



RUTGERS



Gary A. Rendsburg

Upcoming Lectures

May & June 2026

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Dear Friends,

The academic year 2025–2026 has ended, with Rutgers University commencement ceremonies taking place today, Sunday, May 17.

However, adult education programs continue! Kindly see below for three upcoming programs in May & June 2026.



Upcoming Lectures



(1) “Jewish Life in the Middle Ages”

4-part all-day program, Smithsonian Associates – Washington, D.C.,
via Zoom

Saturday, May 30, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (EDT)

via Zoom

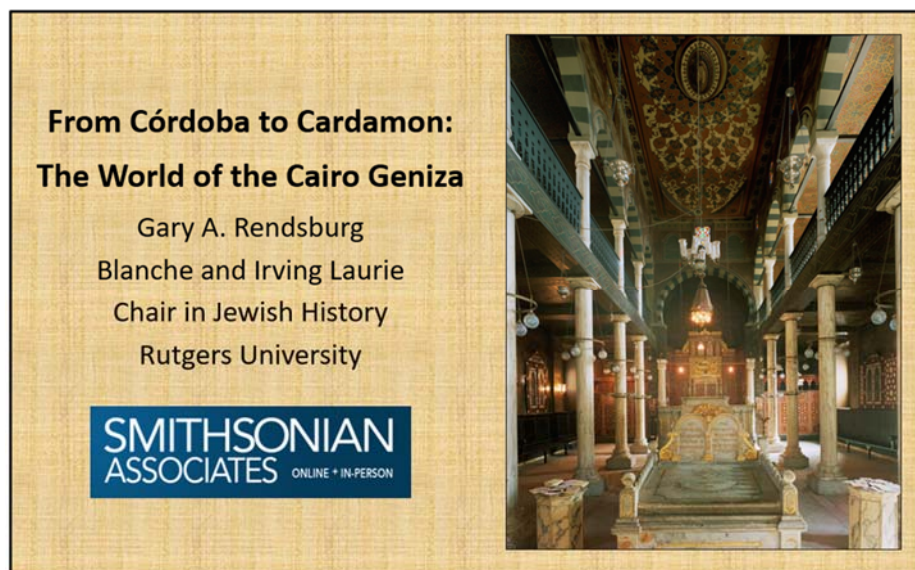
Registration here:

<https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/programs/jewish-life-in-middle-ages>

Description:

Throughout the Middle Ages, Jews lived in various diaspora communities, in foreign lands under both Muslim and Christian rule. Biblical scholar and historian Gary A. Rendsburg explores such communities in Egypt, Italy, England, and Spain – all well documented with historical evidence, including financial records, tomb inscriptions, biblical manuscripts, and more.

At times, Jews flourished in these foreign lands, though at other times anti-Jewish fervor resulted in massacres, expulsions, and ghettoization. Rendsburg surveys both the highs and the lows in his examination of Jewish life in the medieval era.



Opening image of the first PowerPoint presentation, on the Cairo Geniza.

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(2) “In Search of David and Solomon”

Kol Rina, South Orange, New Jersey, via Zoom

Sunday, June 14, 2026

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon (EDT)

via Zoom

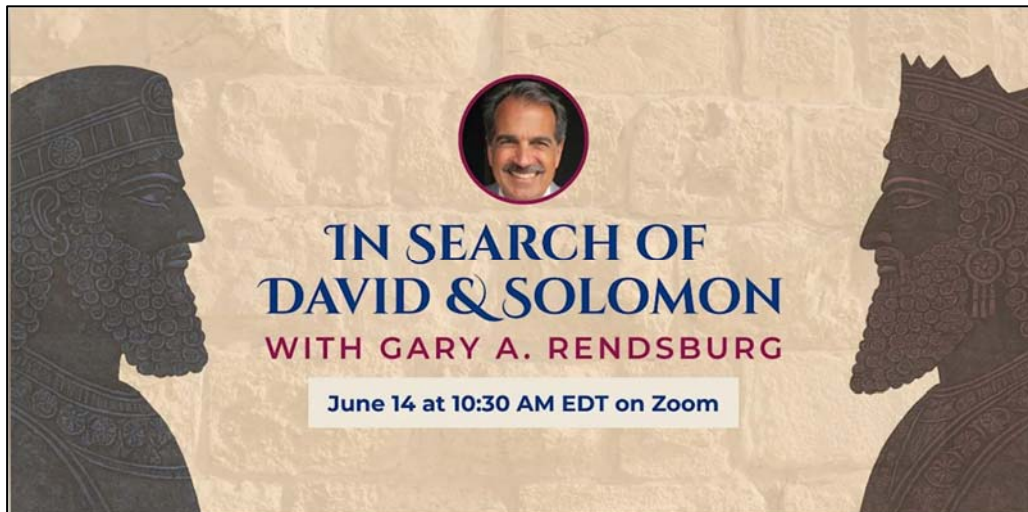
Registration (free) here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/in-search-of-david-and-solomon-tickets-1989263122549>

