

**13:30** Gathering

**14:00** Greetings

**14:10** **Introductory Lecture**

**Ella Karev** | Tel Aviv University

Slavery and Slavery: 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

