

Free Public Lecture



# Akhenaten, Moses and the Origins of Monotheism

by

**Professor James K. Hoffmeier**

Pharaoh Akhenaten, who reigned for seventeen years in the fourteenth century B.C.E, is one of the most intriguing rulers of ancient Egypt. His odd appearance and his preoccupation with worshiping the sun disc Aten have stimulated academic discussion about monotheism. The lecture describes how Akhenaten was a genuine convert to the worship of Aten, the sole creator God, based on the Pharaoh's own testimony of a theophany, a divine encounter that launched his monotheistic religious odyssey. Through a careful reading of key texts, artworks, and archaeological studies, it also provides compelling new insights into a religion that predated Moses and Hebrew monotheism, the impact of Atenism on Egyptian religion and politics, and the aftermath of Akhenaten's reign.

**The Lecturer:** Professor Hoffmeier recently retired from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School where he was Professor of Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern History and Archaeology. He is an Egyptologist and was director of excavations at Tell el-Borg, northwest Sinai from 1998 to 2008. He has written and edited over a dozen books, published numerous papers and has often contributed to television documentaries.



**3.00 pm Sunday 26 August, 2018**

**Venue: Australian Institute of Archaeology,  
Terrace Way, Macleod**

**(La Trobe University, Building TER 11, Melways 873-4  
University parking restrictions do not apply at weekends)**

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