

[View this email in your browser](#)



Welcome to the inaugural issue of the MIQLAT Newsletter!

Each issue will follow a similar content pattern, though not all features will be present in each issue. Potential “columns” include:

- Blogging alerts (posts of the past week)
- Website updates
- Podcast alerts (episodes of the past week)
- Calendar updates (new events)
- Writing projects (updates on writing projects and excerpts)
- Prayer requests
- Reader Action Items (things you can do to help)
- Opinion on interesting news or topics
- Personal items
- Resource profiles (research tools)
- Feedback, Comments, Q & A (things of interest from my sites or email)

Thanks for signing up!

Lastly, please do not reproduce any part of the newsletter on blogs and social media sites. The content is for you, the newsletter subscribers, only.

New blog posts this past week

Vote on the next book study on the Naked Bible Podcast! Click [here](#).

Those [Alleged Human Footprints](#) Mixed with Dinosaur Tracks in Paluxy, TX

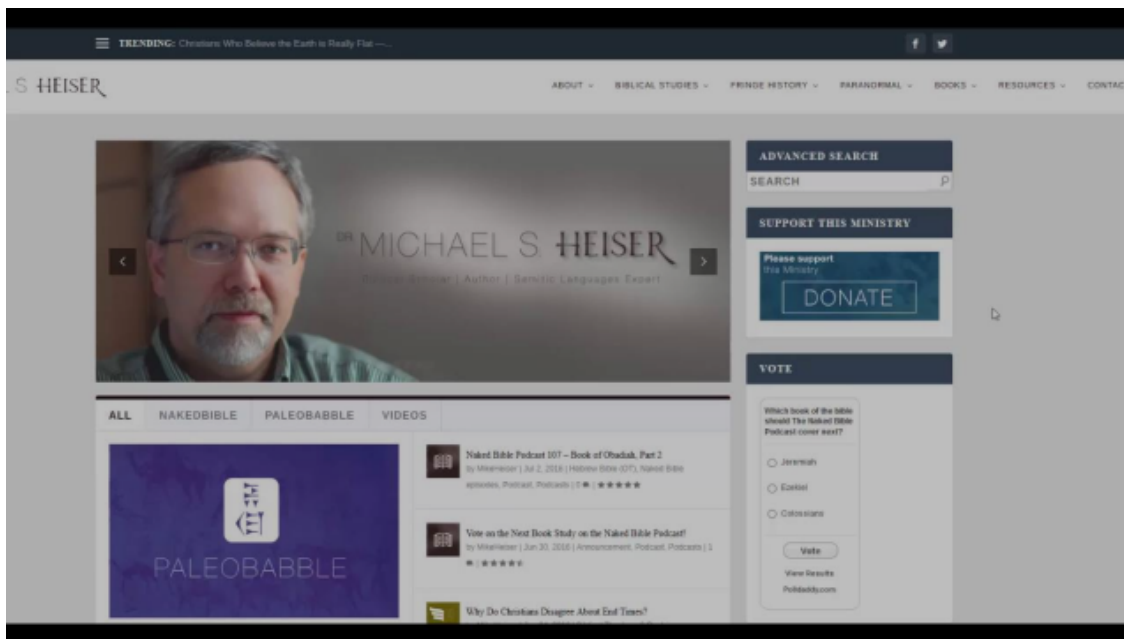
Nick Redfern: [UFOs Most Likely Not Extraterrestrial](#)

List of [Open Access \(Mostly Free\) Online Journals](#) in Ancient Studies



Latest Motion Graphic Video: The Gods of the Bible, Part 1

New Website Updates



Watch the video on new website features at Mike's homepage.

Podcast episodes this week

Naked Bible Podcast [Episode 107: Obadiah. Part 2](#)

Naked Bible Podcast [Episode 108: Q & A #15](#)

Naked Bible Podcast [Episode 109: Psalm 82 in John 10- gods or men?](#)

Calendar Updates

1. Mike will be speaking in Potomac Falls, VA on August 20:

The event will focus on Unseen Realm content and be from 1-5 pm at:

Cascades Library
21030 Whitfield Plaza
Potomac Fall, VA 20165

2. Mike will be speaking in Rochester, NY the evening of October 24, 6:30 pm – 8 pm:

The topic will be "Judaism's Two Powers in Heaven." The location of the event is:

Victory Baptist Church
32 Wildbriar Road
Rochester, NY 14623

Admission is free, but seating is limited. You must RSVP to:

[585-993-8265](tel:585-993-8265) or hoben.john@gmail.com. Doors will open at 6 pm.

This event is sponsored by MicahMind.

What is Mike writing?

