

THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



85th International Meeting
July 22 – 25, 2023
Creighton University

RESEARCH REPORT ABSTRACTS

FACILITY KEY

ALL RESEARCH REPORTS WILL BE HELD IN THE HARPER CENTER.

N.B. Rooms are available for in-person attendees to view
Virtual Research Reports together.

SUNDAY, JULY 23

1:20 – 2:00 PM

- **Name:** LEONARDO PESSOA DA SILVA PINTO **Room:** 2072

Institution: *Pontifical Biblical Institute*

Title: “Hannah and Samuel before the Lord? Expressions denoting the presence of God in MT and LXX of 1 Samuel 1-2”

The expressions concerning Hannah and Samuel being or acting in the presence of the Lord in the story of Samuel’s birth and presentation to the sanctuary of Shiloh in 1 Sam 1-2 often vary between the MT and the LXX accounts. While scholars in the past tended to see voluntary changes in the LXX of these chapters, today the picture is more complex due to testimony of 4QSama and the ongoing reevaluation of the LXX of Samuel. This paper will show that questions concerning translation technique, textual criticism and literary criticism intertwine in the study of such differences.

- **Name:** KEVIN M. SCOTT **Room:** 2073

Institution: *Baylor University*

Title: “Scribal Prophecy and Yahweh’s Locust Army in Joel 2:1-11”

This presentation explores Joel 2:1-11’s innovative use of earlier traditions to emphasize the necessity of communal repentance led by Yahweh’s priests if the community is to ensure its survival. In particular, I argue that the scribal prophet creatively evokes earlier traditions to subvert expectations regarding Yahweh’s relationship with foreign nations and Yahweh’s own community by taking images of Yahweh’s punishment of foreigners and applying them to Yahweh’s community instead. This demonstrates for the audience the incomparability of the impending disaster and strengthens the authority of the scribal prophet’s pleas for a communal lament ceremony led by the community’s priests.

- **Name:** BRYAN DYER **Room:** 2074
Institution: *Baker Academic/Calvin University*
Title: “The Significance of 3 Maccabees 1:1-5 for the Book’s Narrative and Theology”

Third Maccabees opens with a brief account of the Battle of Raphia before dedicating the rest of the book to events in Jerusalem and Egypt. Frequently, these opening verses are cast aside as unimportant beyond setting up the narrative that will follow. In this presentation I will demonstrate just how much heavy lifting this opening account does for the book by examining the contributions that these verses offer in terms of the overall narrative, historical agenda, and theology. I will show how the opening scene introduces and anticipates many of the important themes and rhetorical strategies of the composition.

- **Name:** BRIAN YONG LEE **Room:** 2075
Institution: *Loyola University Chicago* **Virtual**
Title: “Why is the Presence of Stoicism so Pronounced in 1 Corinthians?: Rereading 1 Cor 6:12–20”

My paper offers a non-libertine reading of 1 Cor 6:12–20 based on a reevaluation of the function and purpose of Stoic conceptions of wisdom and the sage in the so-called Corinthian “slogans” (particularly 3:21–23; 4:8; 6:12–20) and the “body of Christ” in 1 Cor 12. I suggest that the evidence regarding Corinthian thought and practice (knowledge claims; boasting; consumption of pagan sacrificial offerings; sexual abstinence), when divested of less plausible characteristics such as libertine dualism, reflect a form of philosophically-inspired asceticism designed to develop self-control, and that much of Paul’s argumentation in the letter, including 6:12–20, is devoted to careful and sophisticated critical engagement with the philosophical models underlying their asceticism that draws on Stoic concepts in a more thorough-going manner than previously recognized.

