

THE HONEST THEOLOGY PROJECT



louisjacobs.org

Location: Central Square Minyan Hall, Hampstead Garden Suburb. This hall is a superb new facility, perfect for our meetings.

Minimum donation £10. Please help us in our endeavours with a suggested donation of £15.00. Students £5. Includes refreshments.

Bookings for subsequent lectures opens a week after each previous lecture.

PREVIOUS LECTURES now online at louisjacobs.org/eventseries/publicity-for-the-project-june-2015-opening-event

For further information email info@louisjacobs.org

About Elie Jesner



Elie Jesner is a London based psychotherapist, educator and writer. He has recently been appointed as Director of The Honest Theology Project, a new cross denominational initiative of the Friends of LouisJacobs.org. He also heads the JCoSS Bet Midrash, a high level program combining philosophy and classical texts. His writing appears regularly in Haaretz and other places, and in his spare time he helps organise the Finchley Partnership Minyan. A graduate of Yeshivat Har Etzion, Cambridge and Warwick Universities, Elie's synthesis of philosophy, religion and psychoanalysis is always engaging and provocative.

Friends of LouisJacobs.org

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Towards an Honest Theology

Following our first two lectures

1. Clearing Away the Rubble
2. Getting to the Core - What is God

We are pleased to announce details of the remainder of the lecture series.

3. Why might we keep halakha?
7th February 2016

Whatever our theological perspective, Jewish life has been largely shaped by some form of adherence to the halakha, to Jewish observance. What sort of shape might such a commitment take in today's world, and how can it be justified? What are the psychological risks and benefits of adherence to an ancient form of ritual living?

Once these foundations are in place, we can start to think about how halakha can evolve dynamically in time. Should it be viewed as timeless and unchanging, or might it interact with history in a theologically constructive way?

Put differently, was revelation a one time event, something from a distant epoch, or might it be a continuous and ongoing phenomenon.

4. Living with Israel
- Can Jewish Theology cope with the return to Zion?
17th April 2016

The re-emergence of Judaism as a national entity has created huge challenges for Jewish life. Whilst re-literalising ideas of peoplehood and territory, it has also created a need for re-engaging with some of the darker aspects of the Biblical vision.

The resurgence of Messianic sensibilities has re-opened questions about God's role in history, and about the stability of our connection to the ordinary world of everyday living.

Fantastical visions have started to emerge, and demand a firm and thoughtful response.

5. Sexuality in Jewish thought
- Is there a Jewish sexual ethic?
18th September 2016

Religion often exists in an antagonistic relationship to sexuality, but Judaism has always tried to resist this. Placing family and procreation as one of its core values has brought some sense of sanctity into the bedroom, but it has not always been clear if sexual pleasure per se is an ideal or a threat. This lecture will consider some of the fundamental questions in this area, and try to chart a course for our times which respects both traditional values and contemporary understandings of sexuality.

6. Religious Education
- What should we be teaching our children?
27th November 2016

We conclude the series with perhaps the most practical and vital question of all - what are we trying to pass on to our children? Which values, ideas and stories should we be filling their impressionable minds with? At what ages can different ideas be introduced? What is the balance between school and family life, between textual knowledge and experiential immersion? What do we want from our educators?

Ultimately, this question is about our vision for the future of Judaism, what should that look like and how can we get there?