From the Introduction (first draft) of *Reversing Hermon: The Importance of the Sin of the Watchers in the Book of Enoch for New Testament Theology* (forthcoming, 2017)

This book is about the important influence that the story of the sin of the Watchers in 1 Enoch 6-16 had on the thinking of New Testament authors. For those to whom 1 Enoch sounds unfamiliar, this is the ancient apocalyptic literary work known popularly (but imprecisely) as “the Book of Enoch.”¹ Most scholars believe that 1 Enoch was originally written in Aramaic perhaps as early as the 3rd century B.C.² The oldest fragments of the book were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls and dated to roughly the second century B.C. This places the book squarely in the middle of what scholars call the Second Temple Period (ca. 500 B.C.—70 A.D.), an era more commonly referred to as the “Intertestamental Period.” This book will use the more academic designation (“Second Temple Period”).

The Task

The term “Watchers” is a biblical one. The Watchers (Aramaic: *irin*)³ appear only in the book of Daniel in the Bible (Dan 4:13, 17, 23), where they are also called “holy ones.” In Daniel they are therefore “good” members of God’s entourage. The term occurs more frequently outside the Bible in Jewish literature composed between the Old and New Testament periods.

The Watcher story of 1 Enoch, as many readers will recall, is an expansion of the episode described in Genesis 6:1-4, where “the sons of God (Hebrew: *beney ha-’elohim*) came in to the daughters of man” (Gen 6:4; ESV). Consequently, “Watchers” is the Enochian term of choice (among others) for the divine “sons of God.”⁴ While the story of this supernatural rebellion occupies scant space in Genesis, it received considerable attention during the Second Temple Period. As we shall see, this attention is not peripheral to biblical theology.

The reason for this assertion is straightforward and will be demonstrated in detail: The Enochian version of the events of Gen 6:1-4 preserves and transmits the original Mesopotamian context for the first four verses of the flood account. Every element of Gen 6:1-4 has a Mesopotamian counterpoint—a theological target that provides the rationale for why these four verses wound up in the inspired text in the first place.

Connections to that backstory can be found in the Old Testament, but they are scattered and not systematically presented. This is not the case with Second Temple Jewish literature like 1 Enoch. Books like 1 Enoch preserve all of the Mesopotamian touchpoints with Gen 6:1-4 when presenting their expanded retelling of the events of that biblical passage. The Enochian retelling of the story in turn finds its way into the New Testament, mostly transparently in the books of Peter and Jude but, as this book will show, other New Testament writers do the same. Put another way, details in certain New Testament passages with links to the Gen 6:1-4 episode can only be traced to 1 Enoch, and those elements in turn are quite consistent with the original Mesopotamian context of Gen 6:1-4. This means the Enochian story not only provides important details as to how Gen 6:1-4 should be understood, but also informs us how certain interpretations of Gen 6:1-4 popular in both the early church and modern Christianity (e.g., the “Sethite” interpretation) fundamentally violate the original context of Gen 6:1-4. . . .

. . . My task in this book is to remove the scales of our own tradition from our eyes, at least as it relates to the importance of the Watcher story of 1 Enoch for understanding portions of the New Testament. In doing so, I’ll endeavor to make serious, peer-reviewed scholarship accessible to interested readers outside the guild of academia. To that end, this is not a book filled with speculation. It is a book that provides readers with access to the best in current scholarship on 1 Enoch, other Second Temple Jewish literature (e.g., the Book of Giants found among the Dead Sea Scrolls), and their relationship to the New Testament.⁵

Footnotes:

1 - The appellation “Book of Enoch” is incorrect since there are other (different) books of Enoch besides 1 Enoch. There is 2 Enoch (also called the Slavonic Apocalypse of Enoch), dated entirely to the late 1st century A.D., and 3 Enoch (also called the Hebrew Apocalypse of Enoch), which dates to 5th or 6th centuries A.D.

2 - See Appendix II for more detail.

3 - Technically precise transliteration has for the most part been avoided in this book. Transliteration of words from biblical Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, along with other ancient languages, has been simplified for English-only readers when possible.

4 - On the divine nature of the sons of God in Gen 6:1-4, see the extended discussion in Michael S. Heiser, *The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible* (Lexham Press, 2015), 93-109

5 - The material in the Book of Giants from Qumran overlaps with the content of 1 Enoch, most notably 1 Enoch 6-16, the expanded treatment of the episode of Gen 6:1-4. This being the case, the present volume will include material from the Book of Giants in its discussion of the New Testament theme of “reversing Hermon.” See Appendix II.

Miqlat News

Here is a new [video explanation of Miqlat](#).

Mike's wife, Drenna, is the first employee working part time for Miqlat. She will be putting together the Miqlat Newsletter, bookkeeping, social media, writing thank you notes, keeping Mike informed on correspondence, etc.