- **Name:** OLEGS ANDREJEVS **Room:** 2079
Institution: *Loyola University Chicago*
Title: “Minor Agreements 1992-2022”

Over the next 5 years, Joseph Verheyden, Timothy A. Friedrichsen, and Olegs Andrejevs will publish “Minor Agreements 1830-2025”, a comprehensive survey of the modern study of the phenomenon. My contribution centers on continuing the work done in Friedrichsen’s PhD dissertation (directed by Frans Neiryneck, Leuven), which will be published as part of the survey and documents the study of the MAs from 1974 to 1991. In this paper, I will summarize the principal developments in the field since 1991, focusing on the main approaches to the phenomenon in Friedrichsen’s period and highlighting their evolution in the last three decades.

- **Name:** STEVEN L. MCKENZIE **Room:** 2077
Institution: *Rhodes College* **Virtual**
Title: “The Racism of Creationism: Henry M. Morris and the ‘Curse of Ham’ in Genesis 9”

This paper will review the life and impact of Henry M. Morris, the "father of modern creationism" on religious and educational institutions in the U. S. It will then describe and critique his treatment of Gen 9:20-27 and will suggest that there is an inevitable connection between a literalistic interpretation of Genesis 1-11 and white supremacy.



SUNDAY, JULY 23

2:10 – 2:50 PM

- **Name:** CRAIG E. MORRISON, O. CARM. **Room:** 2072

Institution: *Pontifical Biblical Institute*

Title: “The *Biblia Hebraica Quinta*: Its Innovations and Challenges”

With 8 volumes of the BHQ now available and two more in the final stages for publication, this research report will review the developments in the BH series from BHK to BHS and now to BHQ. Particular attention will be given to the use of “characterizations” in the apparatus, especially the characterization “literary.” Some of the challenges that have confronted the BHQ team for 1-2 Samuel will also be presented.

- **Name:** ANDREW R. DAVIS **Room:** 2073

Institution: *Boston College School of Theology & Ministry*

Title: “What Emily Dickinson Teaches Us About the Psalms”

The discovery of various Psalms manuscripts among the Dead Sea Scrolls has forced biblical scholars to rethink their conception of the Psalms as a fixed collection. Scholars of Emily Dickinson’s poems have faced similar challenges, most notably undecidable lexical variants and the existence of fascicles within the larger corpus of her poems. This research report explores how Dickinson scholars have dealt with these interpretive challenges, and how their efforts might help biblicists think about the pluriformity of the biblical Psalms.

- **Name:** JOËL ANDRÉ MINSI ENDOMO **Room:** 2075

Institution: *Pontifical University of Saint Anthony*

Virtual

Title: “Drunkenness of a Major Parental Figure and Filial Determinations: Exegetical Study of Gn 9,18-29”

The unprecedented episode of Noah’s drunkenness and the subsequent curse of his grandson Canaan, remains fascinating and complex, given the numerous questions that it raises. Through the historical-critical approach, the central function of the drunkenness as a literary motif will be highlighted, through biblical (Gn 19,30-38, Ps 78,65-72) and extra-biblical episodes. The recourse to this drunkenness of a major parental figure in the managing of complex generational transitions, would therefore make possible to understand the role and place of Gn 9,18-29 in the editorial framework of the Pentateuch as a whole, and especially in relation with the tradition of the land.

- **Name:** VINCENT SKEMP **Room:** 2074

Institution: *St. Catherine University*

Title: “Charting the Afterlife of the Acts of Paul and Thecla”

This research report charts changes (additions and omissions) to the Acts of Paul and Thecla as evidenced in the Greek manuscripts, the Latin, Syriac, and Coptic traditions, and the fifth century Life and Miracles of Thecla. Along with Church Fathers, these versions are the earliest interpretations of the Acts of Paul and Thecla.

- **Name:** JOHN GRANGER COOK **Room:** 2077

Institution: *LaGrange College*

Title: “Paul and the Heavenly Bodies”

Virtual

Interpreters who have claimed that Paul viewed the heavenly bodies of 1 Cor 15:40-41 as living beings have used two arguments that are each marred by fundamental weaknesses. Scholars have often ignored handbooks such as those of Aetius that include many alternative views. Paul based his affirmations on sense experience and probably believed that the heavenly bodies were simply creations of God — not animate beings. A corollary of this conclusion is that Paul’s statements about heavenly bodies do not indicate anything specific about the composition of the *σῶμα πνευματικόν* in 1 Cor 15. There is an important analogy, however.

