

Hebrew and Jewish Studies Unit
Oxford Conference

'The exegetical value of the Masora: Pointing and accentuation in historical perspective'

Exeter College, 7-8 November 2016
Convenors: Jan Joosten and Joanna Weinberg



Monday 7 November

2pm Opening remarks – Joanna Weinberg & Jan Joosten

First session: Historical aspects – the underlying tradition

- 2.15 **Danny Crowther**
Why are there two systems of Tiberian te'amim?
- 2.55 **Philip Alexander**
Who were the custodians of the reading tradition of the Torah in the Talmudic period?
- 3.35 Tea
- 4pm A viewing of some Masoretic manuscripts in the Bodleian Libraries
- 5pm **Jan Joosten**
How far back in antiquity can we trace the oral tradition of Tiberian Hebrew?
- 5.40 Respondent: **Geoffrey Khan**
- 7pm Dinner (for participants only)

Tuesday 8 November

Second session: Exegetical implications

- 10am **Yochanan Breuer**
Agreement and dissonance between the various components of the Masoretic text: spelling, vocalization, accentuation
- 10.40 Coffee
- 11am **Elvira Martín Contreras**
Using the Masoretic notes for interpretation
- 11.40 **Benjamin Williams**
"From the cantillation marks we gain an understanding of what is not written in the Torah." Derash on the Te'amim and the Exegesis of Moses Alsheikh
- 12.20 Respondent: **John Barton**
- 1pm Lunch

Third session: Modern debates

- 2pm **Joanna Weinberg**
Johann Buxtorf the Elder's Tiberias: an unusual take on the Masoretic vowel-points and accents
- 2.40 **Scott Mandelbrote**
Christian exegesis and the Masora from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries
- 3.20 **Tim Nicholas-Twining**
From the origin of the vowel points to the history of the Hebrew critics: Louis Cappel, Johannes Buxtorf II, and Jean Morin
- 4pm Respondent: **Theodor Dunkelgrün**
- 4.10 Tea

ALL ARE WELCOME BUT PLEASE PRE-REGISTER by e-mail: sue.forteath@ochjs.ac.uk