



RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
SYMPOSIUM

The Fifty-Fourth Annual Brigham Young University
Religious Education Symposium in Honor of Sidney B. Sperry

TENDER MERCIES AND LOVING-KINDNESS

The Goodness of God in the Old Testament | Friday and Saturday, January 23–24, 2026

Friday, January 23, 2026					
Time	JSB Auditorium				
6:30 p.m.	Keynote Address <i>White as Snow</i> Chad H Webb , First Counselor, Sunday School General Presidency				
Time	JSB Auditorium	W111 BNSN	W112 BNSN	W140 BNSN	115 MCKB
7:30 p.m.	<i>“Look unto Abraham Your Father, and unto Sarah That Bare You” (Isaiah 51:2): The Ten Tests of Abraham and Sarah</i> David Rolph Seely Ancient Scripture, BYU Jo Ann Seely Adj. Instructor, Ancient Scripture, BYU	<i>Not Left Destitute of Mercy: The Role of Covenant H̄esed in Perpetuating Family Lines</i> Matthew L. Bowen Religious Education, BYU–Hawaii	<i>“You Are the God Who Sees Me”: God’s Loving-Kindness to Hagar</i> Amy Easton Ancient Scripture, BYU	<i>Jonah: “I Knew Thou Art a Gracious God”</i> Eric–Jon K. Marlowe Religious Education, BYU–Hawaii	<i>Joseph, Clothing Changes, Jesus Christ, and the Plan of Salvation</i> Ross Baron Ancient Scripture, BYU
8:30 p.m.	<i>God’s Steadfast Love, Mercy, and Kindness in the Marriage and Family of Gomer and Hosea</i> Joshua M. Matson Ancient Scripture, BYU	<i>David as a Type of Christ in the Story of Absalom’s Rebellion</i> Mack C. Stirling Independent Scholar	<i>Seeing God’s Love in Suffering: Lessons on Faith from Job</i> David B. Ridge Ancient Scripture, BYU	<i>H̄esed and Theosis: Embodying Christ’s Character and Glory</i> Jennifer C. Lane Professor Emerita, BYU–Hawaii	<i>“I Have Sworn unto David My Servant”: The Davidic Covenant as Manifestation of God’s H̄esed</i> Robbie Taggart Ancient Scripture, BYU
Saturday, January 24, 2026					
Time	JSB Auditorium	W111 BNSN	W112 BNSN	W140 BNSN	115 MCKB
9:00 a.m.		<i>Dwelling with God in Love</i> Ryan Conrad Davis Adjunct Instructor, Ancient Scripture, BYU	<i>The God Who Sees Me: Identity, Covenant, and Divine Interactions in Hagar’s Narrative</i> Lori Denning Religious Education, BYU–Idaho	<i>An Unconventional Mercy: Prophecies of Destruction as Divine Instruction</i> Michael J. Biggerstaff Ancient Scripture, BYU	
10:00 a.m.	<i>Ravens, Widows, and Angels: Experiencing God’s Nourishment in Times of Scarcity</i> Lauren Ellison Independent Scholar Mark Ellison Ancient Scripture, BYU	<i>The Covenant Promises to the Eunuch: Latter-day Saint Reflections on God’s Loving-Kindness</i> Ty R. Mansfield Church History & Doctrine, BYU	<i>“The Lord Has Done Great Things for Us; We Are Glad”</i> Dana M. Pike Professor Emeritus Ancient Scripture, BYU	<i>The Law of Moses and the Goodness of God: Navigating Challenging Texts</i> Avram R. Shannon Ancient Scripture, BYU Joshua M. Sears Ancient Scripture, BYU	<i>A Third Look at the Lord’s Hand “Stretched Out Still” (Isaiah 2–14)</i> David M. Calabro Ancient Scripture, BYU
11:00 a.m.	<i>The Ever-Present Nature of Christ in the Title Jehovah</i> Daniel L. Belnap Ancient Scripture, BYU	<i>Singing of God’s Love: The Songs of Ascent in Ancient and Modern Temple Worship</i> Kevin Tolley Seminaries and Institutes	<i>Competing Depictions of At-One-Ment: 2 Nephi 28:8 as a Foil to Isaiah 53</i> Jane Allis-Pike Independent Scholar	<i>“They Shall Be My People, and I Will Be Their God”: God’s Covenant and Loving-Kindness in Jeremiah and Lamentations</i> Avram R. Shannon Ancient Scripture, BYU Thora Florence Shannon Independent Scholar	<i>“For His Mercy Endureth For Ever”: Divine and Human H̄esed in Psalm 136</i> Tyler J. Harris Adjunct Instructor, Ancient Scripture, BYU