



PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSITÀ
GREGORIANA



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Bible and Ecology

6-8 NOVEMBER
2025



PONTIFICAL BIBLICAL INSTITUTE
Piazza della Pilotta 35, Rome

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DAY 1: 6 NOV 2025 (THURSDAY)

SESSION 1: 9:00 - 10:15 AM

WELCOME GREETING: Mark A. Lewis, Rector, Pontifical Gregorian University (PUG), Italy

Chair: Agustinus Gianto

Genesis 1-2:4a: Prolegomena to God's Ecology and Our Participation in It
Gina Hens-Piazza, Jesuit School of Theology of SCU, USA

Ferocity and Beauty of Lions in the Books of Kings
Peter Dubovský, Pontifical Biblical Institute of PUG, Italy

Respondent: Anthony Soohoo

SHORT BREAK

SESSION 2: 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Chair: Nuria Calduch-Benages

"They have Burnt It with Fire" (Ps 80:17): The Vine Metaphor in the Hebrew Psalter and the Ecological Crisis in Contemporary Ghana
Michael K. Mensah, University of Ghana, Ghana

The Bride as a "Locked Garden": An Eco-Sustainability Retrieval of Nature Metaphor in Song of Songs 4:12-15
Jonathan Kavusa, Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs, D. R. Congo

Respondent: Enrique Sanz

BREAK

SESSION 3: 3:30 - 4:45 PM

Chair: Paul Béré

Sophia as Kindred Spirit: Wisdom of Solomon 7-8 in Eco-Kinship Perspective
Hilary Marlow, Cambridge University, UK

Metaphors of Wisdom: An Ecological Reading of Sirach 6:18-37
Charlotte Obeid, Collegium Maximum of PUG, Italy

Respondent: Benedetta Rossi



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DAY 2: 7 NOV 2025 (FRIDAY)

SESSION 1: 9:00 - 10:15 AM

Chair: Daniela Scialabba

Animals in Isaiah 1 and A South Indian Harvest Festival: An Inter(Con)Textual Reading
Dominic S. Irudayaraj, Pontifical Biblical Institute of PUG, Italy

God, Wisdom and the Stars: An Ecological Reading of Baruch 3:29–35
Nuria Calduch-Benages, Collegium Maximum of PUG, Italy

Respondent: Santosh Mendonca

SHORT BREAK

SESSION 2: 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Chair: Anthony Soohoo

Servanthood in the Cosmic Ecosystem: An Experiment in Jonah
Paul Béré, Pontifical Biblical Institute of PUG, Italy

“That He may Teach Us His Ways and That We may Walk in His Paths” (Micah 4:2): From Ecological Hermeneutics to Sustainability Pedagogy
Ma. Maricel Ibita, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

Respondent: Serena Detti

BREAK

SESSION 3: 3:30 - 4:45 PM

Chair: Juan Manuel Granados

Visibility and Viability: Exploring the Vineyard-Human Synergy in Matthew 20:1–16
Ma. Marilou S. Ibita, De La Salle University, Philippines

Braided Reading: A Fresh Water Perspective from Oceania
Anne Elvey, Monash University, Australia

Respondent: Luca Pedroli



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DAY 3: 8 NOV 2025 (SATURDAY)

SESSION 1: 9:00 - 10:15 AM

Chair: Dean Béchard

Synoptic Parables and Ecology: A Methodological Proposal of Eco-Exegesis
Lorenzo Gasparro, Pontificia Facoltà Teologica dell'Italia Meridionale, Italy

Water and the Margins: An Eco-Sensitive Reading of The Samaritan Woman and the Lame Man Episodes of John's Gospel
Michel S. Kamanzi, Pontifical Biblical Institute of PUG, Italy

Respondent: Giacomo Aiazzi

SHORT BREAK

SESSION 2: 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Chair: Sunil Ranjar

Creation and New Creation in Paul: Reflections on Cosmological Aspects in Paul's Theology and Their Implications for Ecology
Jens Schröter, Humboldt - Universität, Germany

"The Firstfruits" of Creation or Salvation? An Eco-Theological Reading of James 1:18
Ekaterini Tsalampouni, Aristotle university of Thessaloniki, Greece

Respondent: Paraskevi Arapoglou

CONCLUDING COMMENTS: Peter Dubovský, President, Pontifical Biblical Institute of PUG, Italy



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IMPETUS

The Jubilee Year 2025 marks several epoch-making ecological causes: (i) 10th anniversary of the Papal encyclical *Laudato Si'*, (ii) 40th anniversary of the first-ever interreligious meeting on Nature Conservation at Assisi (1986), and (iii) 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's celebrated *Canticle of Creatures* (1224). With an explicit desire to share common cause with such noble endeavors, the Pontifical Biblical Institute of the Pontifical Gregorian University, together with the NExUS (Nurturing Exegetical Understanding of Scripture) initiative, is organizing a three-day conference (6-8 Nov 2025) to grant space to scholarly voices from across the world that engage Bible and Ecology, with a specific focus on neglected voices from the existential margins and their pertinent challenges for our biblical interpretation.

AIM

A warming world has irreversible implications for every inhabitant of the common home called the Earth, of which we humans form but a part. A growing ecological sensitivity therefore has rightly come to characterize our time. The clarion call from the first-ever Global Children's Climate Summit in Nairobi (Sept 2023) is a case in point: "We stand at the crossroads of life or death, and our choices today will shape the world that the generations after [us will] inherit. Let us choose the path of justice, equality, and sustainability." The urgent need to join this common cause can hardly be overstressed.

Ecological crises have detrimental implications, particularly for existential margins. Inspired by the biblical witness of a God who hears the cry of the poor and the exploited (cf. Exodus, Amos), the proposed international conference aims to create ample space for margins—both contextually (by bringing together less-privileged but ecologically-impacted global voices) and methodologically (ecological biblical hermeneutics in conversation with other exegetical methods and hermeneutical approaches). In these efforts at listening to, engaging with, and thus learning from each other, the conference will endeavor to usher in an awareness of and sensitivity to the multifaceted nature of the ecological issues and therefore the need for coordinated efforts towards an eco-biblical vision. The said vision will reiterate that, though ecologically wounded we are, together with our common home (cf. *Laudato Si'*), we can still dare to join globally peripheral voices as well as contexts for a healing vision of a new heaven and a new earth (cf. Ezekiel, Revelation).

The event will take place in English, with both in-person attendance and livestreaming available (<https://www.youtube.com/@pibiblico>).

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