- **Name:** KELLEY COBLENTZ BAUTCH **Room:** 2079

Institution: *St. Edward’s University*

Title: “The Reception of 1 Maccabees in African Contexts”

We consider the uneven reception of 1 Maccabees in African contexts with attention to three issues. The first pertains to transmission and translations of the book: 1 Maccabees did not enjoy wide circulation and translation into additional languages utilized in African contexts. The second issue takes up the omission of 1 Maccabees (in the form familiar from the Deuterocanon) in emerging African collections of authoritative scripture; this issue illumines the diverse histories of deuterocanonical texts in antiquity. The third issue concerns Ethiopian lore related to the Maccabees unmoored from the literary context 1 Maccabees and the origin of such lore.



SUNDAY, JULY 23

3:20 – 4:00 PM

- **Name:** KLAUS-PETER ADAM **Room:** 2072

Institution: *Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago*

Title: “My enemies trample on me all day long...” Ps 56:2 (ET 56:1):
Enemy Nomenclature in the Psalms of the Individual”

This paper examines the categorization of enemy nomenclature in the Psalms, exploring whether legal constructs of the enemies might help classify their nature in a more coherent way. Personal enmity is a well-known construct in honor-shame societies, involving continuous inimical relationships, escalating actions, and public harm to opponents' social status and reputation. The article questions whether opponents in the Psalms affirm these descriptors and whether specific functions of the individual terms can be established. It also considers whether the categorization of designations for opponents into two groups holds. The review aims to determine the most convincing categorizations for understanding the construct of private enmity.

- **Name:** HRYHORIY LOZINSKY **Room:** 2073

Institution: *Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril & Methodius*

Title: “Levitical Cities: Without the Law no Land”

Did the Levites possess the land or not? Num 18:24; Deut 10:8–9; Josh 13:33, and other texts state Levi has no portion or inheritance. On the contrary, Lev 25:32–34 and Num 35:1–8 contain legal dispositions confirming their ownership of the land and Josh 21:1–42 and 1 Chr 6:39–66 contain the list of the cities that belong to them. The presence of two different traditions raises the question about their status. Are they reality, utopia, or represent a dispute? This study will analyze Num 35:1–8 and consider why the law is given on these special cities.

- **Name:** SHARON M. GUTKOWSKI **Room:** 2074

[CBA’s Verbum Emerging Scholars Fellow]

Institution: *Villanova University*

Title: “Being and Becoming *Dokimoi*: An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 11:17-34”

When Paul confronts the Corinthian community for their offensive behaviors at the Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 11:17-34), he declares that the factions (v. 19) in the community are necessary to allow those who are approved (*dokimoi*) to become known. Instead of causing factions, these *dokimoi* exhibit various,

Gutkowski continued

genuine qualities that exemplify their approval with respect to communal and divine standards. As a result, characteristics of the *dokimoi*, and what they (should) do as *dokimoi*, become evident in the text. This paper asserts that, in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, Paul instructs the Corinthians how to become *dokimoi* through his admonitions and guidance.

- Name:** KATJA HESS **Room:** 2075
Institution: *Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt/
University of Regensburg* **Virtual**
Title: “Discipleship as Friendship in the Gospel of John”

“You are My friends, if you do what I command you” (John 15:14). In this key phrase, friendship and discipleship are related. The focus of this report is the thesis that John's gospel tries to clarify discipleship with the help of ancient friendship topics. The starting point is John 15:1–17: There Jesus makes an offer of friendship to his disciples, with which he wants to make clear how discipleship can be understood and lived. In this context, the relationship of friendship with Jesus Christ and his preceding love form the conditional possibilities for implementing his commandment in one's own life.

