

# David Z. Moster, PhD, Rabbi

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## Current Positions

President and Co-Founder, The Institute of Biblical Culture, 2018 – Present

Research Fellow in Hebrew Bible, Brooklyn College, Department of Judaic Studies, January 2017 – Present

Lecturer in Rabbinics, The Master's Program in Ancient Judaism and Christian Origins, Nyack College, September 2016 – Present

## Education

### Graduate Study

Bar-Ilan University, the Zalman Shamir Department of Bible, Ramat Gan, Israel  
PhD in Hebrew Bible, to be conferred October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017  
Dissertation: The Tribe of Manasseh and the Jordan River: Geography, Society, History, and Biblical Memory

New York University, The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, New York, NY  
Master of Arts in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, September 2014  
Thesis: The Two Levites of Judges 17-18 and 19-21

Yeshiva University, The Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, New York, NY  
Master of Arts in Hebrew Bible, May 2010  
Thesis: The Citron (אתרוג) in Biblical Israel

Yeshiva University, Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education, New York, NY  
Master of Science in Jewish Education, September 2009

### Rabbinic Study

Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, New York, NY, 2004-2010  
*Semikhah (ordination), Yoreh Yoreh, May 2010*

Yeshivat Shaalvim, Shaalvim, Israel, 2002-2004

### Undergraduate Study

Yeshiva University, Yeshiva College, New York, NY  
Bachelor of Arts, May 2007  
Major: Jewish Philosophy; Minor: History  
Magna Cum Laude

## Publications

### Books

*Etrog: How a Chinese Fruit became a Jewish Symbol* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).

### Articles

"The Jordan as a Non-Boundary and the Half-Tribes of Manasseh," *ARAM* 29.2 (2017), *The River Jordan* (Oxford), 403-412.

"The Levite of Judges 19-21," *The Journal of Biblical Literature* 134, no. 4 (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2015), 721-730.

"The Levite of Judges 17-18," *The Journal of Biblical Literature* 133, no. 4 (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2014), 729-737.

### Encyclopedia Entries

"Kingdoms of Israel and Judah: Judaism," *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Berlin: Walter De Gruyter, 2017).

"Kinship: Judaism," *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Berlin: Walter De Gruyter, 2017).

"Jecooniah: King of Judah, a Levite, Son of Josiah," *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Berlin: Walter De Gruyter, 2016).

"Jediael: A Benjaminite, Son of Shimri, a Manassite, a Levite," *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Berlin: Walter De Gruyter, 2016).

"Firepan," *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2015).

"Geddes, Alexander" *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2014).

"Garment," *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2014).

"Firstborn," *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2014).

"Fear of Isaac," *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2014).

"First Fruits," *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2014).

"Gift," *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2014).

"Gratitude and Ingratitude," *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2014).

"Hyena," *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2014).

"Elizaphan, son of Uziel," *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter,

2013).

“Elizaphan, son of Parnach,” *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013).

“Enoch, son of Cain,” *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013).

“Enoch, son of Jared,” *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013).

“Enosh,” *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013).

“Eran,” *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013).

“Eri,” *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013).

“Eshban,” *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013).

“Eshcol (Person),” *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013).

“Eshcol (Place),” *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013).

“Evi,” *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013).

#### Popular Press

“Scribing the Tabernacle: A Visual Midrash Embedded in the Torah Scroll,” *TheTorah.com: A Historical and Contextual Approach* (10 February, 2016).

“10 Great Biblical Artifacts at the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem,” *Biblical Archaeology Society, Bible History Daily* (28 January, 2015).

“The 10 Strangest Foods in the Bible,” *Biblical Archaeology Society, Bible History Daily* (6 May, 2014).

“Fruit in the Bible,” *Biblical Archaeology Society, Bible History Daily* (27 January, 2014).

#### Lectures

2018

Session Chair: “Pentateuch,” *The Society of Biblical Literature, Middle Atlantic Region, New Brunswick, New Jersey, March 15, 2018*

Book Review: *Jerusalem Throne Games* by Peter Feinman, *The Society of Biblical Literature, Middle Atlantic Region, New Brunswick, New Jersey, March 15, 2018*

2017

“Etrog: How a Chinese Export became a Jewish Fruit,” *Columbia University, Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, September 19, 2017*

2016

“The Jordan River and the Two Half-Tribes of Manasseh,” Society of Biblical Literature National Conference, San Antonio, TX, November 20, 2016

“The Four Lands of Mesha: An Analysis of Jordanian Geography During the Iron Age,” American Schools of Oriental Research National Conference, San Antonio, TX, November 17, 2016

“The Interpretive Battle Regarding the פרי עץ הדר,” The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York, NY, November 9, 2016

“Moabite and Israelite Geography,” Cornell University, Center for Jewish Living (Invited Lecture), March 3, 2016

