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Where Did the Names Mahaway and Mahujah Come From? A Response to Colby Townsend's "Returning to the Sources," Part 2 of 2

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**WHERE DID THE NAMES MAHAWAY AND
MAHUJAH COME FROM?
A RESPONSE TO COLBY TOWNSEND’S
“RETURNING TO THE SOURCES,” PART 2 OF 2**

Jeffrey M. Bradshaw, Matthew L. Bowen, and Ryan Dahle

Review of Colby Townsend, “Returning to the Sources: Integrating Textual Criticism in the Study of Early Mormon Texts and History,” *Intermountain West Journal of Religious Studies* 10, no. 1 (2019): 55–85, <https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/imwjournal/vol10/iss1/6/>.

Abstract: *In the present article, Part 2 of 2 of a set of articles supporting Colby Townsend’s efforts to raise awareness of the importance of textual criticism, we focus on his argument that Joseph Smith created the Book of Moses names Mahijah and Mahujah after seeing a table of name variants in the Hebrew text of Genesis 4:18 in a Bible commentary written by Adam Clarke. While we are not averse in principle to the general possibility that Joseph Smith may have relied on study aids as part of his translation of the Bible, we discuss why in this case such a conjecture raises more questions than it answers. We argue that a common ancient source for Mahujah and Mahijah in the Book of Moses and similar names in the Bible and an ancient Dead Sea Scrolls Enoch text named the Book of Giants cannot be ruled out. More broadly, we reiterate and expand upon arguments we have made elsewhere that the short and fragmentary Book of Giants, a work not discovered until 1948, contains much more dense and generally more pertinent resemblances to Moses 6–7 than the much longer 1 Enoch, the only ancient Enoch text outside the Bible that was published and translated into English in Joseph Smith’s lifetime.*

In a recent article, Colby Townsend commendably pointed the attention of readers to the importance of embracing textual criticism as a key

element of methodology for studying Latter-day Saint documents. He rightfully argues that if important textual sources are missing, mistranscribed, or misunderstood, no amount of subsequent analysis can fully compensate for what may have been lost in the mishandling of this essential prerequisite.

Although Townsend's examples range over several topics in Latter-day Saint history and scripture, our response focuses specifically on topics relevant to the Book of Moses. In Part 1 we discussed topics related to the state-of-the-art with respect to textual criticism of the Book of Moses, along with some illustrative examples.¹ In this, Part 2, we discuss material provided by Townsend in his article and in subsequent clarifying discussions with him that relate to a small set of rare personal names that are found in what seem to be variant forms within the *Book of Giants*, the Book of Moses, and the Bible. We will structure the present article around two questions:

1. Where does the Qumran *Book of Giants* name *Mahaway* (MHWY) come from?
2. Where do the Book of Moses names *Mahujah* (MHWY/MH̄WY) and *Mahijah* (MHYY/MH̄YY) come from?

In section 3, we build on the answers to the questions above to address a third question: "Could the Book of Moses names and the *Book of Giants* names have had a common origin in the ancient world?" Following a thought experiment that examines the relative similarity of the Book of Moses names to closely corresponding counterparts in Genesis 4:18 and the *Book of Giants*, we reflect more generally on the significance of the remarkable resemblances between the ancient *Book of Giants* and the Book of Moses, a work of modern scripture.

1. Where Does the *Book of Giants* Name *Mahaway* (MHWY) Come From?

We begin our discussion of this question with a summary of Townsend's views on the origin of the *Book of Giants* name *Mahaway* (MHWY). Adopting suggestions from current scholarship on the issue, he concludes that the name is related to the Aramaic verb *to be*. We will show why these suggestions are not as promising as they may seem at first glance.



Figure 1. Fragment of the Qumran *Book of Giants* (4Q203) that was understood by its translator Józef Milik to contain the first part of the personal name *Mahaway* (outlined by a rectangle in the upper left of the photograph).² BYU Professor Hugh Nibley was the first to argue that *Mahaway* (MHWY) is related to *Mahujah* (MHWY/MĤWY)³ and *Mahijah* (MHYY/MĤYY)⁴ in the Book of Moses.⁵

Townsend: *Mahaway* as Creative Wordplay, Not Related to Similar Names in the Book of Moses

Though Townsend’s article gives no specific details about the origins of the *Book of Giants* name MHWY, he very clearly outlines his view that the names in the *Book of Giants* tradition and the Book of Moses tradition “are *not* the same, contra Nibley’s argument.”⁶ He continues his explanation as follows:⁷

The tri-literal roots for both names are in fact different, making the two different names altogether. ... The fact that there is a letter difference between a “H” and a “Ĥ” moves us from one etymological study and meaning of the name to another name entirely. Mahijah/Mahujah, which are the same name, come from a root MĤH, “destroyed” or “smitten” one; and Mahaway [MHWY] comes from the root HYH, “to be,” “to happen,” “to occur,” or “to come to pass.” These are two completely separate names that are easily confused when transliterated into English from Hebrew. Nibley relied too heavily on his English transcription of both names — MHWY — and failed to recognize that the H represents two distinct letters.

We agree with the conclusion of Townsend that differences in spelling in ancient names such as those he describes imply more than a change in pronunciation, since the different spellings have different meanings.⁸ However, we think that he overstates current evidence when he concludes without qualification that the Book of Moses names Mahijah and Mahujah are necessarily identical, that they are forcibly spelled with an “H” rather than an “H,” and that they *cannot* be related to the *Book of Giants* name Mahaway.

We discuss later below the reasons for our doubts about the certainty of these conclusions. First, however, we summarize the proposals of some prominent Enoch scholars on the origins of the *Book of Giants* name Mahaway (MHWY). Some aspects of their proposals agree with the general spirit of the views expressed in Townsend’s article and some do not.

The first individual known to have advanced a hypothesis on the origin of the *Book of Giants* name MHWY was the eminent Enoch scholar Józef T. Milik, who, with the collaboration of Matthew Black, published the first English translation of the *Book of Giants* in 1976.⁹ Milik’s brief suggestions are similar to Townsend’s description above about the derivation of the name Mahaway. Speaking more broadly about the names of the three *Book of Giants* characters Hahyah, ’Ohyah, and Mahaway, Milik concluded that “these three names, comparable to YHWH, are causative forms of HWH/HYH [i.e., ‘to be’].”¹⁰ Thanks to Townsend, we were also made aware of a statement by another well-known Enoch scholar George Nickelsburg, who later cited Milik’s suggestion about the relationship of these three names to HWH/HYH, adding his view that they are “are evident plays on the Tetragrammaton [i.e., YHWH, the four-letter name of the Lord]. The angelic rebellion is exacerbated through blasphemy.”¹¹

From what we have been able to discover, later scholarship has not taken up the gauntlet to pursue the suggestions of Milik and Nickelsburg about the name MHWY with a more thorough analysis. Loren T. Stuckenbruck, a well-known *Book of Giants* scholar, simply repeated the previous suggestion of Milik and Nickelsburg with a slight variation, concluding laconically that, in the case of Mahaway (MHWY), “perhaps some derivation from the Aramaic verb ‘to be’ (HWY) in conjunction with a *mem* prefix is not impossible.”¹² In this he differed somewhat from Townsend, who wrote in his article that MHWY “comes from the [*Hebrew*] root HYH.”¹³ With respect to that difference from Stuckenbruck, Townsend informed us later, in

a personal communication, that he now believes that Mahaway is related to the Aramaic verb HWY rather than to the Hebrew root HYH, as was originally stated in his article.

After Stuckenbruck made the brief conjecture above, he immediately went on to another subject. Unfortunately, the comments of all three scholars mentioned are brief, and, so far as we have been able to find out, none supports their hypothesis with more precision than what is given above. Until we learn that this subject has received more than a cursory analysis, we will have to make our own educated guesses as to the possibilities of specific linguistic forms these scholars may have had in mind when they made their suggestions.

In addition to what is mentioned above, some additional perspectives from these scholars bear discussion. Importantly, while they agree with Townsend in their suggestion that MHWY might be related to the Aramaic verb *to be*, Stuckenbruck and Milik differ with Townsend's proposal in some important respects:

- In contrast to Townsend's unqualified assertion that MHWY derives from the Aramaic verb *to be*, Stuckenbruck is quite tentative in his suggestions. Note that his statement on the matter cited above used the cautious words "perhaps" and "not impossible."¹⁴ Moreover, in a summary qualification relating to his proposal, he conceded that the name MHWY "is impossible to decipher with any confidence."¹⁵
- Milik disagrees with another aspect of Townsend's proposal, namely the general assertion that versions of the names spelled with *H* and versions spelled with *Ḥ* are necessarily "completely separate."¹⁶ While accepting the fact that the *Book of Giants* name MHWY and the biblical name element MḤWY are spelled differently in their source texts, Milik sees no difficulty in a possible *historical* relationship between the names. In Milik's English translation of the *Book of Giants*, he wrote, without further elaboration, that the name Mahaway (MHWY) was "perhaps transformed, Genesis 4:18, into Mehujael [MḤWY-EL], son of 'Irād."¹⁷ Given Milik's suggestion and the additional evidence that we present below, it is certainly not a given that Hugh Nibley was mistaken in his conjecture that the names Mehujael (MḤWY-EL) and

Mahaway (MH \dot{W} Y) are related.¹⁸ Nibley certainly knew the difference between \dot{H} and H .

- In contrast to Nickelsburg's proposal that the Hahyah, 'Ohyah, and Mahaway "are evident plays on the Tetragrammaton [i.e., YHWH, the four-letter name of the Lord],"¹⁹ it is significant that Stuckenbruck cited the possibility of wordplay on the Tetragrammaton only in connection with 'Ohyah and Hahyah, not Mahaway.²⁰

Later on, we detail our views on why a historical relationship between the name Mehujael in Genesis 4:18, the name Mahaway in the *Book of Giants*, and the similar names Mahijah and Mahujah in the Book of Moses, is plausible. But first, for the benefit of the reader who understandably may be struggling to sort out the orthography of these similarly spelled names in their various Hebrew, Aramaic, and English incarnations, we now digress in order to summarize this topic.

Sorting Out the Ancient and Modern Spelling of the Similar *Book of Giants*, Book of Moses, and Bible Names

We begin by observing that the vowels in the English transliteration of the *Book of Giants* name MH \dot{W} Y are at present largely a matter of conjecture, since no vowels appear in the Aramaic text. Compounding the difficulty for non-specialists in recognizing similarities and differences in the spellings of ancient names is the fact that translators differ in their English transliteration. For example, the English letters *j*, *y*, and *i* are variously used to represent the Semitic letter *yod*. Thus, in English translations of the *Book of Giants*, we see several variants of the same name: Mahaway²¹ (the most common), Mahawai,²² Mahway,²³ and Mahuy²⁴ — or, with the *y* transliterated with a *j*, as is frequently done with other names containing a *yod* in the King James Bible — Mahuj.

Regarding Mahujah and Mahijah from the Book of Moses, we have English versions of the names containing vowels, but it is impossible to tell from the English text alone whether the second consonant in the names would have been written anciently as the equivalent of an H (as in the *Book of Giants*) or an \dot{H} (as in Genesis 4:18). In other words, if we assume an ancient equivalent of the English name Mahijah, it could have been written either as MH \dot{Y} Y or MH \dot{Y} Y. Likewise, Mahujah could have been written as MH \dot{W} Y or MH \dot{W} Y.

With respect to the similar King James Bible name Mehujael, twice-mentioned in Genesis 4:18, the underlying Hebrew is spelled differently in each instance. In other words, though the name is spelled

the same way both times in English (Mehujael), in Hebrew it is spelled once as Mehujael (MH̄WY-EL) and once as Mehijael (MH̄YY-EL).²⁵ Notably, on the one hand, the Book of Moses names resemble the two Hebrew versions of the name in Genesis 4:18 in that both a *u* and an *i* variant of the name exists. However, on the other hand, the Book of Moses names are also similar to the *Book of Giants* name in that they omit the Genesis 4:18 ending “-EL.”

As in every language, the form and spellings of names change over time and as they pass from one culture to another. In the next section we argue that, contra the arguments in Townsend’s article²⁶ and despite a significant difference in one consonant (*H̄* [Bible] vs. *H* [*Book of Giants*]), there is currently no compelling reason why the *Book of Giants* name Mahaway (MHWY) could not have been related at some point in its history to the King James Bible name elements Mehuja-/Mehija- (MH̄WY- /MH̄YY-) and to the Book of Moses names Mahujah (MH̄WY/MH̄WY) and Mahijah (MH̄YY/MH̄YY).

Continuing our discussion of the origin of the name Mahaway, we now raise three specific questions about Townsend’s proposal:

- *Why is it difficult to rule out a historical relationship between the Book of Giants and biblical names?* Our response to this question attempts to flesh out one possible rationale for Milik’s unelaborated suggestion that that the name Mahaway (MHWY) could have been “transformed, Genesis 4:18, into Mehujael [MH̄WY-EL], son of ‘Irad.’”²⁷
- *What linguistic considerations make it unlikely that MHWY is involved in wordplay with ‘Ohyah and Hahyah?* We differ with Milik’s proposal that all “three names” are “comparable to YHWH” and are “causative forms of HWH/HYH [i.e., ‘to be’]”²⁸ and also with Nickelsburg’s suggestion that the three names “are evident plays on the Tetragrammaton [i.e., YHWH, the four-letter name of the Lord].”²⁹ Instead, in light of linguistic considerations, we side with Stuckenbruck, who cited the possibility of wordplay on the Tetragrammaton only in connection with ‘Ohyah and Hahyah, not Mahujah.³⁰ The lack of evidence for wordplay on the name Mahaway leaves the reader bereft of a rationale for why the author of the *Book of Giants* would have invented this name from scratch, rather than adopting an already-known name from earlier

traditions, as he did in the case of other characters, such as Gilgamesh.

