Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures

11/21/2016

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Room: Texas E (4th Level) - Grand Hyatt (GH)

Theme: Theological Interpretation of Selected Texts

Marvin Sweeney, Claremont School of Theology, Presiding

Mark K. George, Iliff School of Theology

Deuteronomy and Suzerainty: Is YHWH a Suzerain or a Sovereign, a Foreign King or a Native King? (30 min)

Benjamin Johnson, Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford

Characterizing Chiastic Contradiction: Divine Repentance, Literary Structure and Dialogical Truth in 1 Samuel 15:10-35 (30 min)

Jonathan Parker, Berry College

The Prophesying of Saul: A Re-examination of 1 Samuel 18:10 (30 min)

Ginny Brewer-Boydston, Baylor University

The Queen Mother and Theodicy in 1 and 2 Kings (30 min)

J. Richard Middleton, Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan College

God’s Loyal Opposition: Psalmic and Prophetic Protest as a Paradigm for Faithfulness in the Hebrew Bible (30 min)

In contrast to the posture of unquestioning submission to God that informs spirituality in many faith traditions, the Hebrew Bible assumes a stance of vigorous protest towards God as normative. This paper investigates the theology underlying the stance of the petitioner in lament/complaint prayers in the Psalter and the prophetic model of intercession on behalf of the people (with Moses as prime exemplar). The paper briefly addresses the anomalous case of the Aqedah and the possibility that the book of Job constitutes an inner-biblical response to Abraham’s silence, signaled by the use of the term “God-fearer” to characterize both figures, and by the phrase “dust and ashes” found on the lips of both Abraham and Job. The paper is part of a larger project that explores the contrast between the Aqedah and Job, in light of the background of expostulation with the divine as a mode of faithfulness.