Description:

The two great kings of ancient Israel are well known to readers of the Bible, but are they to be found in the archaeological record? Neither name appears in any contemporary document from the 10th century B.C.E., so how can one determine whether or not the descriptions of their reigns in the Bible have any historical value? This illustrated

lecture will survey the archaeological evidence from Jerusalem and elsewhere in an attempt to answer these questions.



Kol Rina publicity image at Eventbrite.

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3) “Who Really Wrote the Hebrew Bible?”

Biblical Archaeology Society Symposium, Rockville, Maryland, hybrid program, both in-person and via Zoom.

Featured speakers include myself, along with my colleagues William Schniedewind (UCLA) and Jeffrey Stackert (University of Chicago).

Glenn Corbett will serve as host and moderator.

Saturday, June 27, 2026

1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (EDT)

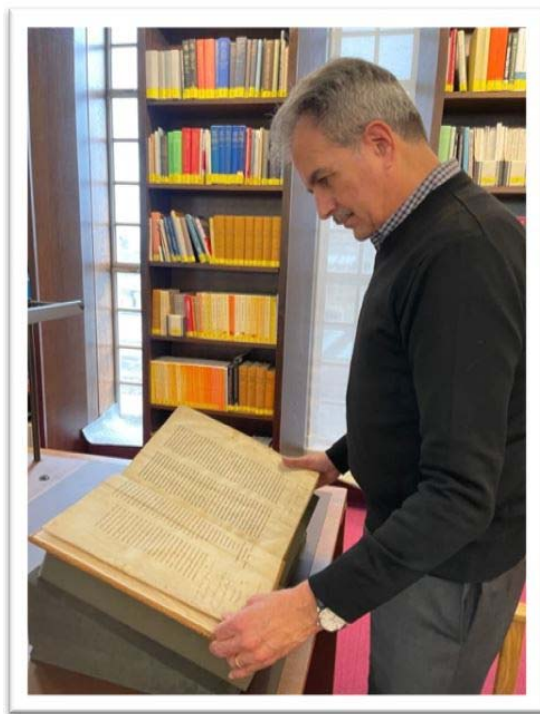
**The event will be held in person at the Sheraton Rockville Hotel
in Rockville, Maryland,
and via Zoom.**

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/travel-study/bas-symposium/>
Gary Rendsburg - Biblical Archaeology Society

	Who Really Wrote the Hebrew Bible? From Genesis to the Prophets, the historical origins and development of the text of the Hebrew Bible tells us so much about the world's most important book. Join us to hear top Bible scholars present what we know about how and when the Bible was written. Hear their discussion on the historical contexts that influenced both the composition and compilation of these writings into the form we know them today. Symposium attendees will also have an opportunity to engage with the scholars about the most controversial topics in biblical studies.
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Event promotion as featured on the BAS website.

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GARY'S CORNER



In addition to the three online programs detailed above, I also take the opportunity to mention my upcoming week-long visit to Desert Palms Presbyterian Church, Sun City West, AZ (in the greater Phoenix metro area), June 1–4 (Monday through Thursday).

