

LITERARY APPROACHES TO BIBLICAL METAPHOR
IN THE SPANISH EXEGETICAL TRADITION

DESCRIPTION. Analysis of biblical metaphor and related literary issues as a key for defining the principal developments within the Spanish exegetical tradition. Origins in Saadia's endeavor to reconcile Scripture and reason; Moses Ibn Ezra's poetic exegesis; Abraham Ibn Ezra's principles of *peshat*; Maimonides' philological and literary conceptions; Radak's midrashically enriched *peshat* method.

REQUIREMENTS. Lectures are based on readings indicated below, which must be prepared *prior* to class meetings. In addition to final examination, each student must write a research paper on a topic related to the course. Further details to be announced during the semester.

BIBLIOGRAPHY. The assigned readings were selected in part because of the primary sources they discuss and further studies to which they refer. Students are expected to look up the critical primary sources and are encouraged to consult the additional secondary sources in order to enrich their grasp of developments in the field of *parshanut ha-miqra* and biblical scholarship in general.

SYLLABUS

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO *PARSHANUT* SCHOLARSHIP

Greenberg 1983:16-91 (chapters on Saadia through Radak)

UNIT 2: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE EXEGETICAL TRADITION

Sæbø 2000:282-346; 388-415 (on Moses Ibn Ezra, Maimonides, Rashi and the Qimhi family)

UNIT 3: MOSES IBN EZRA V. MAIMONIDES ON METAPHOR: POETICS AND LOGIC

Hyman 1991; Berlin 1991:67-82; Cohen 1999

UNIT 4: MODERN APPROACHES TO BIBLICAL METAPHOR AND IMAGERY

Alonso Schöckel 1988:95-141; Weiss 1984:1-46, 130-135

Optional: Watson 1986:251-272

UNIT 5: ABRAHAM IBN EZRA'S CONCEPT OF *PESHAT* IN CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Mondschein 1992:137-142; idem 2000; Cohen 2003:1-16

UNIT 6: IBN EZRA'S *MASHAL* EXEGESIS AND ITS ANDALUSIAN BACKGROUND

Cohen 2003, chapter 1; Perez 1986

Optional: Polliack 1997:65-90; Steiner 1998:213-222; Ben-Shammai 1991:380-384 (esp. n. 46)

UNIT 7: MAIMONIDES' PHILOLOGICAL AND LITERARY EXEGETICAL CONCEPTIONS

Cohen 2003, chapter 2; Klein-Braslavy 1988

UNIT 8: RADAK'S CLASSIFICATION; CULTURAL CROSSROADS

Cohen 2003, chapter 3; Kamin 1991:12*-26*

Optional: Steiner 1996:43-47

UNIT 9: LITERARY IMPLICATIONS OF MAIMONIDES' PHILOSOPHICAL EXEGESIS

Cohen 2003, chapter 4; Twersky 1993

Optional: Rosenberg 1981

UNIT 10: ABRAHAM IBN EZRA'S *PESHAT* MINIMALISM

Cohen 2003, chapter 5; Melammed 1978:538-539 (on סמיכות פרשיות)

UNIT 11: RADAK'S CONCEPT OF *PESHAT*

Cohen 1994; Cohen 2003, chapter 6.1; Talmage 1975:1-42

UNIT 12: RADAK'S INTERACTION METHOD

Cohen 2003, chapter 6.2-6.3

UNIT 13: THE ENRICHED *PESHAT* MODEL

Cohen 2003, chapter 7; Steiner 1992

UNIT 14: FURTHER DIRECTIONS IN THE STUDY OF *PESHAT* EXEGESIS

Ahrend 1994; Berlin 1997; Rosenberg 1969

READING LIST

Ahrend, Moshe. 1994. "The Concept *Peshuto Shellamiqra*' in the Making" [Hebrew]. In *The Bible In Light of Its Interpreters: Sarah Kamin Memorial Volume* [Hebrew], ed. S. Japhet. Jerusalem: Magnes Press. Pp. 237-259.

Alonso Schöckel, Luis. 1988. *A Manual of Hebrew Poetics*. Rome: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico.

Berlin, Adele. 1991. *Biblical Poetry Through Medieval Jewish Eyes*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

-----, 1997. "On The Use of Traditional Jewish Exegesis in the Modern Literary Study of the Bible." In *Tehillah le-Mosheh: Biblical and Judaic Studies in Honor of Moshe Greenberg*, ed. M. Cogan, B. Eichler, J. Tigay. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns. Pp. 173-183.

