Chair: Zev Harvey (Hebrew University)

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

8:00-8:30

Reconvene at the Gilbert de Botton Auditorium
(refreshments served)

8:30-10:30

Session V

8. Dru Johnson (The King's College NYC)

“Phenomenal Theology? Some Pentateuchal Cautions for Analytic Theology”

9. Ira Bedzow (Emory University)

“Must we be Satisfied with Modern Jewish Thought or Can There be a Contemporary Jewish Philosophy?”

Chair: Meir Simchah Panzer (Bar-Ilan University)

10:30-11:00

Break

11:00-13:00

Session VI

Five Minute Book Comment

10. Jacob Wright (Emory University)

“Shalem’s ‘Jewish Philosophical Theology’ Project and the Guild of Biblical Studies”

11. Jacob Howland (University of Tulsa)

“Cosmos and Philosophy in Plato and the Bible”

Chair: Ethan Dor-Shav (Independent Scholar)

13:00-14:15

Lunch, Restaurant Montefiore

14:15-16:15

Session VII

12. James Diamond (University of Waterloo)

“The Biblical Moment of Perception: Angelic Encounter as Metaphysics”

13. Jeremy England (Princeton University)

“Staff or Serpent? Expectation and Perception in a World of Laws”

Chair: David Lambert (University of North Carolina)

16:15-16:30

Break

16:30-18:30

Session VIII

14. Tamar Rudavsky (Ohio State University)

“Time and Eternity as reflected in Scripture and Philosophy”

15. Rachel Adelman (Harvard Divinity School)
“Such Stuff as Dreams are Made On’: Imagining God’s Body
in the Narrative of Redemption”

Chair: Dov Schwartz (Bar-Ilan University)

Wednesday, June 29, 2011

8:00-8:30 Reconvene at the Gilbert de Botton Auditorium
(refreshments served)

8:30-10:30 **Session IX**

16. Alan Mittleman (Jewish Theological Seminary)
“The Problem of Holiness”

17. Steven Kepnes (Colgate University)
“Holy, Holy, Holy: The Language of the Nature of God in
Isaiah”

Chair: Joshua Berman (Bar-Ilan University)

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-13:00 **Session X**

Five Minute Book Comment

18. Joseph Isaac Lifshitz (Shalem Center)
“The Judicial Ground of the Talmudic Style of Discussion”

**19. Sam Lebens (Birkbeck College and Yeshivat Torat Yosef
Hamivtar)**
“How to Cut a Sentence into Bits: Logic and Law in the
Talmud and Beyond”

Chair: Suzanne Last Stone (Shalem Center)

13:00-14:15 Lunch, Restaurant Montefiore

14:15-16:15 **Session XI**

20. Josh Weinstein (Shalem Center)
"Gone Fishin', or The Matter, Form and Power of a Leviathan, Civill and Ecclesiasticall"

21. Michael Miller (University of Nottingham)
"Examination of Metatron and the Principal Angelic Figures Within Early Rabbinic Tradition"

Chair: Ze'ev Maghen (Shalem Center)

16:15-16:30 Break

16:30-17:30 **Session XII**

22. Dani Rabinowitz (Oxford University) & Kelly Clark (Calvin College)
"Abraham and the Nature of God? Introducing the cognitive science of religion to rabbinic texts"

Chair: Kathryn Imray (Notre Dame Australia)

17:30-18:30 **Optional Session**
Kelly Clark
"The Society for Christian Philosophers: Some Reflections"

Thursday, June 30, 2011

8:00-8:30 Reconvene at the Gilbert de Botton Auditorium
(refreshments served)

8:30-10:30 **Session XIII**

23. Shalom Rosenberg (Hebrew University)
"Competing Trends in Talmudic Ethics: Piety Versus Wisdom"

24. Aaron Segal (University of Notre Dame)
"Metaphysics Out of the Sources of Halacha or a Halachik Metaphysic?"

Chair: Leonard Levin (Jewish Theological Seminary)

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-13:00

Session XIV

Five Minute Book Comment

25. Hannah Hashkes (Shalem Center)

“Torah’s Seventy Faces: Rabbinic Hermeneutics and Metaphysics”

26. Berel Dov Lerner (Western Galilee College)

“Divine Plans and Human Obligations”

Chair: Tzahi Weiss (Shalem Center)

13:00-15:30

End of conference lunch and conversation for speakers and chairs, Restaurant Montefiore