- *What literary considerations make it unlikely that MHWY is involved in wordplay with ʾOhyah and Hahyah?* In our discussion of this question, we agree with Stuckenbruck, who wrote, “ʾOhyah and Hahyah may be treated together, as they are referred to as prominent giant brothers (cf. 4Q530, fragment ii, line 15).”³¹ In our response to the question, we describe several reasons, based on literary considerations, why the name and character of Mahaway, the son of Baraq̄el, should be treated *separately* from ʾOhyah and Hahyah, the twin sons of Shemihazah.

After addressing the issues raised by these questions, and while acknowledging Stuckenbruck’s conclusion that the name Mahaway “is impossible to decipher with any confidence,”³² we propose what we see as a few of perhaps many plausible alternative explanations for the origin of the name Mahaway that are consistent with our overall analysis.

Why Is It Difficult to Rule Out a Historical Relationship Between the *Book of Giants* and Biblical Names?

The evidence we present below suggests that we are not obliged to rule out some kind of relationship between the biblical name element Mehuja- and *Book of Giants* Mahaway because of a difference in spelling (Ḥ vs. H). Though Townsend recognizes that these “two completely separate names ... are easily confused when transliterated into English from the Hebrew,”³³ he never addresses the possibility that it would have also been easy for a similar confusion to have arisen in the work of one or more *ancient* authors and tradents. For example, Qumran Hebrew expert Eric Reymond has demonstrated that the confusion of H and Ḥ at Qumran goes in both directions, citing “examples of *heh* [H] written for etymological *heth* [Ḥ] and vice versa.”³⁴

Describing how such confusions could have occurred anciently as scribes copied texts, David Calabro noted that³⁵

the Hebrew letters *heh* (H) and *heth* (Ḥ) are easily mixed up, since they look very similar — especially as we read them in Hebrew hands from the period of the Dead Sea Scrolls. [Since] Townsend accepts the mix-up of the Hebrew letters *waw* (V) and *yod* (Y) in Genesis 4:18,³⁶ he has no reason not to accept

the possible mix-up of *heh* and *heth* in [the biblical and *Book of Giants*] names.

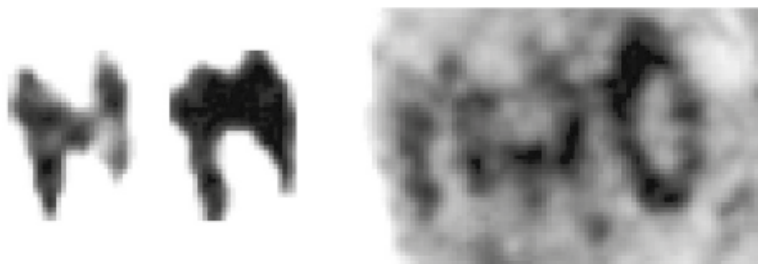


Figure 2. Digital image of *heth*, *heh*, and the word מנה (meaning “from him”) from 4Q530, illustrating the difficulties of distinguishing the similar-looking letters³⁷

Indeed, mix-ups of *heh* and *heth* of the sort noted by Calabro are not merely conjectural, but are amply demonstrated as realities that present challenges in the work of modern Dead Sea Scrolls experts.³⁸ For example, as one justification for their alternate reading of 4Q530 (an important source manuscript for the *Book of Giants*), Daniel Machiela and Andrew Perrin recognized that “the letters *heh* and *heth* are at times quite similar in this scribe’s handwriting.”³⁹



Figure 3. Photograph of *Book of Giants* manuscript 4Q530, detail of fragment 7, column ii.⁴⁰ The end of line 7 is outlined, where Milik’s transliteration, LMḤWY, led to his omission of the name *Mahaway* in his English translation of the phrase.⁴¹ By way of contrast, Puech’s newer transliteration, LMHWY, allows Cook to translate the Aramaic characters as “to Mahaway.”⁴²

Indeed, to take an example that is directly relevant to the names under discussion, we observe that differences between scholars about whether the 4Q530 scribe wrote a *heh* or a *heth* have resulted in divergent opinions about whether the name *Mahaway* appears or not in Fragment 7, column ii, line 7 (see Figure 3). In 1976 Milik read the Hebrew term in question as LMḤWY and translated the line as “here. From you, a second time.”⁴³ However, Émile Puech’s more recent transcription

reads the term as LMHWY, resulting in Edward Cook's translation of line 7 as "hither and thither a second time to Mahaway."⁴⁴

Of course, our point here is not to take a stand on which reading of this passage in 4Q530 is correct, but rather to demonstrate that confusions of *heh* and *heth* that affect transcriptions and translations today could have easily occurred in ancient times.⁴⁵

Another line of evidence, based on pronunciation, also confirms the possibility of confusion between the two letters. Note that the Semitic letter *heth* (H) was pronounced anciently as a pharyngeal fricative,⁴⁶ while the letter *heh* (H) was pronounced more like the *h* in English. In addition to evidence of confusion based on transcription errors, it is possible that tendencies in local pronunciation (i.e., weakening of gutturals) in Qumran may have also contributed to spellings in which *heth* was confused for *heh*.⁴⁷ For example, Reymond cites Kutscher, who concluded that at Qumran, "the *heth* was apparently pronounced very nearly like a *heh*."⁴⁸ Moreover, Reymond observes that visual and aural sources of error are not mutually exclusive, concluding that "although [the cited examples] may reflect *heth*'s weakening, one must recognize that all such mistakes may not reflect aural mistakes, but rather visual gaffes, the two letters being so similar in shape."⁴⁹

In summary, despite spelling differences between the name element MHWY- (Genesis 4:18) and the name MHWY (*Book of Giants*) in their extant forms, evidence relating to the possibility of transcription errors as well as the related tendencies at Qumran to weaken pronunciation of the guttural lead us to a plausible alternative to Townsend's suggestion that MHWY was deliberately invented from scratch for the purposes of wordplay by the *Book of Giants* author. The well-established fact of ancient and modern confusions of *H* and *Ḥ* opens up the possibility, discussed in more detail later below, that the similar but different names in the Bible and the *Book of Giants* may derive from a common name that pre-dated both texts. This line of reasoning also opens up the possibility that the Book of Moses names Mahujah and Mahijah are related to the names in the Bible and/or the *Book of Giants* in similar fashion, as also will be argued later on.

What Linguistic Considerations Make It Unlikely That MHWY Is Involved in Wordplay with 'Ohyah and Hahyah?

At the outset of our response to this question, we would like it to be understood that the connection between the names 'Ohyah/Hahyah and the Tetragrammaton suggested by Milik, Nickelsburg, and Townsend

seems plausible enough to us at first blush. In other words, we do not disagree up front with the straightforward argument that 'Ohyah ('WHYH) and Hahyah (HHYH) created aural plays or echoes on the Hebrew verb *to be* (HYH). However, any effort to posit a link between these two names and that of Mahaway (MHWY) by this conjecture would in addition have to explain why, if all three names were indeed invented by the *Book of Giants* author for wordplay, 'Ohyah and Hahyah would be related to a Hebrew version of the verb (HYH), while Mahaway would be related to an Aramaic one (HWY).

In addition, we are not averse to the idea that 'Ohyah and Hahyah may indeed be “plays” on or echoes of the Tetragrammaton and may point to “angelic rebellion ... exacerbated through blasphemy,”⁵⁰ as Milik and Nickelsburg first conjectured, though we note that these claims demand a more precise analysis of the grammar and form of the names. Following Milik and Nickelsburg, Stuckenbruck also suggested the possibility that wordplay using 'Ohyah and Hahyah might involve the Hebrew verb *to be*, though, like them, he refrained from positing any specific grammatical forms or meanings for these names.⁵¹

In his brief discussion Stuckenbruck suggested theophoric *-yāh* names as an alternative explanation for 'Ohyah and Hahyah. Of course, if he is correct in this suggestion, it would apply only to 'Ohyah and Hahyah, not Mahaway. While conceding that “the matter remains uncertain,”⁵² Stuckenbruck sees at least one reason to favor this latter explanation (theophoric *-yāh*) over the idea of wordplay on the Hebrew verb *to be*. He wrote, “If ... there is any analogy with many of the names of the watchers (that, e.g., carry *-'el* suffixes), then there is reason to prefer the [theophoric *-yāh*] explanation.”⁵³

Taken together, the foregoing evidence warrants strong caution against attempting to say anything about the names 'Ohyah and Hahyah with certainty from a linguistic perspective, especially in light of the absence of precise and convincing grammatical explanations for these names.

While still conceding the possibility of wordplay for 'Ohyah and Hahyah, we find the grammatical case much weaker for Mahaway (MHWY). Why is this so?

Overwhelmingly, names in the ancient Near East and in ancient Israel follow rules of name formation. Though it is true that the name MHWY might putatively match a participial Aphel form of the Aramaic HWY (meaning “to create or cause to be”), there is a paucity of attested Aphel forms in the relevant literature. Stuckenbruck is even more diffident,

suggesting that “the meaning of the name Mahaway ... is impossible to decipher with any confidence,” speculatively offering only that “perhaps ... the name includes a derivation from the Aramaic verb ‘to be’ [HWY] in conjunction with a *mem* prefix.”⁵⁴ In other words, he does not commit to a nominal or a (participial) verbal form.

One might venture with Jeffrey L. Cooley that “perhaps the three names [’Ohyah, Hahyah, and Mahaway] are deliberate corruptions of the Tetragrammaton, or even playing on Yahweh’s self-identification to Moses in Exodus 3:14 in which the verb [HYH] is used in the first-person imperfect three times.”⁵⁵ But even in so venturing, Cooley concedes that “this proposal is, of course, highly speculative.”⁵⁶ And, as observed above, the fact that ’Ohyah and Hahya would be related to a Hebrew version of the verb (HYH), while Mahaway would be related to an Aramaic one (HWY), remains unexplained.

The absence of viable grammatical proposals for Mahaway, as for the other names, is telling and ultimately renders any connection of MHWY with the Aramaic HWY, let alone wordplay involving the Tetragrammaton and the other giant names, a matter of speculation.

Leaving aside the unsupported idea that Mahaway was invented from scratch for the purposes of wordplay, a direct dependence of Mahaway on Mehujael is also doubtful. Sometimes names are shortened and theophoric elements are removed from the ends of the names, but much more rarely are root letters deliberately changed. Apart from deliberate scribal dysphemisms (e.g., Meribbaal to Mephibosheth), we think it would be very difficult to find examples of both types of deliberate changes in a single name, especially for discernible literary purposes.

As argued above, the clear ad hoc character of the names ’Ohyah and Hahyah strikes a stark contrast with the different character of Mahaway’s name. Having established the doubtful basis of any suggestion that Mahaway is involved in wordplay with these characters based on linguistic arguments, as well as the alternative suggestion that the name is directly dependent on the Bible, let us now consider the same question from a literary perspective.

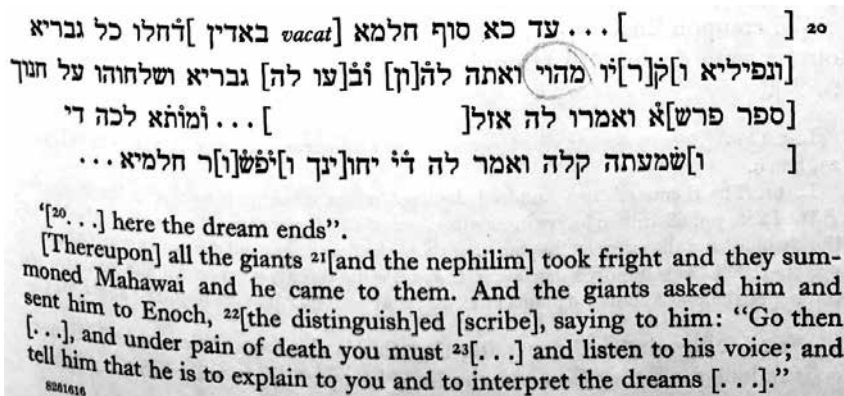


Figure 4. In this passage from p. 305 of a copy of J. T. Milik's translation of the *Book of Giants*, 4Q530, Fragment 2, column ii, lines 20–23, 'Ohyah, Hahyah, and their fellows send Mahaway to ask Enoch to ask him about their frightful dreams. The Hebrew characters corresponding to the name *Mahaway* are circled in pencil. Townsend has tentatively identified the annotation as having been made by Hugh Nibley.⁵⁷

What Literary Considerations Make It Unlikely That MHWY Is Involved in Wordplay with 'Ohyah and Hahyah?

The short answer to this question is that throughout the *Book of Giants* narrative, 'Ohyah and Hahyah constitute a deliberate and distinctive pair. By itself, the fact that Mahaway (MHWY) stands outside this pairing makes it more difficult to argue that this name has the same literary function. This and related considerations throw additional doubt on the already unlikely argument that the name Mahaway was invented from scratch to facilitate wordplay with 'Ohyah and Hahyah.

