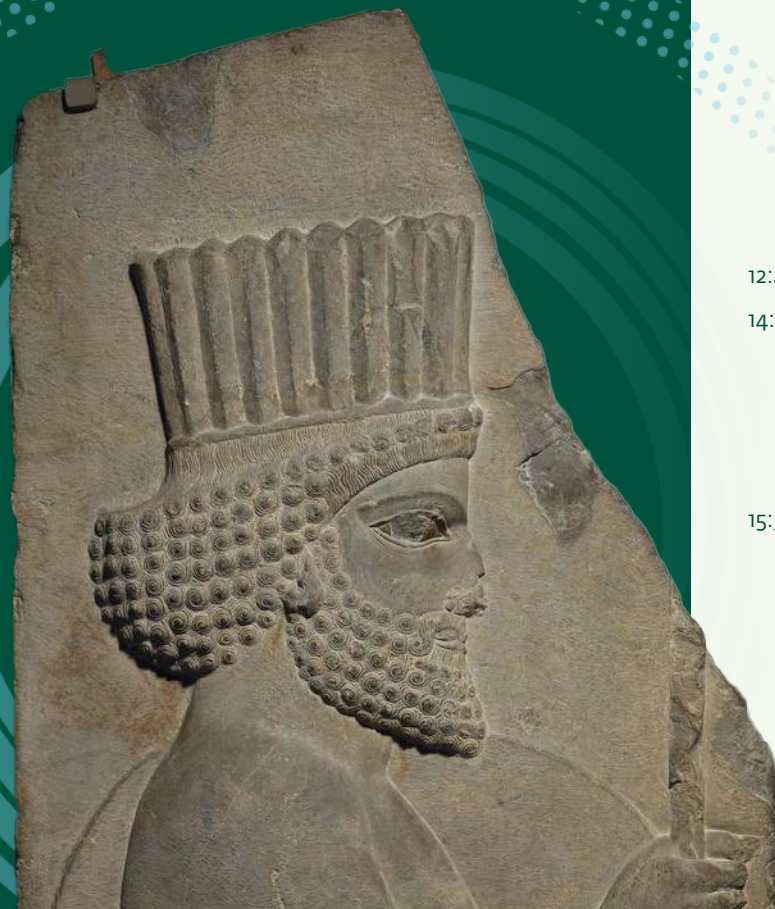


Temple Life in the Persian Empire

International Conference

Monday, Jan 26 - Thursday, Jan 29

Bar-Ilan University, Building 410, room 312



The Multidisciplinary
Department of Jewish Studies
Faculty of Jewish Studies
Bar-Ilan University



Office of the VP
International Affairs
& the Third Mission
Bar-Ilan University



ISRAEL
SCIENCE
FOUNDATION



Monday | 26th January, 2026

9:30

Coffee

10:00-10:30

Greetings

Rivka Tuval-Mashiach, Vice President for
International Affairs and the Third Mission

Michael Avioz, Dean, Faculty of Jewish Studies

Arnon Atzmon, Head of the Multidisciplinary
Department of Jewish Studies

10:30-12:40

Temple Life in the Prophecies of Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi

CHAIR: Dalit Rom-Shiloni

**Collaborators or Competitors? Differences
and Similarities Regarding Temple Worship in
Haggai and Zechariah 1-8**

Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer

**Recovering the Past in a New Imperial Present:
Temple Life in Malachi**

Jeffrey Stackert

**A Tale of Two Houses: From Haggai's 'This
House' to Ezra's 'First House'**

Hillel Mali

12:45-14:00

Lunch Break

14:00-15:15

Jerusalem: A Temple City in Archaeology and Text

**Persian Period Jerusalem in Light of Recent
Excavations at Giv'ati Parking Lot**

Yuval Gadot and Yiftah Shalev

The Role of Ordinary Priests in Nehemiah's Reform

Eyal Regev

15:30-17:45

Temple and Ideology

**Changes in Attitudes to the Jerusalem Temple
in Isaiah 40-66**

Shawn-Zelig Aster

Aramaic influence in Isaiah 40-48

Robert Holmstedt

**Did the Jerusalem Temple Follow a 364-day
Calendar in the Persian Period?**

Jonathan Ben-Dov

What Did the Chronicler Do to Solomon's Temple?