- Name:** LESLIE A. BAYNES **Room:** 2077
Institution: *Missouri State University*
Title: “C.S. Lewis v. George Tyrrell in 'Modern Theology and Biblical Criticism'”

In the essay “Modern Theology and Biblical Criticism” (1959), C.S. Lewis delivers a polemic against biblical scholars and scholarship, singling out the Roman Catholic modernist George Tyrrell and his book *Christianity at the Cross-Roads* (1910) in particular. Approaching the subject with sardonic prejudice, Lewis misreads Tyrrell and therefore does not register where the two of them agree: in their distaste for the language of John's *Apocalypse* and their conviction that human language cannot capture transcendent realities. Since most academic work on the essay has been produced by literary scholars who share Lewis' prejudices, this paper is the first to recognize his agreement with Tyrrell.



SUNDAY, JULY 23

4:10 – 4:50 PM

- **Name:** NATHAN R. MASTNJAK **Room:** 2072
Institution: *Notre Dame Seminary*
Title: “A Material Approach to Israel’s Prophetic Library”

This report will summarize the arguments and findings of a research project on the material form and format of Ancient Israel's prophetic library. Rather than describing the prophetic literature as books confined to singular book-scrolls, I argue that Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel were initially written on loosely organized collections of multiple short papyrus scrolls. This material approach to the prophetic corpus suggests novel solutions to classic problems in the field including the relationships between the MT and LXX of Jeremiah and between First and Second Isaiah.

- **Name:** JAMES CHUKWUMA OKOYE **Room:** 2073
Institution: *Duquesne University*
Title: “Is Gen 12:1-4a Exilic?”

An increasing number of scholars consider Gen 12:1-4a exilic, leading to debate about the message and affinities of this text. Two lines of inquiry are intersect in this research. First, the state of the Documentary Hypothesis, particularly, “The Elusive Yahwist.” Second, the affinities of the language and content of the text. Then I attempt an interpretation of Gen 12:1-4a over against the exilic context.

- **Name:** MELANIE PEETZ **Room:** 2075
Institution: *Sankt Georgen Graduate School of Philosophy & Theology* **Virtual**
Title: “Capturing Places of Longing: Emotion and Space in the Bible”

In recent years, studies of emotions in biblical texts have increased. Another trend in biblical research is the study of spatial conceptions. Yet hardly any methodological studies explore the relationship between emotion and space. In my presentation, I will introduce a method suitable for examining the emotional dimensions of places in biblical texts. Using the example of "a land flowing with milk and honey" (Exod. 3:8, a.o.), I will demonstrate how to capture places of longing in biblical texts.

- **Name:** ANGELA ZAUTCKE **Room:** 2074
[CBA's Verbum Emerging Scholars Fellow]
Institution: *University of Notre Dame*
Title: "Vivid Description in Luke 5:1-11: A Narratological and Rhetorical Study"

The Gospel of Luke contains many vivid stories, such as the infancy narrative, the call of the first disciples, the parable of the Good Samaritan, and so on. While the vividness of these stories is often seen as a display of Luke's literary skill, studies of ancient rhetoric suggest that vividness may be better understood as a rhetorical tool used for persuasive effect. This paper uses narratology and rhetorical criticism together to analyze Luke's strategic use of vivid description, focusing on the call of the first disciples in Luke 5:1–11.

- **Name:** MARK J. GOODWIN **Room:** 2077
Institution: *University of Dallas*
Title: "Romans 6:1-11 and Baptism as a Sacrament of Faith"

Commentators on Paul's letter to the Romans have observed that Rom 6:1-11 presents a problem in Pauline teaching concerning the relation of baptism to faith. The passage is explicit in its references to baptism, but says almost nothing about faith. Questions thus arise over whether the baptismal references in Rom 6:1-11 can be linked to faith. Does the passage presuppose faith, as some have maintained? What textual evidence supports a relation of baptism to faith? Finally, what insights, if any, emerge from the passage concerning Paul's understanding of baptism as a sacrament of faith?