Throughout the long, intertwined history of the two characters corresponding to 'Ohyah and Hahyah, across many different cultures and traditions, they have always been presented as a pair⁵⁸ — indeed very often as a pair of *twins* with rhyming names. When described as a single unit, as they so often are, they are variously labeled as “demonic twins,” “angels twain,” “two youths,” and so forth.⁵⁹ James Russell gives these selected highlights of the far-flung origins and history of this twosome:⁶⁰

Originally the two are Şemiḥaza or Şemḥazai, and 'Azael; and the former has two sons, Hiya and Hiwa. The rhyming names of the latter were chanted, the *Talmud* notes, by boatmen as they strained at their ropes. The Manichaean version of the *Book of Giants* knows Şahmizād and his sons 'Ohyā and Ahyā. A Sogdian text equates the former with Sām; and the

twin angels are in Persian named as Sām and Narīman. The Avestan epic hero of the cycle of the *kavis*, Kərəsāspa, belongs to the Sāma clan and is called *naire.manah-*, “manly-minded”; so the Iranizing version of the narrative has equated the fallen angels, it would seem, with him. In Parthian the giants themselves are *kaw-ān*, “kavis.” Later Jewish lore stresses the rhymed character of the twins’ names by calling them ’Aza and ’Azel. The giants in the earth practice telling lies (Aramaic *šqrh*, *kdbyn*); and in the apocryphal *Book of Jubilees* (8.1–4) the Watchers (Greek *egrēgoroi*, Aramaic *’irin*), who unlike the vigilant angels of the heavenly host are fallen beings, are said to have initiated divination using astrology. So the apocryphal literature of Jews, Christians, and Manichaeans that existed at the dawn of Islam had a pair of fallen angels whose names sometimes rhymed and who lied and invented magic.

Now let’s consider details about the distinctiveness of the ’Ohyah/Hahyah pair as they are found specifically in the *Book of Giants*. After this analysis, it will become evident why, when we try to group ’Ohyah, Hahyah, and Mahaway as a threesome, Mahaway always seems to be the “odd man out” — not merely for the linguistic considerations discussed in the previous section, but in addition for literary reasons. The table below summarizes some obvious differences between Mahaway and the other two characters.

| | ’Ohyah/Hahyah | Mahaway |
|---|--|---|
| Do the names occur elsewhere in ancient literature of pre-Christian era? | No | Yes |
| Explicit wordplay | Rhyming names; “Heave!” “Ho!” wordplay | Not an obvious part of the rhyming/punning wordplay |
| Role | Dreamers | Mediator |
| Relationship with Enoch | No personal acquaintance | Spoken to “very lovingly” |
| Father | Shemihazah | Baraq’el |

Table 1. Summary of some obvious differences between the ’Ohyah/Hahyah pair and the standout Mahaway.

Do the names occur elsewhere in the ancient literature of the pre-Christian era? In contrast to name variants of the *Book of Giants* characters Mahaway, Gilgamesh, and Humbaba that are scattered in various places, the names 'Ohyah and Hahya do not occur in the ancient literature of the pre-Christian era (except in the *Book of Giants* itself), suggesting that they are of later origin than the others. Moreover, while story characters equivalent to 'Ohyah and Hahya appear in several derivative medieval Jewish⁶¹ and Islamic⁶² accounts of the two dreamers, characters with names relating to Mahaway, Gilgamesh, or Humbaba go conspicuously *unmentioned* in these late accounts. This fact highlights the virtual inseparability of 'Ohyah and Hahya, as well as their literary independence from Mahaway, Gilgamesh, and Humbaba.

In a related hint that supports this conclusion, a medieval Enoch account written in Arabic depicts a king named Yamaḥuel (suggested by Reeves and Reed as a reference to the biblical Meḥujael) who is identified with a group of idolatrous adversaries of Enoch.⁶³ Thus, while the story contains a name with arguable affinity to Mahaway, a pair of characters corresponding to 'Ohyah and Hahyah does not appear in the tale — again providing some (admittedly more limited) support for the argument that 'Ohyah and Hahyah are best understood as a literary twosome rather than a trio that includes Mahaway.

Explicit wordplay. Mahaway is not an obvious part of the sorts of rhyming and punning wordplay in which 'Ohya and Hahyah participate in various accounts of their exploits. On the other hand, the tradition of rhyming wordplay in the *Book of Giants* is so integral to these characters that it continues into late midrash, where the names of 'Ohya and Hahyah are given the similarly rhyming names of Hiwwa (*hyww*') and Hiyya (*hyy*').⁶⁴ Expanding on the explicit rhyming of the names, midrash also explicitly connects them to a wordplay on the “Heave!” and “Ho!” cry of heavy laborers,⁶⁵ leading André Caquot to go so far as to suggest that their names may have actually originated in these interjections.⁶⁶ Remarkably, the rhyming tradition of the twin names is picked up in many languages and cultures in other forms. For example, Qur'an 2:102 and related Islamic traditions relating to the 'Ohyah and Hahyah characters give us Hārūt and Mārūt,⁶⁷ the rhyming names perhaps having their origin in pre-Christian Armenian words for “plants” (*hawrot*) and “waters” (*mawrot*).⁶⁸ These names may also relate to Haurvatāt and Amərətāt, “the rhyming pair amongst the seven Aməša Spəntas, the ‘Holy Immortals’ of the Avesta.”⁶⁹ And, continues James Russell, “at the proverbial world’s edge skulk the giants of Biblical apocalyptic myth Gog⁷⁰ and Magog. ...

known to Armenians also by their Arabicized forms *Yaǰuǰ* and *Majuǰ*, from which Armenian *ǰǰ*, ‘giant,’ may derive.”⁷¹

Role. While Mahaway primarily plays the role of a serious-minded, message-bringing mediator,⁷² ’Ohyah and Hahyah are depicted as ineffectual quarrelers,⁷³ dreamers,⁷⁴ and worriers⁷⁵ — Doppelgänger afflicted with nagging Doppelträumes. In their appointed role, they seem almost to be sketched with the pen of a skilled caricaturist who has introduced a measure of comic relief that both pervades the larger narrative and persists in the very details of their Tweedledum-Tweedledee-like names. Like Hergé’s Dupond and Dupont, part of the silliness of the two brothers is in the paradoxical fact that their “most singular quality is what is common to them,”⁷⁶ most obvious in the style of the tellings of their two complementary dreams.

Relationship with Enoch. Ironically, the physically powerful ’Ohyah and Hahyah are uncharacteristically shy when it comes to posing questions to Enoch. On the other hand, Mahaway is depicted in the *Book of Giants* as someone who moves easily between the world of the *gibborim* and the world of Enoch, having met personally with the prophet on at least two occasions.⁷⁷ Thus, Mahaway, to whom Enoch himself had once called out “very lovingly,”⁷⁸ seems to have a different and unique relationship to the prophet, and, by way of contrast to ’Ohyah and Hahyah, is otherwise portrayed quite sympathetically in the *Book of Giants* overall. As Jens Wilkens observes: “One is tempted to postulate an emotional relationship between [Mahaway] and Enoch. The former obviously is not as corrupted as his fellows.”⁷⁹

There is a hint of pathos in an ancient passage that seems to highlight the contrast between the violent slaughter of Enoch’s adversaries en masse to the more singular and personal description of the dramatic death of the prominent⁸⁰ Mahaway by the supreme head of the angelic host: “the great angel has slain that messenger whom they had.”⁸¹

Father. While a single father, Shemiḥazah,⁸² sired the twin brothers, Mahaway describes himself as a son of Bara’el.⁸³ The idea that Shemiḥazah’s name was associated with a name of God (perhaps adding support for Stuckenbruck’s proposal of a theophoric *-yāh* termination in the names of Shemiḥazah’s sons ’Ohyah and Hahyah⁸⁴) is suggested by Michael Langlois, who interprets the name as “Shem sees” (i.e., “the Name sees”),⁸⁵ where “the Name” refers to God.

Here we conclude our examination of Townsend’s proposal for the origin of the *Book of Giants* name Mahaway. In the first place, we have discovered no conclusive reason why the MḤWY’L of Genesis and the

MHWY of the *Book of Giants* could not have had a common origin in an ancient name that predated both books. Second, we have presented both linguistic and literary reasons that make it unlikely that Mahaway was involved in wordplay with the names 'Ohyah and Hahyah, thus, in our view, significantly weakening the plausibility of the only rationale offered for the theory that Mahaway was a deliberate, *de novo* literary creation.

Abandoning further discussion of this seemingly unlikely option, we now sketch out what we see as a more satisfactory explanation for the name MHWY.

Is There a More Satisfactory Explanation for the *Book of Giants* Name MHWY?

Is it possible that the name Mahaway, rather than being created ad hoc by the author of the *Book of Giants*, instead had its origins in an already existent name, retained in the same or similar form that came down to the author from a tradition independent of the Bible? There is a precedent for this scenario in the author's use of the equally distinctive name of Gilgamesh, a character whose literary history is known to have pre-existed the *Book of Giants*. Could the same have been true for Mahaway? In this section, we suggest reasons why it would be difficult to rule out this explanation.

Our discussion of some plausible origins for the name Mahaway that might have predated the *Book of Giants* will rest on an examination of three questions:

- Was the *Book of Giants* primarily derived from the Bible and *1 Enoch*?
- What evidence exists for threads from ancient Mesopotamia in the *Book of Giants*?
- Might the history of the *Book of Giants* name MHWY trace back to Mesopotamia?

Was the *Book of Giants* Primarily Derived from the Bible and *1 Enoch*?

While a simple theory for the origin of the *Book of Giants* might consider it merely as a “rewritten Bible” with some dependence on *1 Enoch*, biblical scholarship is increasingly giving way to methods that require, as John Reeves and Annette Yoshiko Reed describe, “a shift away from the older scholarly obsession with ‘origins’ whereby the study of scriptures often focused on the recovery of hypothetical sources behind them.”⁸⁶

With specific respect to the sources of the Qumran library, André Lemaire observes that “accepted texts” as we think of them today simply did not exist at the time the scrolls were copied.⁸⁷

Since we live more than two thousand years after the Qumran manuscripts were copied, we may be tempted as modern readers to recognize ... [a] direct link with the books of the Bible. Such a conclusion seems obvious from the titles given to certain manuscripts. ... However these titles may give the false impression that the Aramaic manuscripts of Qumran were centered on the Bible and dependent on it even though the Bible itself ... did not yet exist. A bibliocentric vision of this sort appears anachronistic.

Going further, John Reeves explains:⁸⁸

The ... “Bible” and Qur’an are magnetized nodes within a common “text network” that share a lexicon of ancestral heroes, places, and narrativized events, a lexicon not limited by the constraints of canon or its lemmata governed by the “tyranny of canonical assumptions.” Within this lexicon resides a rich reservoir of revered tales, ancestral folklore, and tribal traditions about the pre-Deluge era that antedate their varying literary presentations in works such as the many redacted forms of Genesis, the Enochic *Book of Watchers*, renditions of the Second Temple book of *Jubilees*, and so-called rewritten components of the biblical primeval history (Genesis 1–11). Therein also resides the cultural memory — and perhaps even physical exemplars — of the written sources and editorial moves that preceded the later formal crystallization of discrete textual entities such as proto-Masoretic “Genesis” or “Jubilees.”

The skepticism of scholars such as Reeves, Reed, and Lemaire about characterizing works such as the *Book of Giants* as part of a “rewritten Bible” further extends to doubts about the idea of it being a “rewritten *1 Enoch*.” In addition to the considerations raised above, it should be remembered that the *Book of Giants* was “very popular at Qumran,” more popular than *1 Enoch* itself.⁸⁹ More significantly, the *Book of Giants* is arguably the oldest extant Enoch manuscript, and therefore, according to Nickelsburg, essential in “reconstruct[ing] the literary shapes of the early stages of the Enochic tradition.”⁹⁰ For these reasons and more, the *Book of Giants* is a document that should “be taken seriously in its

own right,”⁹¹ rather than seen merely as an intriguingly anomalous yet insignificant afterclap of *1 Enoch*.

In summary, Stuckenbruck describes three factors that make the *Book of Giants* distinctive from contemporary Jewish works:⁹²

1. Whereas the other Enochic compositions are “pseudepigrapha” in the technical sense, the *Book of Giants* seems not to have been a first-person account attributed to Enoch himself (contra Milik ...). ... In the *Book of Giants* Enoch is never clearly portrayed as a first person narrator; and furthermore, none of the *Book of Giants* materials unambiguously cast Enoch in the role of being the recipient of visions or dreams. ...
2. Secondly, the *Book of Giants* distinguishes itself in the role assigned to Enoch. As just mentioned, he is not the recipient of dreams; instead he functions in the narrative as a dream interpreter *par excellence* as he clarifies the meaning of the ominous visions given to the giants. ...
3. Thirdly, and most significant ... , the author(s) of the *Book of Giants* cast the spotlight on the gigantic offspring of the watchers more than any other extant Jewish document written or copied during the Second Temple period. ... It is only in the *Book of Giants* that any of the giants are actually given proper names.

Notwithstanding the unique nature of the narrative and the unrivaled prominence and antiquity of the *Book of Giants* at Qumran, the first reflex of some scholars is to attribute any resemblances to *1 Enoch* to “borrowing” from the latter source. As part of a larger effort to counter such reflexive tendencies, Reeves has demonstrated with a well-argued example that the tale of Hārūt and Mārūt, though sharing some affinities with *1 Enoch*, is actually more dependent in its conceptual foundations on the book of *Jubilees*.⁹³ He has concluded that the relative neglect of *Jubilees* in scholarly circles, “a work ... that does not necessarily ‘rewrite’ any of the ‘canonical’ versions,”⁹⁴ can be attributed, at least in part, to misconceptions about *Jubilees* itself that relegate it (like the *Book of Giants*) to a secondary, derivative status:⁹⁵

Speaking in both conceptual and archaeological (i.e., physical) terms, it seems to be more responsible to view *Jubilees* as simply one pre-canonical manifestation of the rich pool of sub-textual ancestral traditions that also surface in related but distinctive forms of the biblical books of Genesis-Exodus

as well as in other places outside those books that utilize many of the same characters, stories, and themes.

What Evidence Exists for Threads from Ancient Mesopotamia in the *Book of Giants*?

