

A man with glasses is shown in profile, focused on reading an open Bible. He is holding a yellow highlighter over the text. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm light source in the background creating a soft glow. To the left, a tablet is propped up on a stand, displaying text. A cup with pens and pencils sits on the desk. The overall atmosphere is one of quiet study and intellectual pursuit.

Baptists and Biblical Scholarship: Historical and Contemporary Reflections

Programme

9th May 2024

About the speakers:

Peter Oakes. After undergraduate theological training at London Bible College (London School of Theology), Peter Oakes studied for an Oxford doctorate on Philipians under N.T.Wright. He has been teaching at the University of Manchester since 1997, where he is Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis. Peter is a member of Didsbury Baptist Church. Peter's publications include *Philippians: From People to Letter* (2001), *Reading Romans in Pompeii* (2009), *Galatians* (2015), *Empire, Economics, and the New Testament* (2020) and, with Andrew K. Boakye, *Rethinking Galatians* (2021).



Stephen Finamore was Principal of Bristol Baptist College for 17 years and is now Principal Emeritus. Steve has been a lawyer, led a community development project in inner London and worked for a rural development project in the Andes of northern Peru. He trained for Ministry and read theology in Oxford, and was pastor of Westbury-on-Trym Baptist Church. Steve has been a trustee of several organizations including Tearfund, BUGB, and Webnet. He has been elected to serve as President of Baptists Together for 2024–25. Stephen has written a number of books, and his short commentary on *Romans* is available free from the Bible Reading Fellowship.



Robin Routledge studied Maths at Cambridge University before training for the Baptist Ministry at Spurgeon's College and has been a Baptist Minister in Rotherham from 1980 until 2024. His PhD on the Old Testament at Sheffield University was completed in 1989. In 2006 Robin began teaching full-time at Mattersey Hall College and was Academic Dean from 2010 until his retirement in 2019. He was an adjunct lecturer at IBTS in Prague for over ten years and as well as teaching in Anglican, Baptist and AoG colleges in the UK, has also taught in the United States, Malaysia, and South Africa. He still teaches at the Continental Theological Seminary in Brussels. Robin has written a number of articles and book chapters; his major publications include *Old Testament Theology: A Thematic Approach* (2008), *Old Testament Introduction: Text, interpretation, structure, themes* (2016), and the revised *Tyndale OT Commentary on Hosea* (2020).



Helen Paynter is Tutor in Biblical Studies and Director of Theological Education, and Director of the Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence, Bristol Baptist College. She is the author and editor of a number of publications including *Blessed are the Peacemakers: A biblical theology of human violence* (2023), and *The Church, The Far Right, and The Claim to Christianity* (ed with Maria Power, forthcoming, 2024).



Deborah Rooke is lecturer in Old Testament hermeneutics at Regent's Park College. She was previously Lecturer in Old Testament at King's College London, and is a member of the editorial board of the Journal for the Study of the Old Testament and her own books include *Handel's Israelite Oratorio Libretti: Sacred Drama and Biblical Exegesis* (2012) and *Zadok's Heirs: The Role and Development of the High Priesthood in Ancient Israel* (2000).



Simon Woodman is the Minister of Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church in London, and the author of *The Book of Revelation* (2008), *Faith in Doubt: Prayers and Poems* (2023) and co-editor of *The "Plainly Revealed" Word of God?* (2011). Between 2004 and 2012 he was Tutor in Biblical Studies at what is now Cardiff Baptist College.



Notes:

PROGRAMME

10.00 **Tea & Coffee**

10.30 **Session 1**

Peter Oakes *'Manchester Non-Conformity as a Context for Being a Baptist Biblical Scholar'*

Steve Finamore *'The chief and principal part of the Gospel'; Baptist Ecclesiology and the Authority of the Bible.'*

12.00 **Angus Library Materials**

12.30 **Lunch**

1.20 **Session 2**

Robin Routledge *'Baptists and the Old Testament.'*

Helen Paynter *"The Magistrate is Forbidden to Call Down Fire from Heaven": Roger Williams, the Bible and the Far Right today.'*

2.50 **Break**

3.15-4.45 **Session 3**

Deborah Rooke *'The Nephilim of Regent's Park: Old Testament Scholars H. Wheeler Robinson and G. Henton Davies'*

Simon Woodman *'G.R. Beasley-Murray and The Book of Revelation'*



CENTRE FOR
Baptist Studies