MONDAY, JULY 24

1:20 – 2:00 PM

- **Name:** TOOCHUKWU S. AGHA, C.S.SP. **Room:** 2072
Institution: *University of Notre Dame*
Title: “Lamentations on False Prophecy and the Catastrophe of 587/6”
The book of Lamentations provides a significant testimony of the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in 587/6 BCE in poignant poetry from various theological perspectives, one of which is the acknowledgment of culpability: the disaster is Yahweh’s punishment for national sin. This paper will argue that the admission of guilt is a pervasive emphasis of the book and this acknowledgement includes the role of false prophecy in the disaster. I will show that Lam 2:14 and 4:13 (including 2:9 and 2:20) indict the prophets (and priests) as partly responsible for the national tragedy of 587/6 both by their commissions and their omissions.
- **Name:** GABRIEL F. HORNUNG **Room:** 2073
Institution: *Trinity College, Hartford*
Title: “Esther’s Intertextual Theology of Divine Absence”
As scholarship has continued to debate Esther’s theological worth, this study engages the intertextual nature and compositional development of the Megillah to demonstrate its religious stance. While previous attempts to pursue this interpretive approach have tended to pull God into the Scroll, renewed attention to Esther’s interaction with Joseph will suggest a heretofore unarticulated conclusion: as favored Jews continue to rise in foreign courts to deliver themselves and their people against all odds, the divinely initiated patterns of the Egyptian past are shown to extend into the Persian present even when the divine’s immediate presence remains out of sight.
- **Name:** ABIGAIL BODEAU **Room:** 2074
[CBA’s Verbum Emerging Scholars Fellow]
Institution: *Baylor University*
Title: “A Response to Feminist Readings of Jael”
Feminist approaches to Jael often argue that Jael liberated herself from patriarchal social structures when she killed Sisera because she functioned in a male role by entering the public sphere and engaging in violence. However, Jael did not enter a male sphere when killing Sisera, as Sisera’s murder occurred within the household space and the Hebrew Bible describes women engaging in warfare activities. While patriarchy serves as a useful tool to describe social

Bodeau continued

phenomena, importing social structures to the biblical text based on the assumption of patriarchy risks anachronistic depictions of gender and social roles.

- **Name:** MARK REASONER **Room:** 2075
Institution: *Marian University*
Title: “Doxological Contrition in Romans”

In *Deification through the Cross: An Eastern Christian Theology of Salvation*, Khaled Anatolios highlights Romans chapter 6 to illustrate how doxological contrition leads to salvation as deification (158-59). While he mentions texts from Romans chapters 3 and 8 elsewhere in his book, he does not explain how the letter of Romans as a whole points to salvation as deification through doxological contrition. This paper develops Anatolios’s thesis by providing exegesis of texts in Romans chapters 3, 8, 11, and 15 that fill in his picture of salvation.

- **Name:** MARK S. SMITH **Room:** 2077
Institution: *Princeton Theological Seminary*
Title: “Marie-Joseph Lagrange and Édouard (Paul) Dhorme at the École Biblique”

Two of the greatest Catholic biblical scholars in the twentieth century were Marie-Joseph Lagrange and Édouard (Paul) Dhorme. The relationship between the two Dominicans at the École Biblique was deep and complex. This presentation, informed by some bits of more recently available information, explores their relationship through the fateful year of 1931, when Dhorme left the École.



MONDAY, JULY 24

2:10 – 2:50 PM

- **Name:** NOELLE JOHNSON **Room:** 2072
[CBA's Verbum Emerging Scholars Fellow]
Institution: *University of Notre Dame*
Title: "Revisiting Sukkot and the Days of *Millu'im*"

The connection of Hanukkah to "tabernacles" in 2 Maccabees is a conundrum which has generated much debate. Eyal Regev, relying on James VanderKam, has proposed that this can be explained by an established tradition of association between Temple dedication ceremonies and the festival of Sukkot. I assess one piece of Regev's evidence for such an association—Lawrence Schiffman's argument that the bizarre number of sacrifices in Jubilees 32, where Levi's ordination occurs alongside Sukkot, is evidence for a *millu'im*, or ordination tradition associated with Sukkot. I argue that while this argument proves unfounded, with readjustment Regev's central proposition still holds.

