



## **ANCESTRAL JOURNEYS: ANCIENT BIBLICAL MYTH AND END-OF-LIFE WISDOM IN TORAH & MIDRASH - PART II**

*A four-part mini course exploring sacred moments of transition in the lives of our Biblical ancestors. Through study of texts, conversation and reflection we shall discover helpful guidelines for dealing with end-of-life transitions and challenges in our times.*

**CLASSES HELD TUESDAYS MORNINGS, 10:00-11:30 AM**

**APRIL 21, 2020**

**MOSES' FINAL DAYS - "DO NOT GO GENTLE INTO THE GOOD NIGHT"**

*In exploring Moses' response to his immanent death in Torah and Midrash we see that Moses did not "go gentle into the night" but did "rage, rage against the dying of the light". From Moses we learn to meet death with honesty and spiritual equanimity.*

**MAY 5, 2020**

**HAGAR, RITZPAH AND RACHEL: MOTHER-GRIEF AND BIBLICAL DEATH PRACTICES**

*An exploration of themes of loss and grief as documented in the stories of Hagar, Ritzpah, the concubine of King Saul and Mother Rachel. From their stories we learn of the dignity and courage we can each bring to our individual losses.*

**MAY 19, 2020**

**TRANSCENDING TRAUMA: MYTHIC DIMENSIONS OF THE BOOK OF RUTH**

*Through study, discussion and reflective meditation we will explore the book of Ruth. Through Ruth's story we shall see how we too can transcend trauma and loss in our lives, deal with life's transitions and hear our own calling towards deeper fulfillment.*

**JUNE 2, 2020**

**PROPHET SAMUEL, KING SAUL AND THE WITCH OF ENDOR: SPIRITUALISM AND POST-MORTEM COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEAD**

*An exploration of the Biblical story of King Saul's visit to the Witch of Endor to call up from the dead the spirit of Prophet Samuel. In this Biblical narrative we shall see the ancient Hebrew ambivalence towards communion with spirits in the world beyond, and how this practice of interacting with the dead was part of Jewish community life.*

**REB SIMCHA RAPHAEL, PH.D. is Founding Director of the DA'AT Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training. He is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Religion and Theology at LaSalle University, and works as a psychotherapist and bereavement counselor, affiliated with Mount Airy Counseling Center, in Philadelphia. Ordained by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, as a Rabbinic Pastor, he is author of numerous publications on death and afterlife including the groundbreaking *Jewish Views of the Afterlife*. His website is [www.daatinstitute.net](http://www.daatinstitute.net).**