



Committee set up for Inter-Faith Jerusalem Perspective 2006

Understanding 1959

“A Committee for Inter-faith understanding in Israel and in the World” was founded at a meeting held recently at the home of Prof. B. Mazar, President of the Hebrew University, in Jerusalem. The hundred founding members of the Committee are a distinguished cross-section of Israel’s religious communities and of its political, professional and cultural life.

The Committee’s main objects are: “To foster a spirit of brother-hood and tolerance, without impairment to the integrity and identity of each religious group; to encourage mutual trust, and to pave the way towards a communion of the hearts.”

The Israel Committee also plans to maintain contacts with similar organizations abroad, to exchange publications and information, and to consult with them on issues connected with subjects within the Committee’s sphere of interests.

Hillel the Elder’s famous saying, “What is hateful unto thee, do not do unto thy fellow,” has been chosen as the committee’s motto.

Land of the Bible Newsletter, vol. 1, no. 3,
published by the Israel Office of Information

Conference

June 19-21 the Jerusalem Perspective and Jerusalem school of synoptic research arranged a conference in memory of David Flusser, Robert Lindsay and Shmuel Safrai.

Close to one hundred people gathered in June at the Ramat Rahel Hotel and Conference Center in the southern part of Jerusalem. For the last tre decades this organization has succeeded at putting a more “Jerusalem Perspective” on the study of Jesus and the Gospels.

Jewish and Christian scholars come together regularly to share their insights into the life and teachings of Yeshua. From time to time they arrange open conferences for everyone interested in the Jewish roots of Christianity.

Few people have raised the interest of Jesus among Israeli academics more than the late David Flusser of Hebrew University. He made Jesus “one of us” (for Jews) and less threatening to study for many Jews. With his learned Jewish background Dr. Flusser saw aspects of Jesus’ teachings and life as recorded in the Gospels that Christian scholars have missed for decades and centuries, and so he greatly influenced many European and American New Testament scholars during the 70s, 80s and 90s.



Dr. James Charlesworth gave a presentation at the conference of Dr. Flusser's life and contributions. The other presenters with their respective topics were: David Prior, "Is Yeshuah superior to the Law? Reappraising the antithesis in Matthew 5," Gabriel Barkay, "Was Jesus buried in the Garden tomb? First century Jewish burial in Jerusalem," Serge Ruzer, "Renewed covenant and Jeremiah's new covenant in 2nd temple Judaism and Jesus' movement," Brad H. Young, "Jesus among the rabbis: Spiritual life, faith experience and leadership," David Bivin, "The value of translating the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke to Hebrew," David Pileggi, "Jesus the sin-fearer," and Halvor Ronning, "Synoptic problem."

The conference gave me many new insights on the Jewish roots of Jesus and the New Testament, it inspired me again to improve my Hebrew (modern and biblical) as a crucial tool for a Gospel-scholar, and it was nice to talk and get acquainted with several of the members of the Jerusalem Perspective.

For those who regularly attend SBL (Society of Biblical Literature) conferences, look out for papers read by members of the "Jerusalem School of Synoptic Research". They are usually very worth-

while. Their website www.jerusalemerspective.org contains many interesting articles and resources put out by its members.

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