

13:30 Gathering

14:00 Greetings

14:10 Introductory Lecture
Ella Karev | Tel Aviv University
 Slavery and Slaveries: Aspects of Studying Enslavement in the Ancient World

14:30 **First Session: Slaves, Enslavement and Forced Labor in Ancient Israel**
Bernd Schipper | Humboldt University of Berlin
 “They Set Taskmasters over Them to Oppress Them with Forced Labor”: On the Historical Background of Exodus 1:11

Omer Sergi | Tel Aviv University
 The Exodus and Memories of Enslavement to Egypt: Evidence from the Jezreel Valley

Michael Jursa | University of Vienna
 Building Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon: Perspectives on Babylonian Labor Regimes

15:40 Coffee Break

16:00 Greetings and Scholarships

16:20 **Second Session: Slaves, Enslavement and Forced Labor in the Ancient and Classical Worlds**
Rachel Zelnick-Abramovitz | Tel Aviv University
 Half Slave, Half Free – Can a Person Be Freed in Parts?

Laurie Venters | Tel Aviv University
 The Sexual Agency of Enslaved Women in Roman Literature

Yakir Paz | The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
 “You Are My Slaves! On That Condition I Ransomed You!”: Israel as God’s Slaves in a Rabbinic Parable

“Once We Were Slaves to Pharaoh”

Slaves, Enslavement, and Forced Labor in the Ancient Mediterranean

The Annual Yohanan Aharoni Symposium

Thursday
 March 19th, 2026

Gilman Building, Hall 223,
 Tel Aviv University

