

Prof. Holger Zellentin

Biblical Law, the Decree of the Apostles, and the Qur'an

Summarizing recent scholarship, this presentation considers the ways in which the Quran deals with the heritage of “Biblical Law,” defined as those legal practices originating in the Bible that late antique Jews and Christians transformed and expanded throughout Late Antiquity. Of special importance are the laws which the Hebrew Bible promulgates for the non-Israelite residents of the Holy Land, the so-called “gerim,” which laid the legal groundwork also for aspects of Jewish and especially for Christian interpretation of Biblical law. In the form of the “Noahide Laws” and the “Decree of the Apostles,” these laws shaped both rabbinic and especially Christian legal discourse, and in turn constitute the point of departure also for central tenets of qur’anic law.



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Professor Holger Zellentin is an award-winning scholar of Late Antiquity, with a focus on Talmudic and Qur’anic studies. He combines literary, legal and historical approaches in order to understand shared and diverging patterns within Jewish, Christian and early Islamic cultural traditions. He has received funding from the European Research Council, the British Academy, and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK), and has been awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize (2014) as well as an ERC Consolidator Grant, '*The Quran as a Source for Late Antiquity*' (2020-2025). He currently serves as the chair of the board of the International Qur’anic Studies Association, and has previously served on the steering committee of the British Association for Jewish Studies. In 2019, he joined the University of Tübingen. His publications include '*Law Beyond Israel: From the Bible to the Quran*' (OUP, 2022) and '*The Quran's Legal Culture: The Didascalia Apostolorum as a Point of Departure*' (Mohr Siebeck, 2013).