In contrast to the idea that the *Book of Giants* is primarily dependent on the Bible and *1 Enoch*, current scholarship sees hints of more ancient and complex roots for the text than were once acknowledged. For example, André Caquot, among others, has argued that “the reference to Gilgamesh argues for the original of the *Book of Giants* in an eastern diaspora.”⁹⁶ Extending arguments of other scholars that are based solely on Mesopotamian names in the *Book of Giants*, Matthew Goff’s significant reconstruction of the plot of the *Book of Giants* demonstrated that the text “creatively appropriates motifs” from the Gilgamesh epic.⁹⁷ Going further, Joseph Angel has subsequently concluded from his review of the evidence that the composition “preserves only the remains of a complex allegory, whose original referents cannot be recovered.”⁹⁸

Other studies specifically suggest that caution should also be exercised in assuming any direct dependence at all of the *Book of Giants* on *1 Enoch*. Indeed, André Lemaire concludes that it is a bad idea to begin with to try and assimilate the *Book of Giants* to *1 Enoch*, because “these two literary traditions are different and have had a different literary posterity.”⁹⁹ He goes on to explore evidence that bears on specific questions of transmission, gathering new evidence of contact between cuneiform culture and the Jews from additional references in the *Book of Giants* (e.g., descriptions of the “tablet” or “board” — *lwh* — that parallel the Akkadian *lē’u*). He also brings in relevant evidence from the *Prayer of Nabonidus*.

As another recent example, in a comparison of Ezekiel 1, Daniel 7, *1 Enoch* 14, and the *Book of Giants*, Amanda M. Davis Bledsoe¹⁰⁰ argues that *1 Enoch* 14’s adoption of the Danielic idea of the deity shows only that this idea was “accepted even at a late period, and does not automatically make [*1 Enoch* 14] older even if the tradition may be observed in generally more ancient writings.” More generally, she concluded “that all three of these texts drew from a common tradition(s) regarding the heavenly throne and then adapted it to fit within their individual context.”¹⁰¹ In other words (according to Bledsoe), Daniel, *1 Enoch*, and the *Book of Giants* independently draw on “common tradition(s)” that are older than any of the three texts. Going further, Stuckenbruck concludes that the *Book of Giants* “has preserved the throne-theophany in an earlier

form” than what one finds in Daniel 7 and that “Daniel’s redaction of this tradition was [independently] shaped by other Enochic traditions” found in *1 Enoch* 14 and 90.¹⁰²

The conclusions of Bledsoe can be compared to the analogous mention of Noah, Daniel, and Job in Ezekiel 14:14, 20. The mention of these individuals in Ezekiel does not make the books of Ezekiel and Job late compositions because Ezekiel mentions Daniel. Nor does it make the canonical book of Daniel an early composition because Ezekiel mentions him here. These verses can be cited as evidence that well-established traditions concerning Noah, Daniel, and Job existed during Ezekiel’s time (late 7th–6th centuries BCE), if one accepts Ezekiel’s authorship of the passage (there is no convincing reason not to accept such!). The important point to be made is that such statements do nothing to help us establish the precise dating of any canonical book of scripture — this on account of the nature of the use and reuse of tradition. Just as Noah, Daniel, and Job traditions were established and venerable enough for Ezekiel to invoke them, so the intertwined texts of the Enochic tradition should be viewed in a similar light.¹⁰³

Might the History of the *Book of Giants* Name MHWY Trace Back to Mesopotamia?

Before examining specific possibilities for the origin of the name Mahaway in Mesopotamia, we should ask: What do we know generally about the source of the names in the *Book of Giants*? With respect to twenty fallen archangels (Watchers) that appear in that work and elsewhere, the highlight of Michael Langlois’ survey is both the antiquity and diversity of the names.¹⁰⁴ We have seen a glimpse of the diversity in the names of ’Ohyah, Hahyah, and Mahaway, where the first two names appear to be of late origin, while the roots of the third are less clear but, as we argue above, seem to be older.

Why is the age and the origin of the names important? Because, as is being increasingly established by scholars, there are significant — and in several respects unique — strands of Mesopotamian influences in the *Book of Giants* that set it apart from the more well-known *1 Enoch* writings, including likely influences on names. While we have argued this point more generally earlier in the article, we now want to stress its implications by a closer examination of the similarly spelled names in the Bible, the *Book of Giants*, and the Book of Moses.

As with the *Book of Giants* name Mahaway and the Book of Moses names Mahujah/Mahijah, the etymology of the biblical name Mehujael

remains uncertain. As Richard Hess observes, “It is generally agreed that Mehujael is composed of two elements, the second of which is ’l, “god” [sic] but the first element is generally disputed.”¹⁰⁵

We should not rule out the possibility that the name Mehujael is older, perhaps much older, than the biblical text of Genesis as we have it today. If one limits one’s investigation of Mehujael to possible West Semitic etymologies, “West Semitic *mh*, ‘to smite,’ and a participial form of *hyh*, ‘to live’” are the most viable options for the disputed first element.¹⁰⁶ However, limiting our search to West Semitic etymologies is an unreasonable requirement, since the ultimate origin of Mehujael and Mahaway seems as likely to be East Semitic as West Semitic. For example, although Ronald Hendel narrowly considers only Hebrew onomastics for the name Mehujael,¹⁰⁷ Nahum Sarna¹⁰⁸ and Richard Hess,¹⁰⁹ following Umberto Cassuto,¹¹⁰ suggest that the name might be explained on the basis of the Akkadian *mahhû*, denoting “a certain class of priests and seers.”¹¹¹ And what was the role of these seers? Among other things, the royal archives of the Old Babylonian kingdom of Mari recount the comings and goings of *mahhû* as intermediaries and messengers, bearing words of warning from the gods for the king,¹¹² a role that can be compared to that of Mahaway.

Further strengthening Cassuto’s argument for the derivation of the name is the agreement he finds in the word *mahhû* behind Mehujael, the name of Mehujael’s son Methusael (a name that is “analogous not only in form but also in meaning”¹¹³), and the name of Mehujael’s grandson Lamech, which Cassuto sees as likely to have come from the Mesopotamian word *lumakku*, also signifying a certain class of priests.¹¹⁴ Significantly, Hess reports that while the root *lmk* is unknown in West Semitic, it is found both in third millennium BCE personal names and in names from Mari in Old Babylon in the early second millennium BCE.¹¹⁵

With respect to Cassuto’s analysis and other possible Mesopotamian etymologies for these names we also note that Methusael may instead constitute a Hebraization of the widely accepted, but still (as yet) theoretical and unattested Akkadian form, *mutu ša ili* (“man of god”). In any case, Mesopotamia seems to be a good place to look in terms of obtaining more precise etymologies for the names in the Genesis genealogies.

Since Cassuto opens the door to considering Akkadian *mahhû* (“static, prophet”¹¹⁶) as the source of the first element in Mehujael, we can also consider the word *mahhû* (“great”) as a possible source. The latter term derives from Sumerian MAĜ (adj. “high, exalted, supreme,

great, lofty, foremost, sublime”¹¹⁷). If Cassuto is right that Lamech can be connected to Akkadian *lumakku*, we do well to note that *lumakku* or *lumahhû* (which can also mean “chief, ruler”¹¹⁸) also appears to derive from Sumerian MAĤ (LÛ.MAĤ = “great man”). This may have some further bearing on the etymology of the Book of Moses name “Mahan”¹¹⁹ [spelled “Mahon” in OT1 of the Joseph Smith Translation¹²⁰].

In summary, most scholars recognize that the surprise appearance of the names Gilgamesh and Hobabish in the *Book of Giants* is due to direct and/or indirect influences of some kind from the Akkadian *Gilgamesh* epic.¹²¹ Milik was the first to note this as the first and “only mention of Gilgamesh outside the cuneiform literature” as well as to recognize that the name Hobabish derives from Humbaba, the monster slain by Gilgamesh.¹²² Matthew Goff, among others, has clarified and amplified the relationship among the Old Babylonian epic and the fragmentary Aramaic Enoch text.¹²³ Since some scholars accept that the root *mhh* may sit behind the name Mehujael, is it possible that Mahaway (and, as we argue below, potentially the Book of Moses Mahujah and Mahijah) was independently derived from this same root, having come down to the author through extracanonical traditions rather than invented ad hoc or borrowed and altered from the Bible? We do not see any reason why this plausible scenario should be ruled out. Indeed, in consideration of the totality of the analysis above, we find this explanation more likely than any other.

2. Where Do the Book of Moses Names Mahujah and Mahijah Come From?

Townsend: “Mahujah/Mahijah” As a Rewrite of Genesis Inspired by Reading

Seeing it as “unlikely” that Joseph Smith was “dependent on an ancient manuscript or source,”¹²⁴ Townsend proposes that the names *Mahujah* and *Mahijah* were included in the Book of Moses as the result of one of the two following scenarios:

- Concluding, by analogy to similar situations in the Book of Mormon, that the personal name *Mahijah* in Moses 6:40 is an eponym for the place name mentioned in Moses 7:2, he argues that the name *Mahujah* was mistakenly substituted for *Mahijah* in that verse during the dictation process.¹²⁵ In that process, the vowels *u* and *i* might have been confused, leading to the appearance of both names in later

manuscripts and publications — *Mahijah* in Moses 6:40 and *Mahujah* in Moses 7:2. Arguments for and against this scenario are discussed in Part 1 of the present article, published previously.¹²⁶

- As an alternative scenario, Townsend proposes that Joseph Smith created the Book of Moses names *Mahijah* and *Mahujah* after seeing a table of name variants in the Hebrew text of Genesis 4:18 in a Bible commentary written by Adam Clarke.¹²⁷ The table includes an entry containing the two similar names: *Mehujael* and *Mehijael*. Because Joseph Smith and his associates lacked the expertise to read and recognize these variants in Hebrew, even in the dubious case that a Hebrew Bible might have been in their possession, Clarke’s table (or perhaps some equivalent in another English commentary) appears to Townsend to be the only reasonable purely historical explanation at present (apart from the possibility of scribal error mentioned above) for how they could have knowingly and deliberately inserted both name spellings in the Book of Moses. We now discuss look at this hypothesis in more detail.

In support of Townsend’s proposal that Joseph Smith may have borrowed the names *Mehujael* and *Mehijael* from Clarke’s table and altered them afterward to read *Mahujah* and *Mahijah*, Townsend cites Thomas Wayment and Haley Wilson-Lemmon’s¹²⁸ conclusions that Joseph Smith used Clarke’s commentary as a translation aid. A table on page 151 of the commentary lists transliterations of two Hebrew variants, *Mehujael* and *Mehijael*, that appear in Genesis 4:18. From this evidence, Townsend concludes, “It was possible, contrary to recent opinion, that Smith and his contemporaries were aware of the spelling difference of the name found in Genesis 4.”¹²⁹

| SAME NAMES DIFFERING IN THE HEBREW. | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------|------------|--|
| 1 | Gen. iv. 18. | Mehujael | Mehijael | In the same versc. |
| 2 | — x. 3. | Riphath | Diphath | 1 Chron. i. 6. |
| 3 | — x. 4. | Tarshiah | Tarshishah | — i. 7. |
| 4 | — x. 4. | Dodanim | Rodanim | — i. 7. |
| 5 | — x. 23. | Mash | Meshech | — i. 17. |
| 6 | — x. 28. | Obal | Ebal | — i. 22. |
| 7 | — xxxii. 30, 31. | Peniel | Peuel | In the next versc. |
| 8 | — xxxvi. 11. | Zepho | Zephi | 1 Chron. i. 36. |
| 9 | — xxxvi. 23. | Shepho | Shephi | — i. 40. |
| 10 | — xxxvi. 39. | Pau | Pai | — i. 50. |
| 11 | — xxxvi. 40. | Alvah | Aliah | — i. 51. |
| 12 | — xvi. 10. | Jemuel | Nemuel | Num. xxvi. 12. |
| 13 | — xvi. 10. | Jachin | Jarib | 1 Chron. iv. 24. |
| 14 | — xvi. 10. | Zohar | Zerah | { Num. xxvi. 13. and 1 Chron. iv. 24. |
| 15 | — xvi. 11. | Gershon | Gershom | 1 Chron. vi. 1. 16. |
| 16 | — xvi. 13. | Job | Jashub | Num. xxvi. 24. |
| 17 | — xvi. 16. | Ezbon | Ozni | — xxvi. 16. |
| 18 | — xvi. 21. | Huppm | Huram | 1 Chron. viii. 5. |
| 19 | — xvi. 21. | Ard | Addar | — viii. 3. |
| 20 | — xvi. 23. | Hushim | Shuham | Num. xxvi. 42. |
| 21 | Exod. iv. 18. | Jether | Jethro | In the same versc. |
| 22 | Num. i. 14. | Deuel | Reuel | Num. ii. 14. |
| 23 | Deut. xxxii. 44. | Hoshea | Joshua | Deut. xxxiv. 9. |

Figure 5. “Mehujael” and “Mehijael” as they appear (at the top of the list) in Adam Clarke’s 1825 Bible commentary.¹³⁰

Townsend should be commended for identifying this possible textual source, and it seems that there is indeed a *possibility* that Smith could have incorporated his knowledge of this table in his translation of the Book of Moses. However, a first observation that should be made is that Wayment himself has drawn attention to the fact that “there are no parallels to Clarke between Genesis 1–Genesis 24.”¹³¹ Townsend’s statement above that “it was possible, contrary to recent opinion,” suggests the possibility that he is prepared to adduce evidence, not cited by Wayment and Wilson-Lemmon, that supports the presence of parallels between Genesis 1–24 and Clarke’s or other Bible commentaries which Joseph Smith could have known. We have not at present seen evidence of such parallels, so we cannot comment further.