2015

“The Jordan as a Non-Boundary and the Half Tribes of Manasseh,” Oxford University, The ARAM Society for Syro-Mesopotamian Studies, July 14, 2015

“The Four Lands of Mesha: An Analysis of Transjordanian Geography,” The Association for Jewish Studies National Conference, Boston, MA, December 14, 2015

2014

“A Cautionary Tale: The Damascus Document and the Dating of Biblical Texts,” The Association for Jewish Studies National Conference, Baltimore, MD, December 15, 2014

“The Four Lands of Mesha: An Analysis of Transjordanian Geography,” Society of Biblical Literature National Conference, San Diego, CA, November 22, 2014

“The Four Lands of Mesha: An Analysis of Transjordanian Geography,” Society of Biblical Literature (Middle Atlantic Region), Newburgh, NY, March 8, 2014

2013

“The Damascus Document and the Dating of Biblical Texts,” Brandeis University, Dead Sea Scrolls: Life in Ancient Times Graduate Symposium, October 6, 2013

“The Levites of Judges 17-21,” New York University, Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, Spring 2013

2012

“Continuity and Innovation in the Yahweh Speeches of Deuteronomy,” New York University, Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, Fall 2012

“The Jordan as a Non-Boundary,” New York University, Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, Spring 2012

“Early 20th Century Biblical Anthropology: Gustaf Dalman and the 'Folk Religion' of Sukkot,” Jewish Theological Seminary, Department of Biblical Studies, Spring 2012

2009

“The Social Status of the Jewish Elementary School Teacher During the Talmudic Era,” coauthored

with David J. Schnall, PhD, delivered at The 15th World Congress of Jewish Studies, August 2009, and the National Research in Jewish Education Conference, June 2009.

2008

“Two Existential Thinkers: C.S. Lewis and R. Nahman of Bratslav,” delivered at the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education, June 2008.

## Volunteer Work

Leader, Fence the Bridges NYC, 2017 – Present

Focus: working with government officials to install fences on the bridges and skyscrapers of New York City in order to restrict the means of suicide. Successfully lobbied for a protective fence on the George Washington Bridge, installed November 2017.

Founding Member, UJA-Federation of New York, Israeli American Jewry Workgroup, 2017 – Present

Focus: To ensure that Israelis understand the needs of American Jewry in Israel such as egalitarian prayer spaces, multi-denominational conversions, etc.

Annual Budget: \$650,000.

Committee Member, UJA-Federation of New York, Immersive Judaism Committee, 2017 – Present

Focus: The development and implementation of innovative models of immersive experiences for pluralistic Jewish engagement across many life stages.

Annual Budget: \$6,200,000.

Committee Member, UJA-Federation of New York, Jewish Life Committee, Israeli Religion, 2016-2017

Focus: Advocating for the inclusion of non-Orthodox and liberal-Orthodox streams of Judaism in the budget of the state of Israel.

Annual Budget: \$1,300,000.

Committee Member, UJA-Federation of New York, Committee on the Jewish People, Empowering and Promoting Inclusive Communities in Israel Committee (“EPIC”), 2015 – 2016

Focus: Advocating for the education and job placement in Israel for Haredi (ultra-orthodox), Arab (including Druze and Bedouin), and Ethiopian Israelis.

Annual Budget: \$2,500,000.

## Academic Fellowships and Awards

Henry M. MacCracken Fellow (\$100,000, New York University, 2010-2014)

Eilu v'Eilu Fellowship (Drisha Institute, 2009-2010)

Michlalan Dean's Fellowship (\$1,000, Azrieli Graduate School, 2008-2009)

H.L. Schlesinger Scholarship (\$5,000, Bernard Revel Graduate School, 2009)

Erwin Herling Scholarship (\$2,500, Bernard Revel Graduate School, 2008)

Mozes Schupf Fellowship (\$2,500 Bernard Revel Graduate School, 2007-2008)

Sue H. Golding Academic Honors Scholarship (\$40,000, Yeshiva College, 2004-2007)  
Yeshiva College Dean's List (2004-2007)

## Websites

<https://929chapters.com>: Summaries, outlines, and comments for every chapter of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/damosta1>: Videos relating to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament.

## Language Ability

Hebrew (Biblical, Rabbinic, Modern): 5 semesters, Yeshiva University; 2+ years of living in Israel; 15+ years of research and self-study

Aramaic (Biblical, Talmudic, Targumim): 4 semesters, New York University; 10+ years of self-study

Akkadian (Old and Neo-Babylonian): 4 semesters, New York University

Ugaritic: 2 semesters, New York University

Northwest Semitic Inscriptions: 1 semester, New York University; 1 semester, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America

Comparative Semitics: 2 semesters, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America

Greek: 2 semesters, City University of New York Graduate Center