Prayer Requests

- Growth of the podcasts (Peeranormal included)
- For Mike to follow up on friendly contacts made at the Colorado prophecy conference; openings for speaking in the future
- Time management for everyone involved in Miqlat

What does Mike think about??

Topic: Synthetic Biology

Readers of *The Portent* know what synthetic biology is. Few Christians do (really, few *people* do). But they will, soon. Check out this recent article:

[“How synthetic biology will make more money than the entire computer industry,”](#)
International Business Times (July 7, 2016)

Here's an excerpt:

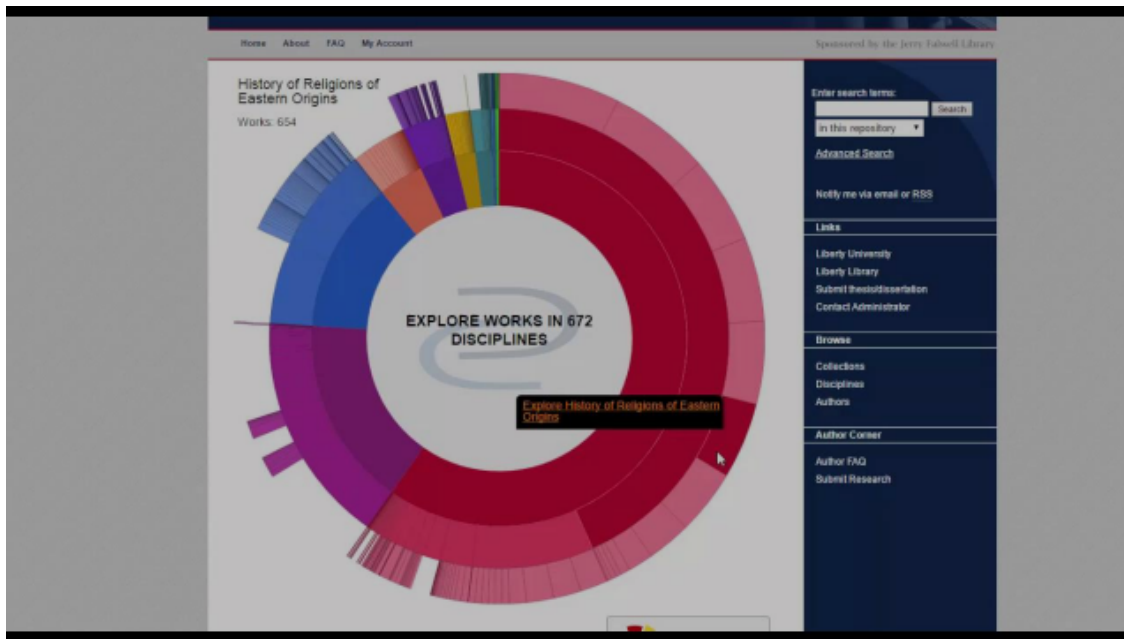
An example of synthetic biology is making 'real' milk without rearing cows. . . .

At its heart, synthetic biology takes micro-organisms, like yeasts or bacteria, modifies their DNA, and uses them as microscopic factories, converting raw materials into finished products.

It sounds like science fiction, except for the fact that it is real and happening today.

Astounding potential to many modern ills, but with equally horrific potential for abuse.

Resource Profiles



Digital Commons: Peer-Reviewed material in biblical studies for free

Feedback, Comments, Q & A

Someone asked me last week for a book recommendation on the relationship of the creation and flood stories of Genesis to Mesopotamian stories like Enuma Elish and Gilgamesh. Rather than a book, I recommended these free essays – all by a good Semitics scholar who is evangelical in orientation:

Genesis and Ancient Near Eastern Stories of Creation and Flood: [An Introduction Part I](#)

Genesis and Ancient Near Eastern Stories of Creation and Flood: [An Introduction Part II](#)

Genesis and Ancient Near Eastern Stories of Creation and Flood: [An Introduction Part III](#)

Genesis and Ancient Near Eastern Stories of Creation and Flood: [An Introduction Part IV](#)

What Can You Do to Help?

Here are some specific things you can do help support Mike and Miqlat:

Follow Mike on Twitter @msheiser if you are not already

Donate to Miqlat on a monthly basis. You can [click here](#) or use the DONATE button at the end of the newsletter.

Follow Mike's Amazon [author profile](#) page:

Post a review of Mike's books that you have read on Amazon

Rate and Review the Naked Bible Podcast on iTunes and Google Play. Ratings and reviews help other people to discover the podcast on both sites. [Click this link to review and rank us on iTunes](#) and use the button below to do the same on Google Play. Help the podcast audience to grow!



Donate