Regardless of whether or not Joseph Smith utilized a published commentary as a translation aid during the earliest phases of his work on the Bible, what is most lacking in Townsend’s argument that the Prophet relied on Clarke’s table as he translated the relevant verses in the Book of Moses is a credible rationale for why Joseph Smith would have been motivated to do so. Readers will have to judge for themselves the likelihood that Joseph Smith would actually have had the time, patience, and — most importantly — a compelling *reason* to search through Clarke’s commentary for two variant names he could use for an obscure, twice-mentioned character in his Genesis translation, presumably in

order to give it more credibility. It should be remembered that he had no hesitation in previously publishing scores of strange-looking names in the Book of Mormon for which there was no biblical precedent.¹³²

As a counter-example to any idea that the Prophet was looking for ways to include specific biblical evidences for the Book of Moses additions to the Genesis story, we note that Joseph Smith seems to have been aware that the biblical book of Jude explicitly cites Enoch¹³³ (though he explicitly evinced no awareness of *1 Enoch*, the source Jude was quoting). If the Prophet had in reality been on the lookout for ways to bolster the case for the authenticity of his Bible translation, the most obvious thing he could have done would be to include the relevant verses from Jude somewhere within *his* Enoch account. But this he did not do.

As we continue down this line of thinking, the questions multiply. Why would it have been important for Joseph Smith to preserve both name variants, rather than normalizing them into a single English spelling in the Book of Moses, as is almost always done in ancient manuscripts and modern translations of Genesis 4:18?¹³⁴ Moreover, if Joseph Smith were aware of Clarke's table, why did he not also make changes to the names in his translation of Genesis 4:18? And why do both of Joseph Smith's versions of the names omit the theophoric suffix "-el,"¹³⁵ thus differing from the Hebrew text of the Bible and yet (coincidentally?) agreeing with its Dead Sea Scrolls¹³⁶ equivalent in the *Book of Giants*?

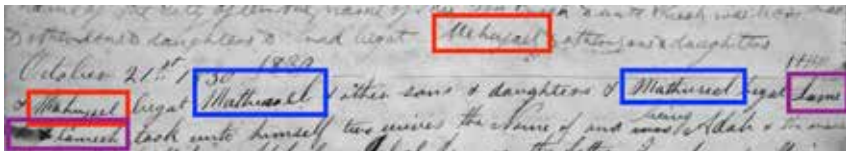


Figure 6. Genesis 4:18, JST OT1, p. 10 with variant spellings outlined: Mehujael/Mahujael (red), Mathusael/Mathusiel (blue), Lameh/Lamech (purple).¹³⁷

Evidence from Joseph Smith's name translations in Genesis 4:18–19 also casts doubt on the idea that he would have been interested in meticulous scrutiny of Clarke's table of spelling variants for two versions of the name Mehujael he could alter and use in his account of Enoch. Within the span of the few lines that contain his rendering of the biblical name Mehujael, we find three examples of variant name spellings: Mehujael/Mahujael, Mathusael/Mathusiel, Lameh/Lamech.¹³⁸ The evidence provided by these variants gives the impression that these name spellings were based simply on what the scribes heard Joseph Smith read, rather than on an effort to conform to the Bible or other written documents for consistency.

We realize that answers to secondary questions such as these might be formulated with some additional effort. But in our minds such questions are overshadowed by the lack of satisfactory answers to the central questions about whether, in view of the issues discussed above, the possibility of Joseph Smith's use of the table was reasonable and likely, and was propelled by a convincingly argued motive. In view of the current state of the evidence, we find Clarke's table to be an unlikely explanation for the inclusion of the variant names *Mahujah* and *Mahijah* in the Book of Moses.

3. Could the Book of Moses Names and the *Book of Giants* Names Have a Common Origin?

At this juncture, we propose a thought experiment of sorts. Let us suppose that for some unspecified reason Joseph Smith was determined to borrow a biblical name to use as a character in his JST Genesis account of Enoch. Let us further suppose that, since neither he nor his associates had a copy of the Bible in Hebrew or read Hebrew in 1830, he had two English translations of the Bible he could borrow from. One would be a King James Bible in which the name he was determined to use was spelled *Mehujael*; and a second would be a Bible in which the name was spelled *Mahaway*. Though the example is admittedly absurd, its purpose is to make it very plain to the reader that there is no reason, based solely on the most common English translations of both the King James and *Book of Giants* versions of the name, to prefer the idea that Joseph Smith borrowed and altered the name *Mehujael* in "inventing" the Book of Moses names *Mahujah* and *Mahijah* over the idea that he borrowed and altered the name *Mahaway*. (Of course we do not believe the Book of Moses names were invented by borrowing from and altering names in either of these sources.)

Six aspects of a possible linguistic connection between *Mahujah* and *Mahaway* are:

- **H vs. *H*.** Townsend's article asserts without qualification that the Hebrew root that sits behind them contains a *H*.¹³⁹ However, we observe that there is nothing about the Book of Moses names themselves that can be used by proponents of their ancient origin to argue directly for a Hebrew *H* behind them, since the English gives us only an indeterminate *h*. Thus, so far as we can determine without further explanation, the argument advanced by Townsend that the Genesis 4:18 and Book of Moses

names are related can only be indirect, resting solely on the claim that Joseph Smith borrowed them from the Bible in one way or another — presumably from the Genesis 4:18 names of Mehujael and Mehijah.¹⁴⁰ A corollary to the assertion that Mahijah and Mahujah *must have been* derived from Genesis 4:18 is the argument that the Book of Moses names *cannot be* related to Mahaway in the *Book of Giants*.¹⁴¹ However, when we unpack the argument that a connection between the Book of Moses names and *Mahaway* is *impossible*, it becomes evident that it, too, is forcibly dependent on one's having also previously accepted the borrowing hypothesis — and is likewise independent of anything related to the English names as we have them in the Book of Moses. Thus we conclude that the *h* in the original names behind “Mahujah/Mahijah” is not constrained to be an *H* (like *Mehujael*, as argued by Townsend), but could just as easily have been an *H* (like *Mahaway*). On the basis of the “H/H” question alone, independent of other arguments, it is as likely that “Mahujah/Mahijah” is related to *Mahaway* as it is to *Mehujael*.

- ***a* or *e* after the *M*.** English transcriptions of *Mahaway* and “Mahujah/Mahijah” are similar in that they contain an *a* after the *M*, differing from the King James English transcription of the name *Mehujael*. However, because the spelling of the name in JST Genesis 4:18 is given both ways, *Mehujael* and *Mahujael*, we will not count this as a difference with the Bible.
- ***a*, *i*, or *u* following the *H/H*.** Townsend has argued that the “‘u’ sound [in *Mahujael* and *Mahujah*] also distinguishes the name from the [*a* sound in] Mahawai in the *Book of Giants*.”¹⁴² But it must be remembered that the *Book of Giants* fragments have come to us with only consonants, and thus the English transliteration of this name is conjectural. Put simply, we have no idea what the vocalization of MHWY was. For instance, some translators render it *Mahway*, leaving out the vowel following the *h* entirely.¹⁴³ Calabro further explains,¹⁴⁴ “The vocalization Mahway, while perhaps possible for a pre-Masoretic stage of Hebrew (so possibly valid for the period of the Dead Sea

Scrolls), would not work in Masoretic Hebrew. . . . Another possibility is ‘Mahuy’ (with a long ‘u’), which would be a Hebrew passive participle form.” It should be additionally noted that the original pronunciation of the biblical name Mehujael was similarly uncertain, as evident in the variety of spellings attested in the ancient witnesses (e.g., Greek (LXX) *Maiēl*, Latin *Maviahel*, Syriac *maḥwā’yēl*), which struggle to offer a pronunciation of this consonant string. As Hess notes, “the Samaritan Pentateuch avoids the issue by omitting the disputed syllable”¹⁴⁵ — i.e., *mḥy’l*.¹⁴⁶ Hess goes further, arguing that “the fact that the Hebrew text was not harmonized attests to the care taken in preserving such differences, even when they exist side by side.”¹⁴⁷

Though we do not accept extant evidence as sufficient to admit Townsend’s proposal that the Book of Moses variants *Mahujah* and *Mahijah* are due either to an English transcription error or to Joseph Smith’s use of Clarke’s table, a confusion of *i* and *u* in the names *Mahijah* and *Mahujah* is possible, being exactly the kind of graphical error that one would expect if the similarly written letters *waw* and *yod* (or their equivalents in another language) were to have been mistranscribed by an ancient author at some point in time.¹⁴⁸ As an interesting alternative to this surmise, Cassuto argues that such variations, whether in form or content, are often deliberate.¹⁴⁹

For all the reasons listed above, we find that the *u* and *i* in the names *Mahujah* and *Mahijah* do not reliably indicate that the names are of different origin than the name *Mahaway*.

- **Lack of “-EL” termination in Mahujah and Mahaway.** We have previously noted that Townsend’s arguments that Mahujah and Mahaway were copied from the Bible and then altered contain no particular explanation (besides, perhaps, coincidence) for the fact that neither one of the similar names contains the theophoric ending (“-EL”). In this respect the fact that both names lack the “-EL” that is present in both variants of the Genesis 4:18 name makes their English versions more similar to each other than to the biblical names. Though the JST contains inconsistencies

in name spelling, such as the ones we have discussed earlier (most often a difference in the spelling of vowel sounds), we have found no instances in JST manuscripts where something as obvious as an “-EL” termination was dropped.

- **Missing *a* after the *y* in *Mahaway*.** As Cassuto mentions, the form *M^ehūy* (with a terminating *y* similar to the *Book of Giants* name *Mahaway*, whose vowels would be no less accurately rendered in the form *M^ehūy*) and the form *M^ehūyā* used in the biblical Mehujael (presumably similar, in our view, to the ancient form *M^ehūyā* behind the English name Mahujah in the Book of Moses — see the discussion of the terminating *h* in the point immediately below) differ only in that the latter form has retained the *a* “as a fossilized relic of the accusative termination.”¹⁵⁰ Apart from the “fossilized relic” at the end, the forms of the Book of Moses and *Book of Giants* names are identical to each other and to the primary name elements in Genesis 4:18.
- ***h* at the end of the English spellings of *Mahujah*/*Mahijah*.** The Book of Moses names terminate with an *h* in their English spellings. This makes them different from both the names in both Genesis 4:18 and in the *Book of Giants*. That said, it is impossible to know from the manuscript evidence alone whether the “-jah” termination of the Book of Moses names was meant to stand for the name of the God of Israel (Psalm 68:4), or if the *h* on the end of the English version of the name is present for some other reason. For example, given the prevalence of “-jah” terminations in Old Testament names (e.g., Elijah), it would not be surprising that an English-speaking scribe who heard the JST Genesis name pronounced during the dictation process would have written the name with an *h* at the end to make the spelling conform to this common naming convention.

| Feature match to Book of Moses | <i>Book of Giants</i> | Genesis 4:18 |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Plausible “H/H.” match | + | + |
| 2. Plausible English vowel match after “M” | + | + |
| 3. Plausible vowel match after “H/H.” | + | + |
| 4. No “-EL” termination | + | - |
| 5. Plausible match of the name form termination | + | + |
| 6. Plausible match of English “h” termination | - | - |

Table 2. Table showing the plausibility of feature matches of the names in the *Book of Giants* and Genesis 4:18 to the names in the Book of Moses.

Of the six comparative elements in Table 2, five (1, 2, 3, 5, 6) indicate that Mahujah and Mahijah are as similar to *Mahaway* as they are to *Mehujael*. One element (4) indicates that Mahujah and Mahijah resemble *Mahaway* more than they do *Mehujael*. We conclude that, based on orthographic features alone, the names Mahujah and Mahijah are slightly more similar to *Mahaway* than to *Mehujael*. Thus, any argument that Mahujah and Mahijah are more similar to the Bible names based on surface features of the most common English versions of the names *Mehujah* and *Mahaway* is mistaken.

Significance of the Resemblances between the Book of Moses and the *Book of Giants*

The similarities between the names Mahijah, Mahujah, and Mahaway are not trivial details, but rather significant markers in scholarly efforts to identify the relationships among the *Book of Giants*, the Book of Moses, and the rest of the extant Enoch literature. For instance, non-Latter-day Saint scholar Salvatore Cirillo, drawing upon the similar conclusions of *Book of Giants* expert Loren Stuckenbruck,¹⁵¹ considers the names of Enoch’s adversaries, notably including Mahaway, as “the most conspicuously independent content” in the *Book of Giants*, being “unparalleled in other Jewish literature.” Moreover, according to Cirillo, “the name Mahawai in the *Book of Giants* and the names Mahujah and Mahijah in the Book of Moses represent the strongest similarity between the Latter-day Saint scriptures on Enoch and the pseudepigraphal books of Enoch (specifically the *Book of Giants*).”

Although we have no evidence that Enoch scholar Józef Milik was aware of the Book of Moses chapters that contain the names Mahujah and Mahijah, we have separate accounts from Hugh Nibley and Gordon Thomasson that Matthew Black, Milik's collaborator on the first English translation of the *Book of Giants* — someone who certainly knew enough about ancient Hebrew and Aramaic to make an expert judgment about any notable resemblances in other sources to that text — was impressed enough with the correspondence between the names in the Book of Moses Enoch account and the prominent and unique appearance of the similar name in the *Book of Giants* that he made a previously unplanned trip to Brigham Young University to learn more.¹⁵² According to Thomasson, Professor Black¹⁵³

acknowledged that the name Mahujah could not have come from *1 Enoch*. He then formulated a hypothesis, consistent with his lecture, that a member of one of the esoteric groups he had described previously [i.e., clandestine groups who had maintained, sub rosa, a religious tradition based in the writings of Enoch that pre-dated Genesis] must have survived into the 19th century, and hearing of Joseph Smith, must have brought the group's Enoch texts to New York from Italy for the prophet to translate and publish.

During the intervening years, no documentary evidence has surfaced that bears out Black's unsupported hypothesis that Joseph Smith somehow obtained access to an Enoch manuscript like the *Book of Giants* from an esoteric religious group in Europe.¹⁵⁴ On the other hand, during this same span of time, much additional evidence has come forth linking Joseph Smith's translation of the Book of Moses Enoch account to a variety of relevant ancient textual traditions, including several from the *Book of Giants*. The Mahijah/Mahujah parallel is just one of many ancient connections for which there is no completely satisfying historical explanation. In our view, the idea that these correspondences have come by coincidence or through borrowing and alteration is unconvincing. Instead, we are persuaded that they are due to common traditions that pre-date both texts, as Matthew Black apparently felt compelled to believe.

