

Gary A. Rendsburg

Upcoming Programs in September

(1) "In Search of (Most) Ancient Israel"

Washington Metro Oasis – Lifelong Adventure (via Zoom)

(2) "Ancient Israel and Its Neighbors: A Biblical Connection"

Smithsonian Associates (via Zoom)

Friday, September 13, 2024

Dear Friends,

Next week, Gary will present a single lecture on Wednesday, September 18, and then an all-day program on Saturday, September 21.

We hope to see you at both these events.

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(1) “In Search of (Most) Ancient Israel”

Washington Metro Oasis – Lifelong Adventure

Bethesda, Maryland

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (EDT)

via Zoom

Registration here:

<https://washington-metro.oasiseverywhere.org/product/in-search-of-most-ancient-israel/>

Description:

This illustrated lecture presents the literary and archaeological evidence from both Egypt and Israel relevant to earliest Israel. Biblical accounts concerning the slavery, the exodus, and the settlement in Canaan are treated against the backdrop of ancient Near Eastern evidence, with an attempt to dovetail Israel's own narrative with the data emerging from two centuries of archaeological exploration in the Near East. While not every element recorded in the biblical accounts may be substantiated, the overall picture demonstrates a remarkable degree of coherence between the biblical narrative and the archaeological evidence.



(opening image of the PowerPoint presentation)

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(2) “Ancient Israel and Its Neighbors: A Biblical Connection”

Smithsonian Associates, Washington, D.C.

Saturday, September 21, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (EDT) (all-day program)

via Zoom

Registration here:

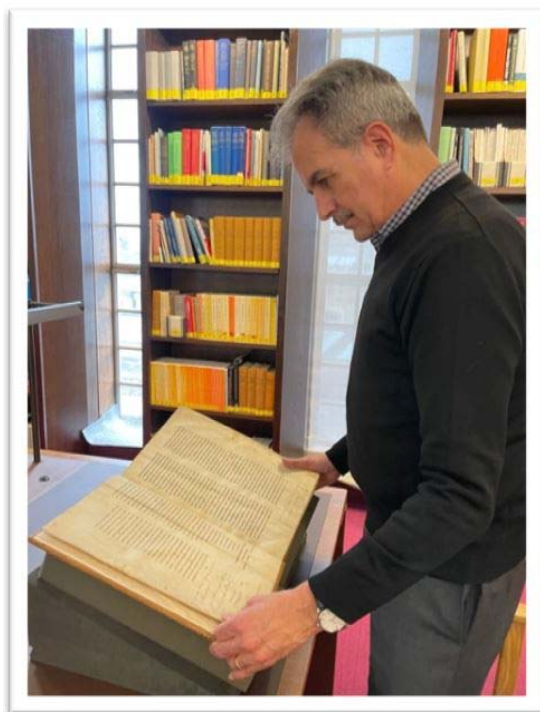
<https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/programs/ancient-israel-and-its-neighbors>

Description:

Two centuries of archaeological excavation and exploration have revealed that ancient Israel's neighbors – Egypt, Canaan, Aram, Assyria, and Babylonia – all contributed significantly to its history, from its origins through the Babylonian exile and beyond. Biblical narratives reflect connections to these ancient cultures. In an illustrated all-day program, biblical scholar Gary Rendsburg explores how the people who left us the Bible were informed by other civilizations and how these influences are reflected in its books.



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GARY'S CORNER



We have returned from our summer sojourn in Oxford, where I spent many hours inspecting medieval Hebrew manuscripts at the Bodleian Library (the above photo is from February 2022, but it gives you a sense of the work).

Given our mutual interests in English history (medieval and early modern), Melissa and I also visited numerous sites of historical interest,

including Sudeley Castle (Gloucestershire), the final resting place of Catherine Parr, Henry VIII's sixth wife.

The connection to biblical studies is that Catherine Parr was very well educated, to the extent that she published an English translation of the Psalms, entitled *Psalms or Prayers* (1544). There is no evidence that she knew Hebrew, so that she used the Latin Vulgate Bible when translating the Psalms. But her interest in this particular book aligns with the Protestant Reformation and its return to Old Testament roots.

Moreover, Catherine Parr was instrumental in arranging for the first-class education of her stepdaughter, the Princess Elizabeth, later Queen Elizabeth I (r. 1558–1603), who did, in fact, according to one contemporary testimony, know Hebrew.



Tomb of Catherine Parr (1512–1548), at St. Mary's Church,
Sudeley Castle (Gloucestershire). Image © 2024 M & G

If you would like to learn more about our discoveries during the summer months, we invite you to peruse my Facebook page (reaching back to late June), which is devoted solely to academic and intellectual pursuits:

<https://www.facebook.com/grendsburg>.



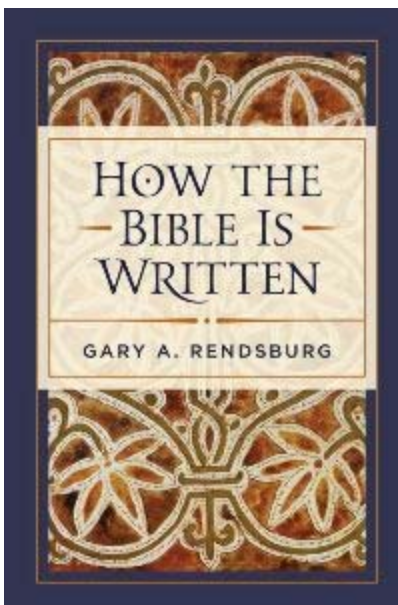
[Katherine Parr: Scholar, Stepmother, Survivor | Hampton Court Palace |
Historic Royal Palaces \(hrp.org.uk\)](#)

Image: Katherine Parr, by an unknown artist, late 16th century.

© National Portrait Gallery, London

[Click here to contact Gary A. Rendsburg](#)

[Click here to contact Melissa A. Rendsburg, Managing Director](#)



How the Bible Is Written

(April 2019)

(Hendrickson)

Gary A. Rendsburg Lecture Series

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<https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/people/core-faculty/gary-a-rendsburg>

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