



PARSHANUT HAMIKRA

An Afternoon of Tanach Learning

Sunday, March 23

12:45pm

Rabbi Allen Schwartz

A Book for the Ages: How the Tanach has Been Studied Throughout History
Furst 501

1:30pm

Dr. David Berger

Jewish Approaches to the 'Suffering Servant' of Isaiah 53
Furst Beit Midrash

Mrs. Yael Leibowitz

Rabbinic Linkage of Biblical Personalities: Joseph and the Daughters of Zelophehad.
Furst 213

Rabbi Yehuda Sarna

God: A Character Analysis
Furst 214

Rabbi Allen Schwartz

Do We Read Rashi the Way Ibn Ezra and Rashbam Did?
Furst 313

Dr. Shira Weiss

Philosophical Interpretation of the Gan Eden Narrative
Furst 314

Rabbi Jeremy Wieder

Omeq Peshuto shel Miqra: The Relevance of Academic Bible to Talmud Torah
Furst 501

2:30pm

Dr. Shawn Zelig Aster

The Image of Exodus in Isaiah
Furst 213

Dr. Arthur Hyman

Maimonides as Biblical Exegete
Furst 214

Rabbi Menachem Leibtag

Seforno's Thematic Approach to "Peshat"
Furst 313

Dr. Lawrence Schiffman

Halachic Midrash in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Chazal
Furst 501

Rabbi Moshe Simkovitch

Biblical Sources of the Mitzva of Tefilla: Are Any Really About Prayer?
Furst 314

3:30pm

Rabbi Shalom Carmy

"From the Depths" - Between Radak and R. Hutner
Furst 213

Dr. Mordechai Cohen

Ha-peshatot ha-mithadeshim be-khol yom: Exciting New Developments in the Scholarly Study of Parshanut ha-Miqra.
Furst 501

Rabbi Yaacov Jaffe

Ramban's Thematic Analysis of Chumash: "Parshanut" or Forced Reading?
Furst 214

Dr. Mitchell Orlan

Mishpat Micha – Micha Chapter 6 (Hebrew)
Furst 313

Mrs. Malka Simkovitch

The Role of Fertility and Infertility in the Gan Eden Story and in the Patriarchal Narratives in Genesis.
Furst 314

4:30pm

Ms. Miryam Brand

Biblical Interpretation in the Second Temple Period: "Rewritten Bible" & the Concept of Sin
Furst 213

Rabbi Ezra Frazer

How Do Mefarshei HaPeshat Approach Halachic sections of the Torah
Furst 214

Dr. Shalom Holtz

Prayer in Heaven & Prayer on Earth in Tehillim 29
Furst 313

Rabbi Menachem Leibtag

The Underlying Logic Behind "Ein Mukdam u'M'uchar ba'Torah"
Furst 501

Mr. Yehuda Kraut

Deciphering the Shema: A New Approach to Devarim 6:4
Furst 314

Presenter Bios

Dr. Shawn Zelig Aster

Shawn Zelig Aster holds a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible and Assyriology from the University of Pennsylvania. He uses historical information from the Ancient Near East to better understand the simple meaning of Navi. He has taught at Bar-Ilan University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, University of Haifa, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is Assistant Professor of Bible in Yeshiva College.

Dr. David Berger

Rabbi Berger is Professor of Jewish History at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University and Head of the Yeshiva College Jewish Studies Cluster. He is a Fellow and Executive Committee member of the American Academy for Jewish Research and a former President of the Association for Jewish Studies. His academic work encompasses medieval Jewish history, Jewish-Christian relations and polemic, messianism, antisemitism, contemporary Judaism, and the intellectual history of the Jews.

Ms. Miryam Brand

Ms. Brand is a faculty member at Stern College, as well as a PhD candidate in Biblical Studies at NYU, where she was a member of the faculty last year. She holds an MA from the University of Haifa in Biblical Studies, an MBA from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and is a graduate of the Advanced Biblical Studies program at Matan in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Shalom Carmy

Rabbi Carmy teaches Jewish Studies and Philosophy at YU and is Editor of Tradition.

Dr. Mordechai Cohen

Rabbi Cohen (Ph.D., Yeshiva University 1994; Ordination, RIETS 1989) is an Associate Professor of Bible at Yeshiva University, and researches the history of biblical interpretation (parshanut ha-miqra). His published work includes Three Approaches to Biblical Metaphor: From Abraham Ibn Ezra and Maimonides to David Kimhi (Leiden: Brill Academic Press, 2003) and Opening the Gates of Interpretation: Maimonides' Biblical Exegesis in Light of His Geonic-Andalusian Heritage and Muslim Milieu (Leiden: Brill Academic Press, forthcoming).

Rabbi Ezra Frazer

Rabbi Frazer is currently a doctoral candi-

date in Bible and Adjunct Instructor of Bible at Yeshiva University. He holds a BA in Computer Science, rabbinical ordination, and Masters degrees in Secondary Education and Bible, all from Yeshiva University. He has previously taught Humash in the Torah Academy of Bergen County (NJ). He is the junior co-author of Rabbi Chaim Jachter's two-volume Halakhic work, Gray Matter.