Although the combined fragments of the *Book of Giants* scarcely fill three pages in the English translation of García Martínez,¹⁵⁵ we find in it the most extensive series of significant parallels between a single ancient text and Joseph Smith's account of Enoch's preaching mission and subsequent battles with his enemies. These resemblances range

from general themes in the story line to specific occurrences of rare expressions in corresponding contexts. Some of these correspondences are summarized in Table 3.

| Event | Book of Moses | Book of Giants |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Secret works and murders | 6:15 | 1Q23, 9+14+15:2-4 |
| A “wild man” | 6:38 | 4Q531, 22:8 |
| Mahijah/Mahaway questions Enoch | 6:40 | 4Q530, 2:20-23 |
| Enoch reads record of deeds | 6:46-47 | 4Q203, 7b col. ii; 8:1-11 |
| Trembling and weeping after Enoch reads | 6:47 | 4Q203, 4:6 |
| Call to repentance | 6:52 | 4Q203, 8:14-15 |
| Conceived in sin | 6:55 | 4Q203, 8:6-9 |
| Enoch defeats <i>gibborim</i> | 7:13 | 4Q531, 22:3-7 |
| The “roar of wild beasts” | 7:13 | 4Q531, 22:8 |
| Imprisonment of wicked <i>gibborim</i> | 7:38 | 4Q203, 7B 1:5 |
| Repentant gathered to holy city/ cities | 7:16-18, 69 | Mani <i>Book of Giants</i> , Text G |
| The earth cries out against the sinners | 7:48 | 4Q203, 9-10 |

Table 3. Examples of parallel themes and expressions in the *Book of Giants* and Moses 6-7 accounts of Enoch’s preaching mission, battles, and gathering of the righteous.¹⁵⁶

Summing Up Our Views

In this article, we have considered Townsend’s arguments that the author of the *Book of Giants* and Joseph Smith *created* remarkably similar names for an important character in their respective Enoch accounts. One might well ask, “What are the chances that they would come up with these closely resembling names independently?”

Even if, for a moment, we were to grant the hypothesis that Joseph Smith created the name Mahujah directly or indirectly through his knowledge of Genesis 4:18, why did he pick this name for his account instead of some other? If it were an arbitrary choice, why did he not

pick Irad or Methusael or the more prominent Lamech from the same verse, or some other name from the surrounding verses instead? Why is Mahujah the only named character in the Enoch chapters of the Book of Moses apart from Enoch himself — and also the only other plausibly biblically related name besides Enoch in the *Book of Giants* as well?

Going further, one of the most important parallels in the *Book of Giants* and Book of Moses names is that, in contrast to the biblical name, they both lack the theophoric element (-el). If Joseph Smith derived the names Mahujah and Mahijah by adapting them from Genesis 4:18, why wouldn't he, for the sake of consistency, have dropped the "-el" in his translation of the Bible verse itself? And if, instead, he were deliberately trying to create a new and distinctive name with the theophoric ending "-jah," what sufficiently important purpose would that have served for him to have gone to that trouble?

Moreover, since the author of the *Book of Giants* was apparently not completely bound to the written tradition and had the liberty to include names unattested elsewhere, such as 'Ohyah and Hahyah, to facilitate wordplay, as some have suggested, why wouldn't he have invented a name that was more similar to the other two instead of the more distinctive name Mahaway? And why would Joseph Smith, who has sometimes drawn criticism for the many new names that have been included in his scripture translations, have been averse to "making up" just one more?

Instead, both authors are, without a viable explanation for motive, putatively seen as creating a name that is coincidentally very similar to one found in the same Bible verse, then using these modified names to serve as a moniker for a prominent character who just happens to function in an analogous role within two independent accounts of the prophet Enoch.

After a review of the evidence, readers may understandably wonder: Were the names Mahujah and Mahijah merely borrowed and adapted from the Bible? Our analysis at the beginning of this article revealed that the evidence for this conjecture is weak and unlikely. On the other hand, could Joseph Smith have been aware of the names through an unknown Aramaic manuscript of the *Book of Giants* that was translated into English and secretly made available to him before its discovery by scholars at Qumran in 1948? Were the names somehow transferred to Joseph Smith through an unknown esoteric group, as Professor Black proposed? Once again, purely historical explanations disappoint. Such proposals are based purely on speculation and can provide no answers about the identity of these putative collaborators, how they stumbled

upon such a manuscript, why they secretly translated it into English and made it available to Joseph Smith, and how the Prophet either hid this fraud from his associates or persuaded them to collude with him. As the chain of required conjectures grows, their cumulative likelihood diminishes.

A more convincing conclusion, in our view, is that these names — along with other evidences of antiquity in the Book of Moses Enoch account — were directly restored from the ancient world through the process of divine revelation.

Conclusion

We are grateful that Townsend's article has highlighted the importance of textual criticism, a key and often foundational aspect of Latter-day Saint scholarship that requires ongoing attention. Though our conclusions diverge from his in several respects, he has graciously helped us correct some of the errors in our initial analysis and in our interpretation of his views. That said, any remaining mistakes in our response to his article are, of course, ours. We hope that readers will avail themselves of the work of patient scholars who have made existing resources available to us — and look forward to seeing additional resources for textual criticism in the future made available through the efforts of Townsend and others.

Acknowledgements

If there is any merit in this article, it is due in large measure to the excellence of its reviewers. Sincere thanks to David Calabro, Kent Jackson, Donald W. Parry, and Stephen T. Whitlock for their valuable comments. We are especially grateful to Colby Townsend for his cordial collaboration, including many important suggestions and corrections. We also thank anonymous reviewers whose selfless efforts have improved this article. Notwithstanding the significant contributions of the reviewers, the authors bear responsibility for its remaining faults.

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Endnotes

1. Jeffrey M. Bradshaw and Ryan Dahle, "Textual Criticism and the Book of Moses: A Response to Colby Townsend's 'Returning to the Sources,'" *Interpreter: A Journal of Latter-day Saint Faith and Scholarship* 40 (2020): 99–162. See also *Temple Themes in the Scriptures* (website), www.templethemes.net.
2. Photograph of *Book of Giants*, 4QEn Giantsa[4Q203], Fragment 7b, column ii from Plate 31, Józef Tadeusz Milik and Matthew Black, eds. *The Books of Enoch: Aramaic Fragments from Qumran Cave 4* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1976). Cf. 4QEn Giantsa[4Q203], Fragment 7b, column ii, Plate 906, B-295417, Full spectrum color image of recto taken by Shai Halevi. The photograph is mislabeled as being of Fragment 6, though it is actually of Fragment 7b, column ii. In *The Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library*, <https://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/explore-the-archive/image/B-295417>.

Milik translates lines 5–7 as follows: "(5) [...] to you, Mah[awai ...] (6) the two tablets [...] (7) and the second has not been read up till now [...]" (Milik and Black, *The Books of Enoch*, 314).

Though only a small part of the "H" can be seen in the photograph of the manuscript we have reproduced here, Florentino Garcia Martinez, "The *Book of Giants* (4Q203)," in *The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated: The Qumran Texts in English*, ed. Florentino Garcia Martinez, 2nd ed., trans. Wilfred G. E. Watson (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 1996), 260–61; Fragment 7, column ii, lines 5–7, p. 260, like, Milik, reads the end of line 5 as "MH." By way of contrast, Loren T. Stuckenbruck, *The Book of Giants from Qumran: Texts, Translation, and Commentary* (Tübingen, DEU: Mohr Siebeck, 1997), 84 and John C. Reeves, *Jewish Lore in Manichaean Cosmogony: Studies in the Book of Giants Traditions, Monographs of the Hebrew Union College* 14 (Cincinnati, OH: Hebrew Union College Press, 1992), 110 see only "M" and not "MH" in this particular fragment. Attesting to the complexity of interpreting these fragments is a later transcription by Stuckenbruck where he interprets the last nearly complete letter of line 7 as a Hebrew "B" rather than an "M" (Donald W. Parry and Emanuel Tov, eds. *The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader*, 2nd ed. [Leiden, NDL: Brill, 2013], 1:945). Despite the ambiguities in this particular photograph, scholars agree that Mahaway's full name appears in

other, more complete and readable fragments from the *Book of Giants*.

3. Moses 7:2.
4. Moses 6:40.
5. Hugh W. Nibley, *Enoch the Prophet, The Collected Works of Hugh Nibley 2* (Salt Lake City, UT: Deseret Book, 1986), 277–79.
6. Colby Townsend, “Returning to the Sources: Integrating Textual Criticism in the Study of Early Mormon Texts and History,” *Intermountain West Journal of Religious Studies* 10, no. 1 (2019): 81, <https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/imwjournal/vol10/iss1/6>. For Nibley’s discussion of the issue, see Nibley, *Enoch*, 277–79; Nibley, “Churches in the Wilderness,” in *Nibley on the Timely and the Timeless*, ed. Truman G. Madsen (Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1978), 156–59; Nibley, *Teachings of the Pearl of Great Price* (Provo, UT: Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies (FARMS), Brigham Young University, 2004), 267–69.

In evaluating Nibley’s suggestion, Latter-day Saint scholar David Calabro observes that Nibley, while brilliant, was more of a philologist than a linguist, “and as such he did not generally focus on laying out the details of linguistic connections. He was also treating connections at a broad literary level, taking for granted that words and names sometimes get garbled in transmission” (David Calabro, e-mail message to author, January 24, 2018).

While maintaining the possibility of a correspondence between the ancient equivalent of these names, Calabro explained why we cannot posit a direct equivalence between all of them (including the related names Mahujael/Mahijael in Genesis 4:18) in their current forms (*ibid.*):

The -ah in Mahujah and Mahijah is problematic if you are interpreting the current forms of these names as equivalents of both Mahawai and also of Mehuja-/Mehija- in Mahujael/Mahijael at the same time. In other words, Mahujah can = MHWY + Jah or Mehjael can = Mahujael can = Mahujah + El, but both equations can’t be applied to the current forms of these names at the same time.

Of course, Calabro observes, the rules were different in earlier times, since “dropping of final vowels only happened sometime between 1200 and 600 BCE” (ibid.):

But it’s unlikely that the names in [the Book of] Moses are making a point of this. Joseph left the rest of the biblical names untouched. And if Lehi, Paul, and Jude all had access to the Book of Moses (as I believe they did), the name would have dropped any final short vowels before the text was finished being transmitted.

That said, Calabro goes on to explain why the connections between these names are not unlikely, even in the face of these considerations (ibid):

Very often in pseudepigraphal traditions, you get names that sound similar (or sometimes not even similar), just garbled a bit. It’s frequent in Arabic forms of biblical names: Ibrahim for “Abraham” (perhaps influenced by Elohim or some other plural Hebrew noun), Isa for Yasu “Jesus,” etc. So Mahujah, Mahijah, Mehujael/

Mehijael, and [Mahaway] could all be connected, with something getting mixed up in transmission.

With respect to correspondences between Mahujah and Mahijah, Nibley (Nibley, *Enoch*, 278; Nibley, “Churches in the Wilderness,” 157) argues that they are variants of the same name, given that “Mehuja-el” appears in the Greek *Septuagint* as “Mai-el” (Cécile Dogniez and Marguerite Harl, eds. *Le Pentateuque d’Alexandrie: Texte Grec et Traduction, La Bible des Septante* [Paris: Les Éditions du Cerf, 2001], Genesis 4:18, p. 145; Pietersma, Albert, and Benjamin G. Wright, eds. *A New English Translation of the Septuagint and the Other Greek Translations Traditionally Included under that Title, NETS: New English Translation of the Septuagint* [Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2007], Genesis 4:18, p. 8) and in the Latin Vulgate as Mawiah-el (Robert Weber, ed. *Biblia Sacra Vulgata*, 4th ed [Stuttgart, DEU: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1990], Genesis 4:18, p. 9). Since the Greek version had no internal “H,” Nibley reasons that “Mai-” could come only from “Mahi-” (MHY-).

J. W. Wevers likewise writes that the *Septuagint* spelling of Mai-el [in Genesis 4:18] “follows the Samaritan tradition of [Mahi-el]”

(John William Wevers, *Notes on the Greek Text of Genesis* [Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press, 1993], 62n4:18), with the only difference being the dropped “h.” According to Nibley, the Mahawai version that we see in the *Book of Giants* is probably related to Genesis 4:18. It shows up in the Latin Vulgate as “Maviahel” likely because Jerome went to the Hebrew version for his translation. He didn’t use the “H” either and made the “W” a consonant (“v”) instead of a vowel (“u”) in his transliteration. This is why in the Douay-Rheims Bible (based on the *Vulgate*), we see the name rendered as “Maviael.” See more on Genesis 4:18 below.

Note that the grandfather of the prophet Enoch also bore a similar name to Mahawai/Mahujah: Mahalaleel (Genesis 5:12–17; 1 Chronicles 1:2; Moses 6:19–20. See also Nehemiah 11:4). As a witness of how easily such names can be confused, observe that the Greek manuscript used for Brenton’s translation of the *Septuagint* reads “Maleleel” for “Maieil” in Genesis 4:18 (Lancelot C. L. Brenton, *The Septuagint with Apocrypha: Greek and English* [Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2005], Genesis 4:18, p. 5).

