

Houston Philosophical Society Dinner and Lecture

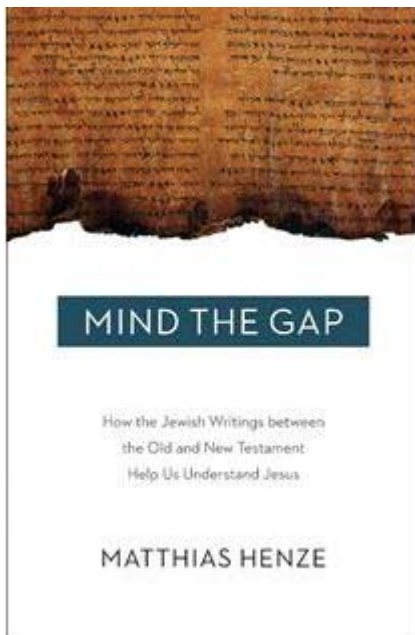
Cohen House, Rice University

20 September 2018

6:00pm cocktails - 9:00pm close

At 7:45 pm President Furlow called the meeting to order and welcomed all. Vice-President Browning introduced guests. President Furlow announced that tweets regarding HPS would begin using @TheHoustonPhil to share news and photos of events. Also, Face Book will have a private group for members. A Friend request may be sent to DAFurlow@gmail.com.

President Furlow then introduced speaker Dr. Matthias Henze, the Director of Rice's Program in Jewish Studies. He presented "Mind the Gap: What Jewish Writings between the Old and New Testament show us about Jesus". Please see the attached Abstract for the Speaker's biography and program contents.



Mind the Gap: How the Jewish Writings between the Old and New Testament Help Us Understand Jesus (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2017).

Do you want to understand Jesus of Nazareth, his apostles, and the rise of early Christianity? Reading the Old Testament is not enough, writes Matthias Henze in this slender volume. To understand the Jews of the Second Temple period, it's essential to read what they wrote—and what Jesus and his followers might have read—beyond the Hebrew scriptures. Henze introduces the four-century gap between the Old and New Testaments and some of the writings produced

during this period (different Old Testaments, the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, the Dead Sea Scrolls); emphasizes the importance of the discoveries at Qumran; and examines New Testament texts that cannot be understood without these Jewish "intertestamental" writings—the Messiah,

angels and demons, the law, and the resurrection of the dead. Finally, he discusses these writings' role in the "parting of ways" between Judaism and Christianity. <http://henze.rice.edu/>



Matthias Henze was born and raised in Hanover, Germany. In 1992 he earned a Master of Divinity from the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and moved to the United States to pursue a Ph.D. in Harvard's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. After completing his doctorate in 1997, Dr. Henze joined Rice's department of religion, where he is now the Isla Carroll and Percy E. Turner Professor of Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism.

His areas of interest include the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Jewish literature and thought at the time of the Second Temple, apocalyptic literature, and the Qumran fragments. In particular, Dr. Henze focuses on those early texts that never became part of the Jewish Bible - often subsumed under the labels 'Apocrypha' and 'Pseudepigrapha' – and what we can learn when these texts are read side by side with the canonical writings.

Dr. Henze has written and edited ten books. While at Rice he has won five teaching/mentoring Awards. He was also named a founding fellow of Rice's Center for Teaching Excellence. In 2009 he founded Rice's Program in Jewish Studies, of which he continues to serve as director.

After questions and answers from the members, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.