



FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

CALL FOR PAPERS

Christian Zionism, Decoloniality and Liberation Hermeneutics

ABSTRACT
DEADLINE

28
May
2026

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Department of Religion Studies, in Faculty of Theology and Religion invites scholars, theologians, researchers, postgraduate students, faith leaders, and practitioners to submit papers for an interdisciplinary conference exploring Christian Zionism and its implications for biblical interpretation, public theology, decolonial thought, and liberation hermeneutics.

Christian Zionism remains one of the most influential and contested theological and political movements within contemporary Christianity. Often associated with evangelical traditions, the movement connects biblical prophecy, covenant, and eschatology to the modern state of Israel and contemporary geopolitical developments.

This conference seeks to critically engage Christian Zionism through interdisciplinary, decolonial, postcolonial, and liberationist perspectives. It aims to examine how biblical interpretation intersects with questions of power, empire, nationalism, coloniality, justice, and global politics, while creating space for alternative theological voices, particularly those emerging from Palestinian, African, and liberationist contexts

The conference further invites reflection on:

- theology and political power,
- biblical interpretation and ideology,
- religion and settler colonialism,
- eschatology and ethical responsibility,
- liberation theology and public theology,
- and the role of Christianity in shaping contemporary geopolitical consciousness.

Particular attention will also be given to how Christian Zionist narratives circulate within African Christianity and the Global South through missionary legacies, Pentecostal movements, media cultures, and transnational evangelical networks.

Ultimately, the conference aims to foster rigorous scholarly dialogue on theology, justice, human dignity, peacebuilding, and the ethical responsibilities of biblical interpretation in contexts of conflict and inequality.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Suggested Themes

Papers addressing, but not limited to, the following themes are welcome:

- Biblical interpretation and Christian Zionism: towards a decolonized hermeneutics
- Zionism and liberation theology: resistance, justice, and solidarity
- Zionism, race, and white supremacy in global Christian discourses
- Decolonial readings of scripture in African and Global South contexts
- Palestinian Christian theology and counter-narratives to Zionism

Important Dates

- Abstract submission deadline: 28 May 2026
- Conference date: 7 August 2026

Venue

- Hybrid format (face-to-face and online)
- HMS10, Bloemfontein Campus

Submission of Abstracts

Please send your abstract proposals to:

- Prof. Zoro Dube: dubez@ufs.ac.za
- Dr. Juliet Sigauke: sigaukejc@gmail.com
- Dr. Bernard Humbe: humbebenpin78@gmail.com

RSVP: Mrs Ronel Ellis: EllisPJ@ufs.ac.za

<https://www.ufs.ac.za/theology>

RSVP: https://events.ufs.ac.za/e/FTRRS_Call_For_Papers_2026

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