

Fellowship Opportunity:

**Postdoctoral researcher for the project “Early JewishApocalypticism in the Hellenistic Levant” at the Department of Bible, Tel Aviv University.**

The project studies the myth of the Watchers (Fallen Angels) in early enochic compositions and the Book of Giants, with special emphasis on comparative mythology and on the setting in the early Hellenistic period. The researcher will study any aspect of the myth with relation to the project’s guidelines, including for example: comparative mythology (Babylonian, Greek, Phoenician); divine epithets in the enochic corpus; textual history of 1 Enoch; archeology and history of the upper Galilee in the early Hellenistic period; related Aramaic writings; afterlives of Mesopotamian mythology in the West; Greek mythology in the eastern Mediterranean; and more.

Researchers will carry their own research in these fields, and will cooperate with the PI (Ben-Dov) and with other team members; will co-organize a conference on the topic of the project, and will interact with the vibrant community of scholars of Hebrew Bible, Dead Sea Scrolls, and Ancient Near East at Tel Aviv University.

The term starts ideally in **October 2022** but earlier dates will also be considered.

Duration: 1 academic year. Possible prolongation by another year.

Sum of Stipend: 70,000 – 100,000 NIS. Applicants are encouraged to apply for competitive matching from TAU.

Candidates should be within 5 years of the approval of their PhD.

Researchers are expected to be present at TAU for at least several months during the year of fellowship.

Please submit your CV, sample publication or dissertation chapter, a letter of intent, and one letter of reference.

**Deadline: 20 February 2022.**

For further information see the abstract below, in addition to:

יונתן בן-דב, "מבול ביער הלבנון: שרידים מיתולוגיים מן הלבנט במגילות מדבר יהודה", מגילות יד (תשע"ט) 189-203

Jonathan Ben-Dov, “Neo-Babylonian Rock-Reliefs and the Jewish Literary Imagination,” in *Afterlives of Ancient Rock-Cut Monuments in the Ancient Near East. Carvings In and Out of Time*, ed. J. Ben-Dov and F. Rojas, CHANE 123 (Leiden: Brill, 2021), 345-379.

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Jewish Apocalyptic Literature in the Hellenistic Levant**

The suggested project aims to anchor the early Jewish apocalyptic literature in the mythology and religion of the Hellenistic Levant. Apocalyptic books attest to a mythological array, according to which semi-divine beings conveyed the origins of civilization to humankind, stressing both positive and negative aspects of this encounter. In addition, apocalypticism stresses the multiple dimension of the divinity in the form of a divine assembly. The suggested project will evaluate this array using tools of comparative mythology, tracing its history and transmission, touching on material culture of the Hellenistic Levant and even iconography. The work will encompass literature from the 1-3 centuries (especially the Book of Watchers and the Book of Giants), and will trace the reception of this mythology in the literature of the Yahad.

While earlier studies traced a strong Mesopotamian presence in Enochic literature, the field is now ripe for explaining the cultural relations in a more methodologically sound way. Changes are due not only to the introduction of new material and the reconceptualization of older material, but also to a refined methodology for understanding the Hellenistic melting pot in the eastern Mediterranean. The mountain ranges of Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, and the wider Syrian environment, were intertwined with Mesopotamian mythology (e.g. the Cedar Forest in Gilgamesh) through various periods in history. The mythology, geography and material remains of this region call for drawing a wider cultural map, underscoring cultural participation and osmosis. This view sees apocalypticism as an intellectual endeavor, not only as resistance literature.

The study will trace the plurality of the divine assembly through west-Semitic religion and the Jewish corpora. Special attention will be given to the colorful array of divine epithets and titles in Jewish apocalyptic literature and in Qumran. The project will come to terms with the mention of the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon (including Damascus) in early Jewish literature. The strong Phoenician material presence in the Galilee region at the early Hellenistic period is a key factor in this study.