

Conversion Covenant and Hope in the Human Future:

Sunday-Monday, 13-14 February, 2011
At The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

New Frontiers in Jewish and Christian Thought

This conference will explore three critical questions: Is it desirable for gentiles to convert to Judaism? Is there a place for Christianity and Christians in the covenant between God and the Jewish people? On what basis can Jews and Christians hope for a better future between them and for the world? The Conference centers around the original research of ITI scholars on the topics of "Covenant, Mission and Relation to the Other" and "Hope and Responsibility for the Human Future". The public is invited to all conference sessions.

SUNDAY ↘ FEBRUARY 13 ↘ 2011

15:00 • 17:15

Conversion: Between Judaism and Christianity

Greetings:

Prof. Gabriel Motzkin, Director, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Opening remarks

Prof. Robert Jensen, ITI; Princeton University

Rabbi Dr. Eugene Korn, ITI; Beit Morasha of Jerusalem

Chair: **Prof. Robert Jensen**, ITI; Princeton University

Prof. David Novak, University of Toronto

Covenant and Mission

Prof. Gerald R. McDermott, Roanoke College

Jesus, Paul, and Israel's Covenant: Can Christians and Jews Learn from One Another?

Rabbi Dr. Shlomo Riskin, Ohr Torah Stone Institutions

Covenant and Conversion: The United Mission to Redeem the World

Respondent: **Dr. Shlomo Fischer**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev; The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

17:15 • 17:30 → Break

17:30 • 19:30

Public Evening on Conversion

Chair: **Rabbi Prof. Naftali Rothenberg**, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Prof. Benjamin Ish-Shalom, Beit Morasha of Jerusalem

Conversion in Israel: Ethnic and National Considerations

Rabbi Yechezkel Weinfeld, Kolel Lev Avrohom, Center for Advanced Talmudic Studies, Jerusalem

Traditional Halakhah Facing Modern Day Conversion Issues

Respondent: **Dr. Barbara Meyer**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Conversion in Israel and Post-Missionary Christianity

For info: Tel. 972-2-5605222/51, Fax: 972-2-5619293

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Free Admission/ The Number of Seats is Limited

Parking is not available at the VLJI

Conference website:

<http://www.vanleer.org.il/jct/index.html>

MONDAY ↘ FEBRUARY 14 ↘ 2011

10:00 • 12:00

Covenant and Mission in Judaism and Christianity

Chair: **Dr. Yochi Fischer**, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Prof. Robert Jensen, ITI; Princeton University

What Kind of God Can Make a Covenant?

Rabbi Dr. Eugene Korn, ITI; Beit Morasha of Jerusalem

The People Israel, Christianity and the Covenantal Responsibility to History

Rabbi Prof. Naftali Rothenberg, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Three Forms of Otherness: Covenant, Mission and Relation to the Other in Rabbinic Perspective

Respondent: **Dr. Ruben Borg**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Being Historical Now: Modernity between Hermeneutics and Revelation

12:00 • 13:00 → Lunch Break

13:00 • 15:00

Hope for the Future

Chair: **Dr. Anat Lapidot-Firilla**, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Prof. Russell R. Reno, Creighton University

The Antinomian Threat to Human Flourishing

Prof. Douglas Knight, London

Hope and Responsibility: The Assembly with the Promise of God

Prof. Darlene Fozard Weaver, Villanova University

Moral Agency, Sin, and Grace: Prospects for Christian Hope and Responsibility

Respondent: **Dr. Yehudah Mirsky**, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

15:00 • 15:30 → Break

15:30 • 18:00

Messianic Hope

Chair: **Rabbi Dr. Eugene Korn**, ITI; Beit Morasha of Jerusalem

Prof. Alan Mittleman, The Jewish Theological Seminary

Messianic Hope: A Critique

Prof. Christoph Schmidt, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem; The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Hope against Hope - After Messianism

Dr. Deborah Weissman, President, International Council of Christians and Jews

Hope and Responsibility: A Zionist Perspective

Prof. Yoram Bilu, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and

Dr. Zvi Mark, Bar-Ilan University

From Tsaddiq to Messiah: A Comparative Analysis of Chabad and Bratslav Hasidic Groups

Concluding Remarks