Yigal Levin

Tuesday | 27th January, 2026

9:30-11:15

Temple Economies and Empire

CHAIR: Esther Eshel

**The Achaemenid Economic Revolution, The
Restoration of Temples, and the Return to Zion**

Avraham Faust

**The Influence of Persian Tax Collecting Methods
on the Second Temple's Economy**

Ariel Kopilovitz

**Imperial Support and Its Limits: Temple
Rebuilding in Ezra-Nehemiah in the Cuneiform
Context of the Long Sixth Century BCE**

Tova Ganzel and Shalom Holtz

11:30-13:45

Beyond Jerusalem

**Beyond Jerusalem: The Rebuilding of the
Temple of Aššur and the Assyrian Diaspora
under Persian Rule**

Jan Safford

**'There's Work Enough to Do': Enabling and
Sustaining a Temple in Southern Abar-Nahara**

Jason Silverman

**Restoration Hopes in Persian-Period Temple
Communities**

Yuval Darabi

**Tradition in Transition: Babylonian Temples
Under Babylonian and Persian Rule**

Yuval Levavi

**The Persian Presence in Native and Colonial
Temples in Egypt according to the Inscriptional
Evidence**

James Moore

13:45-14:45

Lunch Break

14:45-16:30

Temples: Real and Imagined

**How to Build a Temple in the Persian
Achaemenid Empire**

Peter Zilberg

**Acrostic Poems as Time Capsules: The Book of
Lamentations' Memories of Solomon's Temple**

Gard Granerød

The Temple in Deutero-Zechariah (Zech 14:20-21)

Noam Mizrahi

Wednesday | 28th January, 2026

9:30–11:15

Lived Realities

CHAIR: Shawna Dolansky

About the Garrison at Elephantine

Danel Kahn

Temple Finances in the Persian Period

Karel van der Toorn

'Bring the Whole Tithe into the Storehouse' (Malachi 3:10): The Institutional and Ideological Struggle over Temple Tithes and Its Reflection in Late Persian-Period Biblical Literature

Oded Lipschits

11:30–13:15

Achaemenid Babylonia and Jerusalem

"I Entered Babylon in Peace...": Cyrus, the Temples of Babylonia, and the Sacred Cities across the Tigris

Caroline Waerzeggers

Reconstructing Temple Life in Achaemenid Babylonia: Beyond the Archives

Céline Debourse

Mixed Marriages and Priestly Privileges: On the Treatment of the Problem of Foreign Wives by Ezra and Nehemiah

Yigal Bloch

13:15–14:15

Lunch Break

14:15–16:00

Babylonia, Jerusalem, Egypt

Peripheral Temples in Southern Babylonia

Kathleen Abraham

Communities of Practice and Religious Identities in the Persian Period Southern Levant

Aren Maeir

The Library of the Temple of Khnum and the Judahites on Elephantine

Bernd Schipper

Thursday | 29th January, 2026

STUDY-TOUR DAY

Field Study Tour: Persian-Period Jerusalem and Ramat Rahel

A guided tour of two major excavation sites with a focus on Persian-period remains:

- 8:15 Depart from Kfar Maccabiah Hotel
- 9:30 Meeting at the Mount Zion parking lot
- 9:45–11:00 Visit to the Giv'ati Parking Lot excavations at the City of David
(Guides: Yiftah Shalev and Yuval Gadot)
- 12:00–13:30 Visit to Ramat Rahel: the palace, royal garden, and other stations
(Guides: Oded Lipschits and Yuval Gadot)
- 15:00 Return to hotel

Organizing Committee:

- Prof. Tova Ganzel (Bar-Ilan University)
- Prof. Shalom Holtz (Yeshiva University)
- Prof. Kathleen Abraham (KU Leuven)
- Prof. Shawn-Zelig Aster (Bar-Ilan University)
- Prof. Yigal Levin (Bar-Ilan University)