Dr. Shalom Holtz

Dr. Holtz is an assistant professor of Bible at Yeshiva University. A native of New York, he received his early education at the Yeshiva of Central Queens and at the Ramaz Upper School. In high school, he was the US representative to the International Bible Contest (Chidon Hatanach). He spent a year and several subsequent summers as a student at Yeshivat Har Etzion. He holds a bachelor's degree (summa cum laude) from Harvard University (1999) and a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania (2006), both in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. His research interests include the relationship between ancient Mesopotamian civilization and Jewish civilization. He has published articles and lectured at academic conferences on this subject.

Dr. Arthur Hyman

Dr. Hyman, Dean of the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies and Distinguished Service Professor of Philosophy at Yeshiva University, is a specialist in Jewish Philosophy. He has held visiting appointments at Columbia University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Bar-Ilan University, and Yale University and he has served as president of the American Academy for Jewish Research and of the Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy. His many publications include: Philosophy in the Middle Ages (co-editor), Eschatological Themes in Medieval Jewish Philosophy and a textual edition and translation of Averroes' De Substantia Orbis. He also serves as editor of Maimonidean Studies, a Yeshiva University publication. He was recognized for his textual studies by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Rabbi Yaakov Jaffe

Rabbi Jaffe is a member of the Yeshiva University Wexner Kollel Elyon and the Director of the Chidon Hatanach, the National Bible Contest. He also serves as the chairman of the committee on Tanach Education in

the United States of the Jewish Agency for Israel. He has previously taught Tanach at the Yeshiva University High School and the Columbia University Beit Midrash.

Mr. Yehuda Kraut

Yehuda Kraut received a BA from Yeshiva College, currently a PhD student in Bible at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Yael Leibowitz

Mrs. Leibowitz has taught in Ramaz High School for the last six years, and is now an adjunct professor in the Judaic Studies Department at Stern college. She also teaches in Central High School for Girls.

Rabbi Menachem Leibtag

Rabbi Menachem Leibtag, founder of the Tanach Study Center (www.tanach.org), is one of pioneers of Torah Education via the internet. His weekly essays on Parshat Ha'shavua, read by literally thousands of subscribers world wide, introduce a vibrant analytical approach to thematic study of the Bible and reflect over twenty-five years of experience as a teacher at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel. Rabbi Leibtag teaches as well at Yeshivat Shalaaavim, MMY, Midreshet Lindenbaum, and Orot College for Women.

Dr. Mitchell Orlan

Dr. Orlan recieved Smicha from Yeshivat Hevron, Jerusalem in 1957, and his PhD from Revel in 1973 with a major in Bible and Rabbinic Literature (Parshanut haMikra). He was the coordinator for the National Bible Contest for 17 years and served as Judge at the International Bible Contest several times. He has been teaching Tanach at YU for more than 40 years, and has taught at Lincoln Square Synagogue for 18 years, as well as at Brooklyn College and Haifa Teacher's College.

Rabbi Yehuda Sarna

Rabbi Sarna currently serves as the rabbi at the Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life at New York University and JLIC Educator. As a major in English Literature at Yeshiva University, Yehuda co-founded Eimatai, a leadership training program for high school students, Mimaamakim: Journal of Jewish Art, and Nachalah: The Yeshiva University Journal for the Study of Bible. Rabbi Sarna also serves as the assistant editor of Dine Israel: An Annual of Jewish Law (Tel Aviv University & Cardozo Law School) and as a

member of the Advisory Committee to the Six Points Fellowship for Emerging Jewish Artists.

Dr. Lawrence H. Schiffman

Dr. Schiffman is Chair of New York University's Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies and serves as Ethel and Irvin A. Edelman Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies. He is a member of the team that published the Dead Scrolls in the series, Discoveries in the Judean Desert. He edited the journal Dead Sea Discoveries and the Oxford Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Rabbi Allen Schwartz

Rabbi Schwartz is the Raymond J Greenwald chair of Jewish studies at Yeshiva University, and the Rabbi of Congregation Ohab Zedek, New York

Mrs. Malka Simkovitch

Mrs. Simkovitch holds a BA from Stern College with a double major in Music and Bible Studies. She earned an MA in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations with a concentration in Hebrew Bible from Harvard University. She currently teaches tanach at Maimonides Upper School for 4 years, and is the Dean of 11th grade.

Rabbi Moshe Simkovitch

Rabbi Simkovitch is the Dean of Judaic Studies at Stern Hebrew High School in Philadelphia, where he was the founding Head of School. He previously taught at Maimonides School and Ma'ayan in Boston; served as Orthodox Adviser at Brandeis University Hillel; and was Rabbi of Congregation Shaarei Tefilla in Newton, Ma.

Dr. Shira Weiss

Dr. Weiss is a teacher of Tanach and Jewish Philosophy at the Frisch School of Paramus, NJ and is also the Director of Admissions and an Israel Guidance Counselor. Dr Weiss has an MA in Jewish Philosophy and a Doctorate in Education. She is currently an Adjunct Professor of Jewish Philosophy at Stern College.

Rabbi Jeremy Weider

Rabbi Jeremy Wieder is the Joseph & Gwendolyn Straus Professor of Talmud in the Mazer Yeshiva Program of Yeshiva University and Adjunct Professor of Bible at Yeshiva College