- **Name:** DANNY MATTHEWS **Room:** 2073
Institution: *Independent Scholar*
Title: "There's a Thither There, Isn't There? Exploring the Spatial World of the Text of Ezekiel"

Regarding the final word in the book of Ezekiel, Stein's famous saying, "There is no there there" is correct. There is no **אָדָּר** there at Ezek 48:35. But there is a thither there, **הָאָדָּר**, is usually translated as "there", which raises the question—there's not a there there but a thither there, isn't there? This paper takes this "thither" there as the starting point for exploring the spatial word enacted within the text of Ezekiel. Then the paper will provide suggested conclusions based on analysis of these textual phenomenology of space.

- **Name:** GREGORY Y. GLAZOV **Room:** 2075
Institution: *Immaculate Conception Seminary* **Virtual**
Title: "Determining the Contextual Meaning of Proverbs 20:16-19 in the Book of Proverbs"

An issue exists as to whether the meaning of proverbial sayings in Prov. 10:1-22:16 can ever be determined from the literary associations that may be responsible for their location in a cluster. R. E. Murphy denied this, asserting that he could not think of a single example of how proverbial clusters change or give proverbial sayings new meanings. I mean to furnish such an example

Glazov continued

by demonstrating, first, the polyvalent nature of the meaning of sayings in the cluster 20:16-19, and, next, by demonstrating how these meanings are narrowed down and specified by their literary associations. The demonstration will rely on exploration of how these verses are represented in the versions, the *qerê* of Prov. xx 16, medieval Jewish, and modern commentaries.

- **Name:** MATTHEW S. MONNIG, S.J. **Room:** 2074
Institution: *Boston College School of Theology & Ministry*
Title: “The Bread of Life Controversy and the Parting of the Ways”

Reading the Bread of Life controversy in John 6:22-7:1 in light of the *Sitz im Leben* of the separation of Christ-believers from the synagogue, I propose that conflict over Eucharistic practices (rather than Martyn’s proposal of the *Birkat Haminin*) prompted the parting of the ways. The language of John 6 reveals that the Johannine community was professing belief in Jesus and enacting that belief in a visible Bread of Life ritual. Praxis is a much more powerful source of conflict than belief alone, and early practice and language around the Bread of Life supplies important context for the parting of the ways.
- **Name** Nelida Naveros-Cordova, C.D.P. **Room:** 2077
Institution: *Spring Hill College* **Virtual**
Title: “Called to a Higher Ethic of ‘Care for Creation’ in Light of Paul”

In this paper, I construct Paul’s thoughts and argue that a greater environmental ethic of responsibility to “care for creation” is consistent with his thoughts. I show how the intrinsic value of creation is founded in God Himself, for the created world is the clear reflection of His presence. The uniqueness of this study is that key Pauline texts in Galatians, Corinthians, and Romans are studied in light of a threefold relationship (creation and God, creation and Christ, and creation and early believers). This paper offers fresh ideas about how human beings are called to understand the role of creation that empowers a sublime ethic of care.

- **Name:** GREGORY TATUM, O.P. **Room:** 2079
Institution: *Western Dominican Province*
Title: “What Does Paul Mean When He Speaks of Gentile Observance of the Torah?”

In 1Cor 7:19 and Rom 2:11-15, Paul explicitly refers to Gentile observance of the Torah, a problem for the antinomian club found among many Pauline scholars. What Law and which ordinances? Which Gentiles? How do they succeed in pleasing God by keeping the commandments?



August 2024

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86th International Meeting of CBA August 3-6, 2024

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