

29th September – 1st October 2025

Fellowship for Biblical Studies 2025 Conference: Registration



Registration is now open for the Fellowship for Biblical Studies Conference to be held in Melbourne from 29th September–1st October 2025

Registration Costs

FBS Members: \$200
Non-members: \$250
Conference Dinner: \$60
Excursion: \$50 (including packed lunch)

Register by clicking the link below:
<https://www.trybooking.com/DEVFI>

Conference Location: Pilgrim Theological College, 29 College Crescent, Parkville, Melbourne 3052

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Fellowship for Biblical Studies 2025 Conference Programme



Monday 29th September

9.30–11am: Arrivals and Welcome

11.30–1.00 p.m.: Opening and Plenary Panel: Why Biblical Studies?

1.00–2.00 p.m.: Lunch

2.00–5.30 pm.: Seminars

6.00–7.00 pm.: Dinner

7.00–8.30 pm: Plenary Paper - Dr Emily Colgan, 'And the Earth was Filled with Violence: Noah's Ark and Multispecies Justice'

Tuesday 30th September

9.30–11.00 am: Plenary Paper - Dr Robert Myles, 'Jesus and Ideologies of Imperial Settlement'

11.30–1.00 am: Seminars

1.00–2.00 pm: Lunch

2.00–5.30 pm: Seminars

6.00–8.00 pm.: Conference Dinner at Naughton's Hotel, Royal Parade, Melbourne

Wednesday 1st October

9.30– 11.00 am: Seminars

11.00 am–2.30 pm: Conference Excursion: Melbourne Holocaust Museum

2.30 pm onwards: Departure

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Fellowship for Biblical Studies 2025 Conference: Plenary and Panel Information

Opening Plenary Panel: Why Biblical Studies?

The Conference will open with a panel discussion exploring the ongoing significance of Biblical Studies as a scholarly discipline in higher education and in relation to faith communities and wider questions of identity and meaning in and beyond Australia.

Plenary Paper: Emily Colgan, Trinity Theological College, Aotearoa New Zealand And the Earth was Filled with Violence: Noah's Ark and Multispecies Justice

This paper offers a critical re-reading of the Noah's Ark narrative through the lens of multi-species justice, interrogating the anthropocentric assumptions embedded within traditional histories of interpretation. Although the Noah's Ark narrative appears to present a planetary vision by including animals, birds, and reptiles in the divine rescue plan, it ultimately reinforces a human-centred imperial cosmology. While the Ark excludes "unrighteous" human beings, it admits "impure" animals. However, this inclusion does not signify the recognition of their agency or rights; rather, it reflects a paternalistic benevolence in which animals are preserved for their utility to humans. The Ark's boarding policy invites critical ecological inquiry: which species were included, and by what criteria?

Working with the text, I argue that the Noah narrative, as traditionally interpreted, cannot serve as a viable symbol of hope and restoration in the context of climate crisis and ecological injustice. Its vision is violent and imperial in nature, privileging the survival and flourishing of the "righteous" human subject while disregarding the intrinsic value of colonized people and other-than-human life. My analysis seeks to decolonize biblical interpretations of Noah's Ark and reimagine the story as an eco-justice resource for advancing a relational, planetary, and multi-species ideas of justice.

Plenary Paper: Robert Myles, Wollaston Theological College, Perth Jesus and Ideologies of Imperial Settlement

This paper interrogates the subtle ideologies of imperial settlement embedded in historical Jesus research over the past fifty years. It demonstrates how academic discourse on Jesus typically presumes the legitimacy of imperial settlement and, whether consciously or not, perpetuates frameworks that sustain modern settler colonial regimes. From discussions of the effects of Romanisation in Antipas's Galilee, to Jesus' attitude toward sedition and violence, by tracing this underlying thread in Jesus research, the paper explores how biblical studies structurally participates in the reproduction of social power. In doing so, it also calls for a radical reimagining of our critical commitments.

PhD Showcase: Lightning Talks on Current Research

Hear from current PhD students working at the cutting edge of biblical research.

Plus...35 Seminar papers on a variety of Hebrew Bible and New Testament topics. Full programme to follow.

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