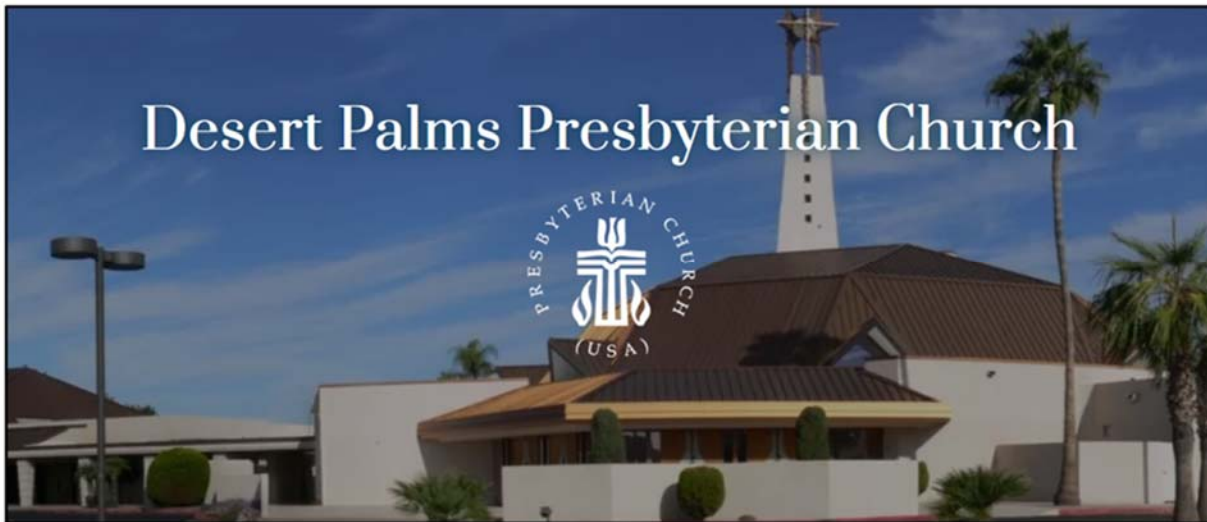
On four consecutive evenings, I will present a series entitled “How the Bible Reached Us” to the Adult Bible School at the church – with attention to the Bible in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and English.

Description:

We walk into church or synagogue, and take it for granted that the Bible is in our hands, with abundant copies in the pews and in the bookcases: but how did the Bible reach us? This wide-ranging series explores the history of the Bible, transmitted by devoted scribes throughout antiquity and the Middle Ages, up to the age of printing. The form of the Bible changes from scroll to codex (the forerunner of the modern book), while the language of the Bible changes from Hebrew to Greek (in the Jewish tradition) and then from Greek to Latin to English (in the Christian tradition). How did all this happen, when did all this happen, and why did all this happen? *Or to repeat the question above, how did the Bible reach us?*

If you are in the Phoenix area, I invite you to join us for this engaging week of study.

<https://www.desertpalmschurch.org/events#UpcomingEvents>



Finally, please note that these are the final programs for the 2026 calendar year. I have the good graces of a Fall 2026 sabbatical, during which we plan to spend six months in Oxford, our home away from home, from July to December 2026. I have been invited to serve as a Visiting Scholar at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, a position which entails delivering various lectures during Michaelmas Term.

In addition, as previously announced, I will lead the tour, “English as Custodian of the Jewish Past” for Jewish Historical Seminars from August 24 to September 2, details here:

<https://www.jewishhistoricalseminars.com/england>

In short, much exploration lies ahead—from inspecting medieval Hebrew manuscripts at the Bodleian Library to visiting historical sites connected to medieval Jewish life in York, Lincoln, Norwich, and

beyond, each offering new insight into the cultural, religious, and intellectual world of medieval Anglo-Jewry.

Feel free to follow our travels on Facebook:

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

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer,

- Gary & Melissa



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Forthcoming book coming later this year:



Gary A. Rendsburg

The Jewish Publication Society

The JPS Bible Commentary: 1 Samuel

<https://jps.org/books/the-jps-bible-commentary-1-samuel/>

About the Book

The Jewish Publication Society's highly acclaimed Bible Commentary series provides the Hebrew text of the Bible, the JPS English translation, and a line-by-line commentary.

This literary, historical, and archaeological commentary on First Samuel illuminates one of the great books of biblical storytelling, with its focus on three key characters, Samuel, Saul, and David, and with strong female characters such as Hannah, Michal, and Abigail abounding as well. Resting on a foundation of the most recent research into biblical language, literary forms, and historical context, the academic and accessible commentary guides the reader through the tectonic historical shift as Israel transitioned from a loose confederation of tribes to a more centralized monarchy.

The individual comments bring the reader to the geographical and topographical aspects of the land of Israel, with attention to every relevant archaeological site mentioned in the text—while keeping the reader attuned to the morality and theology of the biblical text. Chapter introductions guide the reader through the narrative arc and extensive excursus material offers in-depth analyses of key themes, while classic rabbinic and contemporary sources reveal the richness of Jewish thought and tradition to scholars, clergy, and serious students of Judaism alike.

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

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

Gary A. Rendsburg Lecture Series

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Department of Jewish Studies – Rutgers University

[https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/people/core-faculty/gary-a-rendsborg\](https://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu/people/core-faculty/gary-a-rendsborg/)

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