7. Townsend, “Returning to the Sources,” 81–82.
8. See *ibid.*, 81 for Townsend’s analysis of the different meanings related to the different spellings.
9. Milik and Black, *The Books of Enoch*.
10. *Ibid.*, 427, s. v. Ahya.
11. George W. E. Nickelsburg, “The Bible Rewritten and Expanded,” in *Jewish Writings of the Second Temple Period: Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, Qimran Sectarian Writings, Philo, Josephus*, ed. Michael E. Stone (Leiden, ND: Brill, 1984), 2:96, https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004275119_004.
12. Loren T. Stuckenbruck, “Giant Mythology and Demnology: From the Ancient Near East to the Dead Sea Scrolls,” in *Die Dämonen: die Dämonologie der israelitisch-jüdischen un frühchristlichen Literatur im Kontext ihrer Umwelt (Demons: The Demonology of the Israelite-Jewish and Early Christian Literature in Context of their Environment)*, eds. A. Lange and H. Lichtenberger (Tübingen, DE: Mohr Siebeck, 2003), 322, https://www.academia.edu/2209731/Giant_Mythology_and_Demonology_from_the_Ancient_Near_East_to_the_Dead_Sea_Scrolls. Cf. Loren T. Stuckenbruck, *The Myth of Rebellious Angels* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2017),

41. In Stuckenbruck, “Giant Mythology”, 324, Stuckenbruck briefly repeats his previous suggestion for MHWY in connection with possible explanations for the names ’Ohyah and Hahyah. We discuss the two latter names in a later section of the present article.
13. Townsend, “Returning to the Sources,” 81.
 14. Stuckenbruck, “Giant Mythology,” 322.
 15. Ibid.
 16. Townsend, “Returning to the Sources,” 81.
 17. Milik and Black, *The Books of Enoch*, 434, s. v. Mahawai.
 18. Nibley, *Enoch*, 277–79; Nibley, “Churches in the Wilderness,” 156–59; Nibley, *Teachings of the Pearl of Great Price*, 267–69.
 19. Nickelsburg, “Bible Rewritten,” 96.
 20. Stuckenbruck, “Giant Mythology,” 324.
 21. Parry and Tov, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader*, 1Q24, Fragment 27, line 2, p. 941; Stuckenbruck, *Book of Giants*, 27; Reeves, *Jewish Lore*, 93.
 22. E.g., Milik and Black, *The Books of Enoch*, 434, s. v. Mahawai.
 23. E.g., Parry and Tov, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader*, 4Q530, Fragments 2 col. ii + 6 + 7 col. I + 8-11 + 12(?), line 21, 951.
 24. David Calabro, e-mail message to author, May 18, 2020, with permission; The Interpreter Foundation, “What Did Hugh Nibley Have to Say About the LDS Enoch and the Aramaic Book of the Giants?” YouTube video, 9:43, April 7, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tTuzRQ6bcI&t=18>; this video contains material recorded in connection with a National Interfaith Conference on the Dead Sea Scrolls, 20 November 1992 in the Kresge Auditorium of Stanford University.
 25. The use of two variations of the same name in one statement is not uncommon in the Hebrew Bible. In this case, the Masoretic text of Genesis 4:18 includes both spellings of the name (Mehuja-el and Mehija-el) one right after the other, and in a context that leaves no doubt that the two occurrences refer to the same individual (see, e.g., Barry L. Bandstra, *Genesis 1–11: A Handbook on the Hebrew Text. Baylor Handbook on the Hebrew Bible*, ed. W. Dennis Tucker, Jr. [Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2008], 268). Ronald S. Hendel. *The Text of Genesis 1–11: Textual Studies and Critical*

Edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998), 47–48 attributes this phenomenon either to a graphic confusion of “Y” and “W” (cf. Nibley, *Enoch*, 278; Nibley, “Churches in the Wilderness,” 290) or to linguistic modernization of what seems to be the older form (Mehuja-el). Note that instead of featuring two different forms of the name in succession as in the Masoretic text, some other texts render the names consistently. For example, the Cairo Geniza manuscript gives Mehuja-el twice, while the Samaritan version has Mahi-el (cf. Mehijael) twice (Mark Shoulson, ed. *The Torah: Jewish and Samaritan Versions Compared* [La Vergne, TN: Lightning Source, 2008], Genesis 4:18, p. 11; Benyamim Tsedaka and Sharon Sullivan, eds. *The Israelite Samaritan Version of the Torah*, trans. Benyamim Tsedaka [Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 2013], Genesis 4:18, p. 12).

26. Townsend, “Returning to the Sources,” 80–82.
27. Milik and Black, *The Books of Enoch*, 434, s. v. Mahawai.
28. *Ibid.*, 427, s. v. Ahya.
29. Nickelsburg, *Bible Rewritten*, 96.
30. Stuckenbruck, “Giant Mythology,” 324.
31. *Ibid.*
32. *Ibid.*, 322.
33. Townsend, “Returning to the Sources,” 81–82.
34. Eric D. Raymond, *Qumran Hebrew: An Overview of Orthography, Phonology, and Morphology, Resources for Biblical Study* 76, ed. Marvin A. Sweeney (Atlanta, GA: Society of Biblical Literature, 2014), 108. For the full discussion of these examples, see pp. 107–111. See also Lawrence H. Schiffman, James C. VanderKam, and Takamitsu Muraoka, eds., *Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, 2 vols. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), 1:341, <http://oxfordbiblicalstudies.com/print/opr/t264/e204>.
35. Calabro, May 18, 2020.
36. See Townsend, “Returning to the Sources,” 81. In his analysis of the two variant names in Genesis 4:18, R. S. Hendel, *Text*, 47–48 does not rule out either version of the name (i.e., Mehujael, Mehijael) as a possibility for the presumed older version from which one of the two names diverged after a presumed graphic confusion of the Hebrew letters *waw* and *yod*. Similarly, if a graphic confusion

of *heh* with *heth* among names in the Book of Moses, the *Book of Giants*, and Genesis 4:18 occurred, it is difficult to know whether *heh* was confused for *heth* or vice versa.

37. Daniel A. Machiela and Andrew B. Perrin, “‘That You May Know Everything From Him with Certainty’: A New Reading in 4QEnGiantsb ar (4Q530) and a Literary Connection Between the *Book of Giants* and Genesis Apocryphon,” *Revue de Qumran* 25 (2011): 113-25, https://www.academia.edu/30137997/_That_You_May_Know_Everything_from_Him_with_Certainty_A_New_Reading_in_4QEnGiantsb_4Q530_and_a_Literary_Connection_between_the_Book_of_Giants_and_Genesis_Apocryphon, 9
Figure 6.
38. For several examples of *heh/heth* confusion, especially in the Great Isaiah Scroll (1QIsaa) versus the Masoretic Text Isaiah with the Isaiah Scrolls, see Donald W. Parry, *Exploring the Isaiah Scrolls and Their Textual Variants, Supplements to the Textual History of the Bible* 3, eds. Russell Fuller et al. (Leiden, NDL: Brill, 2019), 60, 218, 299, 334, 362, 389.
39. Machiela and Perrin, “‘That You May Know Everything From Him with Certainty,’” 9.
40. 4Q530 (4Q EnGiantsb), Fragment 7b, column ii, 4Q530 (4Q EnGiantsb), Fragment 7b, column ii. Mislabeling of photograph confirmed by Donald W. Parry (Donald W. Parry, personal Communication to Jeffrey M. Bradshaw, March 2, 2020).
41. E.g., Milik and Black, *The Books of Enoch*, 306. Cf. Reeves, *Jewish Lore*, 105.
42. Parry and Tov, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader*, Part 3, 4Q530, Fragment 7, column ii, end of line 7, 951.
43. E.g., Milik and Black, *The Books of Enoch*, 306. Cf. Reeves, *Jewish Lore*, 105.
44. Parry and Tov, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader*, Part 3, 4Q530, Fragment 7, column ii, line 7, 951. The Aramaic transcription of this fragment is by Émile Puech. See also the debate between Michael Langlois and Puech about a similar confusion of the two letters in Michael Langlois, “Shemihazah et compagnie(s). Onomastique des anges déchus dans les manuscrits araméens du Livre d’Hénoch,” in *Aramaica Qumranica: Proceedings of the Conference on the Aramaic Texts from Qumran in Aix-en-Provence 30 June-2 July 2008*,

- eds. Katell Berthelot and Daniel Stökl Ben Ezra, *Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah* 94, eds. Florentino Garcia Martínez, Peter W. Flint, and Eibert J. C. Tigchelaar (Leiden, NDL: Brill, 2010), 179–80, <https://michaellanglois.org/medias/langlois-2010-shemihazah-et-compagnies-in-aramaica-qumranica-145-180.pdf>.
45. Ironically, we have fallen prey to a similar error in English transcription. The failure to correct the typographical error in Jeffrey M. Bradshaw and Ryan Dahle, “Could Joseph Smith Have Drawn on Ancient Manuscripts When He Translated the Story of Enoch?: Recent Updates on a Persistent Question,” *Interpreter: A Journal of Latter-day Saint Faith and Scholarship* 33 (2019): 315, <https://journal.interpreterfoundation.org/could-joseph-smith-have-drawn-on-ancient-manuscripts-when-he-translated-the-story-of-enoah-recent-updates-on-a-persistent-question/>; (which spelled MHWY as MHWY) added confusion to our discussion of the issue.
 46. In ancient times, this sound was not pronounced as a velar fricative (i.e., as a soft “k,” as in the German name “Bach”) as it is in modern Israeli Hebrew. By way of contrast, David Calabro notes: “The pharyngeal fricative, which is the ancient pronunciation, is a hissed or deep-throated ‘h’; some liken it to the sound we make when we breathe on glasses to mist and clean them” (Calabro, May 18, 2020).
 47. Donald W. Parry deals with the weakening of the gutturals in several places in Parry, *Exploring the Isaiah Scrolls*. See, e.g., pp. 30, 56, 60, 84, 103, 108, 136, 198, 218, 322, 343, 353.
 48. Reymond, *Qumran Hebrew*, 72.
 49. *Ibid.*, 108–09.
 50. Nickelsburg, “Bible Rewritten”, 96.
 51. Stuckenbruck, *Myth of Rebellious Angels*, 43.
 52. *Ibid.*, 41.
 53. *Ibid.*
 54. *Ibid.*, 41.
 55. Jeffrey L. Cooley, “The *Book of Giants* and the Greek Gilgamesh,” in *Windows to the Ancient World of the Hebrew Bible: Essays in Honor of Samuel Greengus*, eds. Bill T. Arnold, Nancy L. Erickson, and John H. Walton (University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns, Penn State

- Univeristy Press, 2014), 76, https://www.academia.edu/6214575/The_Book_of_Giants_and_the_Greek_Gilgamesh.
56. Cooley, “*Book of Giants* and Greek Gilgamesh,” 76.
57. Photograph courtesy of Colby Townsend (Colby Townsend, e-mail message to author, March 3, 2020). Townsend found the volume in the stacks of the Marriott Library, and being curious whether the annotations belonged to Hugh Nibley, verified the handwriting and annotation style with others who were in a position to recognize Nibley’s style. Townsend also searched the Ancient Studies room of the BYU Harold B. Library where Nibley frequently worked but was unable to find a copy of the volume. While we have no reason not to be confident in Townsend’s tentative identification of Nibley as the author of the annotations, no firm conclusions can be made without more formal analysis.
- The recent debunking of the myth of “Elvis Presley’s” copy of the Book of Mormon is an amusing but legitimate cautionary tale about the importance of doing one’s homework before placing too much credence in such suppositions (Keith A. Erekson, “Elvis has Left the Library: Identifying Forged Annotations in a Book of Mormon,” *BYU Studies Quarterly* 57, no. 4 [2018]: 51-77, <https://byustudies.byu.edu/content/elvis-has-left-library-identifying-forged-annotations-book-mormon>).
58. Going beyond the example of the two brothers with their two dreams, Stuckenbruck sees “the repeated use of the number two” as a broad indicator of a “way in which the Qumran *Book of Giants* was structured” (Stuckenbruck, *Book of Giants*, 20).
59. James R. Russell, “Hārūt and Mārūt: The Armenian Zoroastrian Demonic Twins in the Qur’an who Invented Fiction” in *Commentationes Iranicae: Sbornik statei k 90-letiyu V.A. Livshitsa*, eds. S. Tokhtasev and P. Luria (St. Petersburg: Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Nestor-Historia, 2015), <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:34881481>.
60. Ibid.
61. John C. Reeves, “Midrash of Shemhazai and Azael [English Translation],” *John C. Reeves: UNC Course Materials* (website), <https://pages.uncc.edu/john-reeves/course->

materials/rels-2104-hebrew-scripturesold-testament/bereshit-rabbati-on-shemhazai-azael/.