Ben-Shammai, Haggai. 1991. "Rabbi Sa' adiah Gaon's Preface to Isaiah, an Introduction to the Later Prophets" [Hebrew]. *Tarbiz* 60:371-404.

Cohen, Mordechai Z. 1994. "Midrashic Influences on Radak's *Peshat* Exegesis" [Hebrew]. In *Proceedings of the Eleventh World Congress of Jewish Studies*. Jerusalem: Magnes Press. I:143-150.

-----, 1995/6. "'The Best of Poetry': Literary Approaches to the Bible in the Spanish *Peshat* Tradition." *The Torah U-Madda Journal* 6:15-57.

-----, 2000. "Moses Ibn Ezra vs. Maimonides: Argument for a Poetic Definition of Metaphor (*Isti 'āra*)." *Edebiyât: Journal of Middle Eastern and Comparative Literature* 11:1-28.

-----, 2003. *Three Approaches to Biblical Metaphor: From Abraham Ibn Ezra and Maimonides to David Kimhi*. Leiden: Brill.

Greenberg, Moshe, ed. 1983. *Jewish Bible Exegesis: An Introduction* [Hebrew]. Jerusalem: Magnes Press.

Hyman, Arthur. 1991. "Maimonides on Religious Language." In *Perspectives on Maimonides*, ed. Joel L. Kraemer. New York: Oxford University Press. Pp. 175-191.

Kamin, Sara. 1991. *Jews and Christians Interpret the Bible*. Jerusalem: Magnes Press.

- Klein-Braslavy, Sara. 1988. "Maimonides' Commentary on Jacob's Dream of the Ladder" [Hebrew]. *Bar-Ilan Annual* 22-23:329-349.
- Melammed, Ezra Zion. 1978. *Bible Commentators* [Hebrew]. Jerusalem: Magnes Press.
- Mondschein, Aharon. 1992. "On the Attitude of R. Abraham Ibn Ezra to the Exegetical Use of the Hermeneutic Norm *Gematri'a*" [Hebrew]. In *Te'uda 8: Studies in the Works of Abraham Ibn Ezra* [Hebrew], ed. I Levin. Tel-Aviv: Tel-Aviv University Press. Pp. 137-161.
- , 2000. "'Only One in A Thousand of his Comments May Be Called *Peshat*': Toward Ibn Ezra's View of Rashi's Commentary to the Torah" [Hebrew]. In *Studies in Bible and Exegesis V: Presented to Uriel Simon* [Hebrew], ed. M. Garsiel et al. Ramat Gan: Bar-Ilan University Press. Pp. 221-248.
- Perez, Ma'aravi. 1986. חילוף מילה בזולתה כמידה פרשנית אצל חכמי ימי הביניים. In *Studies in Bible Exegesis* (עיוני מקרא ופרשנות), ed. U. Simon, II:207-228. Ramat-Gan: Bar-Ilan University Press.
- Polliack, Meira. 1997. *The Karaite Tradition of Arabic Bible Translation*. Leiden: Brill.
- Rosenberg, Shalom. 1981. על פרשנות המקרא בספר המורה. *Jerusalem Studies in Jewish Thought* 1: 157-185.
- Rosenberg, Shalom. 1969. בין פשט לדרש. *De'ot* 37:91-98.
- Sæbø, Magne, ed. 2000. *Hebrew Bible / Old Testament: The History of Its Interpretation*, vol. I, part 2: The Middle Ages. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.
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- , 1996. בחינות לשון בפירוש ליחזקאל ולתרי-עשר במגילות העבריות מביזנטיון. *Leshonenu* 59:39-56.
- , 1998. "Saadia Vs. Rashi: On the Shift from Meaning-Maximalism to Meaning-Minimalism in Medieval Biblical Lexicology." *JQR* 88:213-258.
- Talmage, Frank. 1975. *David Kimhi: The Man and the Commentaries*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

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Watson, Wilfred, G.E. 1986. *Classical Hebrew Poetry: A Guide to Its Techniques*. Sheffield: JSOT Press.

Weiss, Meir. 1984. *The Bible From Within: The Method of Total Interpretation*. Jerusalem: Magnes Press.