



#### ABOUT GORDON-CONWELL—CHARLOTTE

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—Charlotte first began offering classes in 1992. From the initial student body of 44 students, enrollment has grown into the hundreds, with the majority of the students living in the Southeast.

Gordon-Conwell also has campuses in South Hamilton and Boston, Massachusetts; and in Jacksonville, Florida. A multi-denominational, evangelical, Protestant graduate seminary serving nearly 1,800 students, Gordon-Conwell is one of the largest seminaries among all theological institutions accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. Charlotte native Dr. Billy Graham is one of the seminary's founders.



THE ROBERT C. COOLEY  
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY—CHARLOTTE

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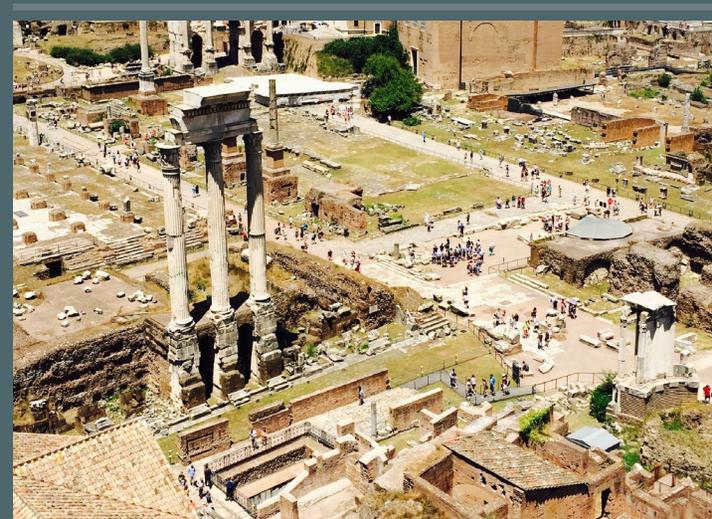
#### CENTER LEADERSHIP

Dr. Donald M. Fairbairn, Jr., *Robert E. Cooley Professor of Early Christianity and Academic Dean of the Charlotte Campus; Director of the Cooley Center*  
Dr. Neely Gaston, *Special Assistant to the President for Development*  
Dr. Robert E. Cooley, *Consultant*  
Dr. Rollin Grams, *Professor of Biblical Theology and Ethics*  
Dr. Timothy Laniak, *Professor of Biblical Studies*  
Dr. Catherine McDowell, *Curator of the Cooley Collection and Associate Professor of Old Testament*  
Dr. Bob Mayer, *Senior Librarian*  
Dr. Jerry Pattengale, *Cooley Center Research Scholar*  
Rev. Mark Poe, *Cooley Center Fellow*

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THE ROBERT C. COOLEY CENTER  
FOR THE STUDY OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY  
LECTURE SERIES

2020



## *The Gospel in the Land*

R. Steven Notley  
*Distinguished Professor of  
New Testament and Christian Origins  
Nyack College*

January 23-24, 2020  
Gordon-Conwell—Charlotte



## ABOUT THE EVENT

New discoveries in archaeology, innovative thinking on the linguistic environment of Roman Judaea, and a greater understanding of the historical and religious world of the first century have all brought fresh light to and understanding of the historical Jesus and his message. In these lectures, participants will hear of both the promise and the challenges this new information brings.

## SCHEDULE AND LOCATION

### *Patrons' Reception:*

Thursday, January 23, 2019 - 6:00 PM – Room 122A

### *Lecture:*

7:00 PM each evening – Room 219

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

R. Steven Notley is Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins on the New York City campus of Nyack College (2001-present) and director of the graduate programs in Ancient Judaism and Christian Origins. He received his Ph.D. from the Hebrew University, where he studied with David Flusser. Dr. Notley lived sixteen years in Jerusalem with his wife and four children, during which time he was the founding chair of the New Testament Studies program at the Jerusalem University College. He has been directing groups of students and laypeople to Israel and the eastern Mediterranean region for 30 years. He is the author of many books and articles. He continues collaborative research and publication with Israeli scholars in the fields of historical geography, ancient Judaism and Christian origins. Among his list of publications, he co-authored with Flusser the historical biography, *The Sage from Galilee: Rediscovering Jesus' Genius* (Eerdmans 2007); with Anson Rainey (Tel Aviv University) the monumental biblical atlas, *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World* (Carta Publishing 2005); with Ze'ev Safrai (Bar Ilan University) an annotated translation of Eusebius' important description of

Roman Palestine, Eusebius, *Onomasticon: A Triglott Edition with Notes and Commentary* (Brill 2005). He rejoined Safrai for their second work, a pioneering collection and translation of the earliest rabbinic parables that provide the literary and religious context for the parables of Jesus, *The Parables of the Sages* (Carta 2011). Since 2016 he has served as the Academic Director of the El Araj Excavation Project in its search for first-century Bethsaida-Julias, the lost city of the Apostles.

### Lecture 1 (January 23)

#### *Finding the Lost City of the Apostles*

Modern-day pilgrims to the Holy Land are often unaware that until recently almost every site they visit had been lost for centuries. Destroyed, abandoned and forgotten, only in the middle of the nineteenth-century did explorers begin the process of relocating places that find mention in the Bible and other ancient writings. One such location has drawn recent attention and debate. For the last 30 years, archaeologists working on the site of et-Tell, north of the Sea of Galilee, have identified it with New Testament Bethsaida. However, for the last four seasons (2016-2019), archaeologists and volunteers from Kinneret College and Nyack College have excavated at el-Araj, offering it as an alternative location for Bethsaida. In light of recent headlines and media attention, this lecture will consider the method by which archaeologists and historians identify ancient sites. Also, Dr. Notley will present the findings from the first four seasons of the El-Araj Excavation Project, which may have finally found evidence for Herod Philip's urbanization of the New Testament era fishing village on the Sea of Galilee.

### Lecture 2 (January 24)

#### *"He Came unto His Own": Jesus within Ancient Judaism*

Scholarship over the last fifty years has deepened our understanding of Jewish life and faith in the days of the Second Temple. With these advances, it has become clear that the Gospels, Acts, Epistles, and Revelation preserve important ancient traditions found also in early Jewish and Rabbinic literature, some

of which would have remained otherwise unknown. In this lecture, we will consider what these advances can tell us about the historical Jesus and his message. While we may have a better grasp of the varieties of Jewish thought, the challenge remains to determine what is most relevant, and more importantly to understand where Jesus saw himself on the landscape of various dynamic religious innovations. The question has never been whether Jesus was a Jew but rather, what kind of Jew was he? To answer this question, one must pursue a multi-disciplinary approach regarding issues as wide-ranging as historical geography, language, ancient methods of biblical interpretation, parables, and other aspects of religious thought.

## THE ROBERT C. COOLEY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

The Center's mission is to explore the foundations of the Christian faith. Its projects include:

\* The Robert C. Cooley Collection and Research Room

\*Robert C. Cooley Lectures each January (international) and November (domestic)

\*Publications

\*Website, with internet resources and links for research (<http://www.gordonconwell.edu/resources/cooley-center.cfm>)

\*Educational tours of the lands of the Bible

## LOCATION

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
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For any questions concerning the lecture events, please contact Mark Poe at [mpoe@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:mpoe@gordonconwell.edu) or 704-435-6408.