



UNIL | Université de Lausanne
 Institut romand des sciences bibliques (IRSB)
 bâtiment Unithèque
 CH-1015 Lausanne

Colloque du mercredi 11 novembre 2009, à 18 h. 15
Anthropole (ex BFSH 2), salle 5021

« MOSES : BIBLICAL FIGURE AND JEWISH INTERPRETATION »

When attempting to write the story of Moses, the first source that pops into mind is the well-known biblical account of his life. However, within the context of a Jewish understanding of the person and his significance, the Hebrew Bible represents no more than the point of departure for a rich tradition of biographical *Fortschreibung*, which finds its most important expression in the midrashic or Jewish homiletic literature. Basing themselves on an examination of the gaps and tensions in the biblical story, the Rabbis produced a constantly self-renewing narrative tradition, which oftentimes brings to the fore diametrically opposed attitudes toward Moses and his place within Judaism. Beginning with a contextualization of the Jewish hermeneutic tradition, this lecture will attempt to present some of the images of Moses as imagined by the midrashic literature through a comparison with its biblical sources. The ultimate aim is to demonstrate that every generation has reinterpreted the figure of Moses for itself and its times.

Carl Ehrlich, York University, Toronto

