Cover Letter

*Rachel Borovsky*

My name is Rachel Borovsky and I am a PhD candidate in the Department of Bible at Tel Aviv University under the supervision of Prof. Dalit Ron Shiloni. My dissertation is due to be submitted in June 2020 (for a detailed research proposal, see the attached file).

My Ph.D. deals with the role, status and genealogy of priests, Levitical-priests and Levites in prophetic literature, by comparing the findings to the various sources in the Torah literature, historiographical literature and the Chronic literature from the Persian period. The purpose of this study is to examine what did the authors, editors, and composers of prophetic literature know about the identities of the priests and Levites, and how did they shaped those identities, and under what kind of worldviews and historical circumstances. These personnel identities can be discovered by exposing different layers of texts, which have been edited, reshaped and reworked over and over during the years by different composers' hands, in order to adapt the old prophetic texts to new and changing worldviews.

My post-doctoral research will deal with another dimension of worship. Not in the personnel dimension, as in the Ph.D. research, but in the ritual action dimension: sacrifices. My intention is to examine the types of sacrifices that appear in the prophetic literature and to compare them with the sacrifices system that appear in the Torah literature, and especially in the priestly literature. My research hypothesis is that a complex and alternative worldview emerges from the prophetic literature regarding to the sacrifice's system in ancient Israel, compering to the priestly conception of sacrifice.

I honed my academic skills in the Bible Department at the Hebrew University (BA, MA) and at Tel Aviv University (PhD), where I gained the philology tools necessary for conducting diachronic analyses of the biblical texts—text criticism, literary criticism, redaction-historical criticism, etc. These methodologies reveal the diverse layers of the biblical text, reflecting and indicating the historical-theological processes that occurred in ancient Israel society.

For the past four years, I am participating in an annual Septuagint reading course under the guidance of Dr. Guy Darshan. Within this framework, we compare the MT, LXX, Dead Sea Scrolls, and Samaritan Pentateuch.

Studying at these two institutions has given me the skills and tools to engage in quality research that I hope will make a significant contribution to the field of biblical research.

I have also gained experience in teaching and lecturing during my doctoral studies at Tel Aviv University. Over the past five years, I have taught in the Department of Bible, focusing primarily on textual reading for undergraduates (for details of these courses, see my CV). This framework has enabled me to present complex content clearly and succinctly to the academic community and the public alike. It is also reflected in the conferences I attended in Israel and abroad and the presentations I delivered therein (see my CV). I have recently turned some of my research findings into a study, to be submitted soon to *Vetus Testmentum*.

In addition to biblical research and studies, I gained a broad education in Jewish studies in 'Revivim' program at the Hebrew University, in which I have studied my BA and MA, and at the Hartman Institute where I studied as a doctoral student fellowship. Thanks to both of these institutions, and to my desire to expand my education as an intellectual person, I am also found in the disciplines of Mishna and Talmud, Jewish philosophy, ancient and modern Hebrew literature, culture, and folklore.

Also of note is my position as Content Development Manager at the Center of Educational Technology (CET). Here, I have developed expertise in product characterization (principally websites) containing complex biblical content, combining digital-tools knowledge with market surveys relating to consumer needs (see my CV). This experience has sharpened my management skills and taught me how to work in a team and cooperative environment that produces excellent results in making the Bible accessible to the public.

My complex and broad-ranging dissertation relating to a wide array of texts, teaching experience, content-development management expertise and wide Jewish studies education, have helped me to cultivate skills such as fast learning, good interpersonal relations, and a constant pursuit of professional development. All these can enrich and contribute to my visiting as a post-doctoral scholar of the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University.

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