

What if we were to take up again the urgent task of theorizing our politics by returning to reflect on our religious traditions? This does not even require being a believer, because the Bible and its many interpretations also constitute an empirical archive of human experiences and, again, may be read toward different ends. Even beginning a conversation might go some modest distance toward bridging what would otherwise be an unbridgeable divide between so-called religionists and secularists.

Whether our goal is to vindicate the scriptural tradition or, alternatively, to condemn the way that it has been used; to interrogate the tradition as a means of diagnosing better the human condition and its social disorders or, alternatively, of identifying a course of treatment that might cure our present ills: there is no good reason not to make the attempt. Even the recognition that the Bible is parochial and limited, and that we now live in an increasingly pluralistic world, is no cause to refrain from such a beginning.



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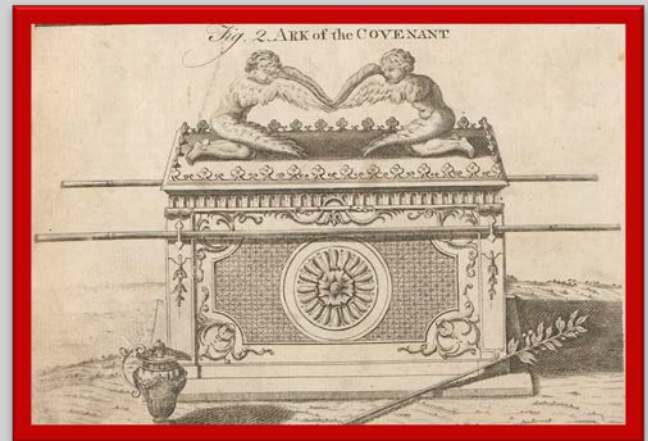
THE POLITICAL BIBLE

Workshop hosted by the
LMU Center for Religion and Philosophy
Prof. Dr. Robert A. Yelle, Director

July 25-26, 2025, Munich, Germany

Internationales Begegnungszentrum der
Wissenschaft München e.V.
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Friday, July 25

9:30	Arrival and Welcome
9:45	Introductions
10:00-10:45	<i>Marcelo Wall, LMU Munich</i> Ezekiel: The Prophetic in a State of Exception
10:45-11:30	<i>Jacqueline Vayntrub, Yale University</i> Ezekiel's Body Politic and Biblical Politics of the Body
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45-12:30	<i>Eckart Otto, LMU Munich (em.)</i> Legality and Legitimacy of Law in Light of Ancient Sources and the Hebrew Bible
12:30-13:15	<i>Marcia Pally, NYU/ Humboldt University</i> The Hebrew Bible Covenant and Reformed Covenantal Political Theory: Ground for Socio-Political Flourishing
13:15-14:45	Lunch
14:45-15:30	<i>Jaume Aurell Cardona, University of Navarra</i> <i>Et Unges Quemcumque Monstravero Tibi: The Legitimation of Self-Coronations in Medieval Iberia</i>
15:30-16:15	<i>Carsten Wilke, CEU Vienna</i> A Spanish Dissenter's Biblical Arguments against the Inquisition and other Autonomous Tribunals
16:15-16:30	Coffee Break
16:30-17:15	<i>A. Azfar Moin, University of Texas at Austin</i> The Mughal Imperial Veneration of Mary and the Breaking of the Biblical Covenant
17:15-18:00	<i>Robert Yelle, LMU Munich</i> The Political Bible: A Framework for Discussion

Saturday, July 26

10:00-10:45	<i>Gheorghe Pacurar, University of Cluj</i> The Gospel, Democracy, and Lawmaking in post-WWI Romania: An Orthodox Christian View
10:45-11:30	<i>Jerome Copulsky, Georgetown University</i> Inventing National Conservatism out of the Sources of the Bible
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45-12:30	<i>Montserrat Herrero, University of Navarra</i> The Bible and the Origins of the Secular State: The Divergent Uses of the Bible in the Political Writings of Hobbes, Spinoza and Locke
12:30-13:15	<i>Anders Klostergaard Petersen, Aarhus University</i> Politics and Religion: A Modern Construct, But an Ancient Phenomenon
13:15-14:45	Lunch
14:45-15:30	<i>Richard Sherwin, New York Law School</i> From Fear to Wonder: Why Positivist Validity Claims Cannot Legitimate Law's Sovereignty
15:30-16:15	<i>Winnifred Sullivan, Indiana University</i> Evaluating Impossible Evidence: Proving Religion in the Courtroom and in Life
16:15-16:30	Coffee Break
16:30-17:30	Closing Discussion