Modern biblical scholarship has done an exemplary job of unearthing the meaning and significance of the Bible in its historical context, and careful philological study has illuminated much about the world of the Bible and its place in the literature of the ancient Near East. However, the methodology employed by modern biblicists is fundamentally opposed to that preferred by faith communities, which turn to the Bible for its capacity to guide, inspire, and instruct.

Today there is a new appreciation of the riches that diverse religious traditions contribute to modern thought and of the importance of religion in global politics. In this new intellectual and political climate, political and legal theorists are increasingly turning to the Hebrew Bible as a valuable resource. Their readings have spotlighted the Bible as an asset for contemporary civilization generally, and not only for contemporary faith communities. Yet, the reasons for the emergence of the Bible in contemporary intellectual discourse and the various purposes to which it has been put have never been adequately studied. We invite you to participate in a stimulating forum that will address these developments.

The Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization (CJL) at Cardozo brings together scholars of varied legal traditions and fields, creating a cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary dialogue that contributes a distinctively Jewish legal perspective on contemporary civilization. CJL sponsors a wide range of academic activities including an innovative curriculum in Jewish law and legal theory, workshops, reading groups, colloquia, and conferences, as well as programs designed to support students and emerging scholars.
SUNDAY, MARCH 16

1:30 pm Welcoming Remarks

1:45 pm PANEL ONE
The Book of Genesis and Contemporary Intellectual Discourse

Tsvi Blanchard (CLAL)
George Fletcher (Columbia Law School)
David Luban (Georgetown Law School)
Adam Z. Newton (Yeshiva University)
Joseph Weiler (New York University Law School)
Commentator: Paul Kahn (Yale Law School)

5 pm PANEL TWO
The Bible as a Problem for Contemporary Intellectual Discourse
(public reception following)

Leora Batnitzky (Princeton University)
Perry Dane (Rutgers University Law School)
David Gelernter (Yale University)
Yoram Hazony (Shalem Center)
Shmuel Trigano (University of Paris X-Nanterre)
Commentator: Stanley Fish (Florida International University College of Law)

MONDAY, MARCH 17

9 am PANEL THREE
The Bible and Political Authority

Arthur Jacobson (Cardozo Law School)
Fania Oz-Salzberger (Haifa University Law School)
Allan Silver (Columbia University)
Suzanne Last Stone (Cardozo Law School)

12:45 pm PANEL FOUR
War, Violence, Personal Autonomy and the Bible

Shalom Carmy (Yeshiva University)
Alon Harel (Hebrew University Law School)
Yair Lorberbaum (Bar-Ilan Law School)
Samuel Moyn (Columbia University)
Michael Walzer (Institute for Advanced Study)

MONDAY, MARCH 17 continued

3:30 pm PANEL FIVE
Comparative Reflections

Anver Emon (University of Toronto Law School)
Ronald Garet (University of Southern California Law School)
Gideon Libson (Hebrew University Law School)
Michael Perry (Emory Law School)

Registration and Information

Attendance at the conference is free and open to the public, with advance registration.

To register, visit www.cardozo.yu.edu/cjl/online_registration.aspx or call 212-790-0258.

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