

This is the Seventh Lecture marking the special series on “Faith, Theology, and Community” commemorating 60 years of the Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel

In the Beginning there was the Covenant: A Jewish Covenantal Understanding of Christianity

Rabbi Dr. Eugene Korn, Jerusalem

18 March 2026, 20:00 IST (14:00 EST; 19:00 CET) via ZOOM

Dear Members of the Ecumenical Fraternity,

You are warmly invited to our upcoming lecture, which will explore a question at the centre of Jewish–Christian dialogue: *How do Christianity and Christians fit within the covenantal framework that shapes Jewish theology and law?*

Dr. Korn will guide us through the covenantal categories that have long structured Jewish understandings of humanity. In the Middle Ages, rabbinic thinkers asked whether Christians belonged to the Covenant of Noah. Today, however, a more fitting and pressing question emerges: *Might Christians be understood as part of the Covenant of Abraham?*

This presentation will examine both the promise and the complexity of Jews and Christians sharing the Abrahamic covenant—its theological advantages, its historical challenges, and its implications for interreligious understanding today.

Rabbi Dr. Eugene B. Korn is a longtime friend of the Ecumenical Fraternity and has lectured for its members on many occasions, contributing generously to its mission of deepening mutual understanding. Dr. Korn is an Orthodox rabbi, a moral philosopher with a PhD in moral philosophy from Columbia University, and leading scholar in Jewish ethics and Jewish–Christian relations. He lives in Jerusalem and has devoted his career to advancing interfaith understanding, Jewish ethics, and contemporary Jewish thought. Known for his work in covenantal theology and interreligious dialogue Rabbi Korn has served in prominent academic and communal roles, including Academic Director of the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation in Israel and National Director of Interfaith Affairs at the Anti-Defamation League. He is the Representative of the Israel Jewish Council for Interreligious Relations (IJCIR) to the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC).

A prolific author and respected voice in contemporary Jewish thought, Rabbi Dr. Korn has written extensively on halakhah, ethics, and the evolving relationship between Judaism and Christianity. He is also the founding editor of *Meorot: A Forum for Modern Orthodox Discourse*, a significant platform for contemporary Orthodox thought.

We hope you will join us for what promises to be a thoughtful and enriching discussion.

Yours Fraternaly,

Dr. Petra Heldt
Director