

Scripture and Theology 2026

European Academy of Religion (Rome)

The Scripture and Theology Forum

Scriptureandtheology.org

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The *Scripture and Theology Forum* invites proposals for its 2026 program at the European Academy of Religion in Rome. We welcome contributions across five thematic sections, each exploring critical intersections between biblical scholarship and theological reflection.

Section I: Interactions Between Biblical Studies and Theology

This section continues our project "Exploring Methodological Interactions between Biblical Studies and Systematic Theology." Selected papers will be considered for a peer-reviewed volume with the same working title, planned for publication in 2027.

We invite papers addressing one or more of the following questions:

1. How does research in Biblical Studies draw on insights from Systematic Theology?
2. In what ways can Systematic Theology benefit from engagement with Biblical Studies?
3. What methodological changes occur as a result of interactions between these two fields?
4. What examples of best practices exist for engaging Biblical Studies and Systematic Theology in both historical and contemporary scholarship?

Section II: A History of Scripture and Theology

This section contributes to a project tracing major movements within the Christian tradition and describing the respective "uses" of Scripture in theological construction across two millennia. Rather than focusing on individual theologians, we seek synthetic overviews of major methodological trends—from the patristic period through medieval scholasticism, the Reformation, and into modernity. In our post-Gabler world, where biblical and systematic theology function as discrete academic disciplines, critical questions emerge: How did pre-modern theologians integrate biblical interpretation and doctrinal formulation, and what might contemporary theologians learn from this? Why did Scripture and theology become separated into distinct, competing disciplines? What were the consequences and lasting effects of the separation?

We invite proposals addressing one of three subsections:

- **Part 1: Before the Shift – Premodern Integration (From Patristic theology to Protestant scholasticism)**

- *Guiding Question:* How did premodern Christian interpreters integrate Scripture and theology as an organic, unified practice, and what can we learn from those approaches without simply returning to premodern biblical interpretation?
- **Part 2: The Shift – Enlightenment, Gabler, and the Great Separation (1650–1850)**
 - *Guiding Question:* How and why did Scripture and theology become separated into distinct, competing disciplines, and what were the immediate theological, institutional, and pedagogical consequences of it?
- **Part 3: After the Shift – Consequences, Critiques, and Contemporary Retrieval (1850–Present)**
 - *Guiding Question:* What have been the lasting effects of the separation between Scripture and theology, and what might be learned from contemporary attempts to overcome the divide?

Section III: Scripture and Theology – Open Call

We welcome proposals on any aspect of the relationship between Scripture and theology not covered by our other sections. This open call invites diverse methodological approaches, biblical-theological investigations, hermeneutical reflections, and interdisciplinary engagements that advance our understanding of how Scripture functions in theological discourse. Possible topics include but are not limited to theological exegesis, canonical approaches, reception history, confessional hermeneutics, and contemporary debates in biblical interpretation and theological method.

Section IV: David Ford on the Gospel of John

The Scripture and Theology Forum will discuss David Ford's Commentary on the Gospel of John. This will be a closed call. Papers will be part of our third special issue with IJST, scheduled for 2027-2028.

Section V: Scripture, Theology, and the Advent of AI

We invite short papers exploring the intersection of artificial intelligence with biblical studies and theology, with two emphases:

- Theological reflections on AI and its implications for human identity, creativity, and ethics
- Practical examples of AI application in biblical studies and theological research (e.g., Developments in AI usage within universities and among academic publishers, Methodological considerations for responsible AI integration in theological scholarship, etc.)

Submission Guidelines

Please submit a 300-word abstract, specify which of the five sections your paper is intended for, and include a brief biographical note by 13 March 2026 to jacob.astudillo@gmail.com.

Accepted presenters will be notified no later than **20 March 2026**. Earlier submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with decision e-mails sent around **30 January** and **29 February**

2026. Submissions received shortly before these dates may be included in the earlier review rounds; all other proposals will receive a decision by **20 March 2026**.

Presentations should be around **20 minutes**, followed by **10 minutes** of discussion.

Full papers of **6,000–8,000 words** can be considered for publication.

Please check also scriptureandtheology.org for updates.