62. E.g., Qur'an Sura 2:102.
63. See extracts from Pseudo-Mas'ūdī's *Akhbār al-zamān wa-min abādat al-hidhān, wa-'ajā'ib al-buldān, wa'l-ghāmīr bi-al-mā' wa'l-'imrān* in John C. Reeves and Annette Yoshiko Reed, *Sources from Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: Enoch from Antiquity to the Middle Ages*, 2 vols. (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2018), 157-58. Reeves and Reed take Yamaḥuel to be an intended reference to the biblical Mehujael (ibid., 157n227). For a discussion of this account, see Bradshaw and Ryan Dahle, "Could Joseph Smith Have Drawn on Ancient Manuscripts When He Translated the Story of Enoch?," 321-23.
64. Reeves, "Midrash Shemḥazai and Azael". See also Reeves, *Jewish Lore*, 86-94.
65. Reeves, "Midrash Shemḥazai and Azael"; Hanokh Albeck, ed., *Midrash Bereshit Rabbati* (Jerusalem, ISR: Mekitze Nirdamim, 1940), 29.14-31.8. In the midrash, Shemḥazai says to his two sons: "Do not be anxious or perturbed, for your names will not disappear from the created order. Every time that (men) drag or lift stones and logs [for] their needs, they will always shout 'heave!' and 'ho!' Immediately their anxieties were calmed" (Reeves, "Midrash Shemḥazai and Azael").
66. André Caquot, "Les prodromes du déluge : légendes araméennes du Qoumrân," *Revue d'Histoire et de Philosophie religieuses* 83, no. 1 (2003): 50, https://www.persee.fr/doc/AsPDF/rhpr_0035-2403_2003_num_83_1_1011.pdf.
67. John C. Reeves, "Some Explorations of the Intertwining of Bible and Qur'an," in *Bible and Qur'an: Essays in Scriptural Intertextuality*, ed. John C. Reeves, *Symposium Series* 24 (Leiden, NL: Society of Biblical Literature and Brill, 2004), 46, <https://books.google.com/books?id=WNId86Eu4TEC>; notes that "the Babylonian angels Hārūt and Mārūt (Qur'an 2:102) are most certainly reflexes of the disgraced heavenly Watchers Shemḥazai and Azael, whose corruptive activities are extensively profiled in Jewish pseudepigraphal lore." In the same source, Reeves gives a detailed analysis and useful synopsis of ten of these accounts. For more stories on these characters, see Abu Ishaq Ahmad Ibn

- Muhammad Ibn Ibrahim al-Tha'labi, *'Ara'is Al-Majalis Fi Qisas Al-Anbiya' or "Lives of the Prophets,"* trans. William M. Brinner, *Studies in Arabic Literature, Supplements to the Journal of Arabic Literature, Volume 24*, ed. Suzanne Pinckney Stetkevych, (Leiden, ND: Brill, 2002), 86-91.
68. Russell, "Hārūt and Mārūt".
 69. Ibid.
 70. Note André Caquot's mention of an affinity between 'Ohyah and "the Og of Numbers 21:3, who was held to be one of the offspring of the giants" (Caquot, "Les Prodiges, 49). This reference corresponds to the *Decretum Gelasianum's* "Ogias, of whom the heretics assert that after the flood he fought with the dragon" (Edgar Hennecke and Wilhelm Schneemelcher, "Decretum Gelasianum de libris recipiendis et non recipiendis (6th century)," in *New Testament Apocrypha*, ed. Edgar Hennecke and Wilhelm Schneemelcher [Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1965], 1:48). 'Ohyah is also mentioned as a dragon-fighter (Leviathan) in a Parthian fragment of the *Book of Giants* (W. B. Henning, "The Book of the Giants," *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London* 11, no. 1 (1943): 70, <http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/giants/giants.htm>).
 71. Russell, "Hārūt and Mārūt".
 72. See, e.g., Stuckenbruck, *Book of Giants*, 91, 199, 200.
 73. See, e.g., Sogdian fragment C of the *Book of Giants*, where 'Ohyah attempts to pick a fatal fight with Mahuja/Mahaway (Henning, "Book of the Giants," 66).
 74. See, e.g., Reeves, *Jewish Lore*, 84-102.
 75. See, e.g., *ibid.*, 93.
 76. Cyrille Mozgovine, *De Abdallah à Zorrino: Dictionnaire des Noms Propres de Tintin* (Tournai, BE: Castermans, Bibliothèque de Moulinsart, 1992), 70.
 77. See, e.g., Stuckenbruck, *Book of Giants*, 20.
 78. Manichaean Uygur fragment quoted in Stuckenbruck, *Book of Giants*, 127n140. See also Henning, cited in Milik and Black, *The Books of Enoch*, 307.

79. Jens Wilkens, “Remarks on the Manichaean *Book of Giants*: Once Again on Mahaway’s Mission to Enoch,” in *Ancient Tales of Giants from Qumran and Turfan: Contexts, Traditions, and Influences*, eds. Matthew Goff, Loren T. Stuckenbruck, and Enrico Morano, *Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament* 360, ed. Jörg Frey (Tübingen, Germany: Mohr Siebeck, 2016), 226-27.
80. Reeves, *Jewish Lore*, 93: “Mahaway is expressly cited at least five times in the extant fragments of the Qumran *Book of Giants*, and his prominence as an actor in the Giants drama is indicated by his retention as a character in the Middle Persian, Sogdian, and Uighur remnants of the Manichaean recension of the book.”
81. Wilkens, “Remarks”, 227, citing the Middle Persian fragment M5900 edited by Sundermann and relating it to some new fragments described by Morano.
82. Stuckenbruck, *Book of Giants*, 52, 92. Parry and Tov, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader*, 4Q530, Fragment 14, line 2, 947.
83. Parry and Tov, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader*, 6Q8, fragment 1, line 4, 973. Baraq’el is said to be one of the twenty fallen Watchers listed by name in *1 Enoch*” (J. C. Reeves, *Jewish Lore*, 93. See George W. E. Nickelsburg, ed., *1 Enoch 1: A Commentary on the Book of 1 Enoch, Chapters 1-36; 81-108. Hermeneia: A Critical and Historical Commentary on the Bible* [Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2001], 6:7, p. 174; 8:3, p. 188; George W. E. Nickelsburg and James C. VanderKam, eds., *1 Enoch 2: A Commentary on the Book of 1 Enoch, Chapters 37-82. Hermeneia: A Critical and Historical Commentary on the Bible* [Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2012], 69:2, p. 297. Cf. 60:13-15, p. 224. See also Charles Mopsik, ed., *Le Livre Hébreu d’Hénoch ou Livre des Palais, Les Dix Paroles*, ed. Charles Mopsik [Lagrasse, FR: Éditions Verdier, 1989], 14:4, p. 109; 17:1, 3, pp. 110, 111). In Moses 5:43, the name of Mahujael’s father is given as Irad, a prominent member of the secret combination who was killed later by his great-grandson Lamech when he revealed their secrets in violation of deadly oaths he had taken (Moses 5:49-50).

In Nickelsburg, *1 Enoch 1*, 6:7, p. 174; Nickelsburg and VanderKam, *1 Enoch 2*, 69:3, p. 297, Baraq’el is the ninth chief, under the leader Shemiḥazah, of the Watchers who descended on Mount Hermon and “swore together and bound one another with a curse” (Nickelsburg, *1 Enoch 1*, 6:5, p. 174) as they determined to “choose

... wives from the daughters of men” (ibid.). In Nickelsburg, *1 Enoch 1*, 8:3, p. 188, we learn the secrets that each of the heads of the Watchers revealed to mankind. Elsewhere, we read of their responsibilities of each of these in the governing of the seven heavens (Nickelsburg and VanderKam, *1 Enoch 2*, 60:13-15, p. 224; C. Mopsik, *Hénoch*, 14:4, p. 109, 17:1-3, pp. 110-11).

“Since Baraq’el is composed from the name of ‘lightning’ followed by the theophoric suffix, [Mahuja/Mahaway, his son,] was given the Iranian equivalent Virogdad, ‘created by lightning’” (Caquot, “Les Prodromes”, 50). Cf. Henning, who first recognized Virogdad as having affinities to Baraq’el (Milik and Black, *The Books of Enoch*, 300, 311) in the Manichaean fragments of the *Book of Giants* (Reeves, *Jewish Lore*, 147n202; 138n98). According to *Jubilees 4:15* (Wintermute. “Jubilees.” In *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, ed. James H. Charlesworth [Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Company, 1983], 4:15, p. 2:61. See also 61-62 note g.), Baraq’el is also the father of Dinah, the wife of Enoch’s grandfather, Mahalaleel. If one assumed the descriptions in the relevant accounts were consistent (of course, a very far-fetched assumption), this would make the prophet Enoch a first cousin once-removed to Mahujah.

In the Doctrine and Covenants we also encounter the name Baraq’el (= Baurak Ale, D&C 103, 105). Note that Joseph Smith’s approach is simply to follow the lead of his Hebrew teacher, J. Seixas, who seems to have transliterated both the Hebrew letters *kaph* and *qoph* with a “k,” so it is difficult to trace what original name he is transliterating). It was sometimes used as a code name for Joseph Smith (David J. Whittaker. “Substituted Names in the Published Revelations of Joseph Smith,” *BYU Studies* 23, no. 1 [1983]: 107). Nibley, *Teachings of the Pearl of Great Price*, 268 observes:

Baraq’el is interesting, ... because[, in the *Book of Giants*,] Baraq’el is supposed to have been the father of [Mahujah]. ... A professor in Hebrew at the University of Utah said, “Well, Joseph Smith didn’t understand the word *barak*, meaning ‘to bless.’” William W. Phelps had previously suggested that “Baurak Ale” meant “God bless you.” [see Whittaker, “Substituted Names,” 107]). But “Baraq’el” means the “lightning of God” (see Nickelsburg, *1 Enoch 1*,

180). The Doctrine and Covenants is right on target in that.

84. Stuckenbruck, *Myth of Rebellious Angels*, 43.

85. Langlois, “Shemihazah et Compagnie(s),” 174. Alternatively, Russell, “Hārūt and Mārūt”, n13 suggests:

The name sounds, as Shaked has suggested, as though it might be simply Hebrew *ha-šēm ha-zeh*, literally “this name,” maybe a cautious circumlocution. Pious Jews refer to God discreetly as *Hashem*, “The Name.”

However, David Calabro strongly disagrees: “This suggestion seems extremely unlikely to me. The “h” in Shemihazah is the *ḥeth*, while that in *ha-shem ha-zeh* is just *heh*” (Calabro, May 18, 2020).

86. With specific reference to Enoch texts, Reeves and Reed continue as follows (*Enoch from Antiquity 1*, 8–9):

Scholars of the Hebrew Bible and specialists in ancient Judaism and Christianity have increasingly come into conversation around the trajectories of biblical interpretation and the continued lives of authoritative writings within and between religious communities. Alongside traditional source-critical, redaction-critical, and text-critical inquiries into the Torah/ Pentateuch, for instance, new approaches have emerged in the attempt to recover what James Kugel has termed “the Bible as It Was” (James L. Kugel., *The Bible As It Was* [Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1997]) — that is, not simply the text of this or that biblical book as it came to be fixed in writing, but also the much broader array of common exegetical motifs and legends through which premodern peoples encountered the primeval and patriarchal past. What has emerged, in the process, is a new sense of the degree to which premodern Jews, Christians, and Muslims — as well as Samaritans, Manichaeans, “gnostics,” and others — participated in preserving and developing a common store of traditions about figures such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, and Moses. So too with Enoch. The traditions associated with this figure, however, expose the limitations of modern notions

of “the Bible” to capture the scope, dynamism, and complexity of premodern discourses about the biblical past. There has been much attention, for instance, to Jewish and Christian traditions about the fallen angels in relation to the exegesis of Genesis 6. What such studies have shown, however, is the impossibility of accounting for the history of interpretation without a sense of the ample influence of Enochic and other texts now commonly deemed “noncanonical.” So too with Genesis 5 and traditions about Enoch, which took form from an ancient matrix of Mesopotamian traditions that continued to be developed in new ways in writings produced alongside and after what we know now as “the Bible.”

Traditions surrounding Enoch thus offer especially rich foci for tracing the transmission and transformations of traditions across religious boundaries. In light of new insights into scribal practices and textual fluidity from the biblical and related manuscripts among the Dead Sea Scrolls, it has become clear that the process of the formation of “the Bible” was much longer and more complex than previously imagined. Likewise, the recent growth of concern for the mechanics of written and oral transmission and pedagogy among ancient Jews has redescribed biblical “authorship” in continuum with interpretation, redaction, collection, and transmission — wherein oral/aural and written/visual components, moreover, often remained intertwined in various ways in various settings. Just as these insights lead us to question the assumption of any clear line between scripture and interpretation in relation to the Torah/Pentateuch, so they also open the way for integrating what we know of the formation, transmission, and reception of Enochic literature into a more complete picture of the biblical past as remembered by premodern Jews, Christians, Muslims, and others.

87. André Lemaire. “Nabonide et Gilgamesh: L’araméen en Mésopotamie et à Qoumrân,” in *Aramaica Qumranica: Proceedings of the Conference on the Aramaic Texts from Qumran in Aix-en-Provence 30 June-2 July 2008*, eds. Katell Berthelot and Daniel Stökl Ben Ezra, *Studies on the Texts of the Desert*

of *Judah* 94, eds. Florentino Garcia Martínez, Peter W. Flint, and Eibert J. C. Tigchelaar (Leiden, NL: Brill, 2010), 125, <http://www.digitorient.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/LemaireAramaicQumranica.pdf>. Translation by Bradshaw.

88. John C. Reeves. “Some Parascriptural Dimensions of the ‘Tal of Harut wa-Marut,’” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 135, no. 4 (October-December 2015): 840-41, <http://www.almuslih.com/Library/Reeves,%20C%20-%20Harut%20and%20Marut.pdf>.
89. As Ken M. Penner, “Did the Midrash of Shemihazai and Azael Use the *Book of Giants*?” in *Sacra Scriptura: How ‘Non-Canonical’ texts functioned in early Judaism and early Christianity*, eds. James H. Charlesworth and Lee M. McDonald (London: Bloomsbury, T&T Clark, 2014), 44-45, https://www.academia.edu/4024730/Did_the_Midrash_of_Shemihazai_and_Azael_use_the_Book_of_Giants, writes:

If the identification of Qumran fragments belonging to [the *Book of Giants*] is correct, the work was very popular at Qumran: about ten copies were found, in four caves. The significance of these numbers becomes apparent when compared to those of the Aramaic book of [*1 Enoch*] itself: only seven copies found, all in a single cave. The only books more popular at Qumran are Psalms (36 copies), the books of the Pentateuch (23-24, 16, 12-13, 9, 35 copies respectively), Isaiah (21), Jubilees (17), and the Community Rule (13); the Damascus Document and Rule of the Congregation each have ten.

90. Nickelsburg, *1 Enoch* 1, 11.
91. Stuckenbruck, “Giant Mythology,” 319.
92. *Ibid.*, 319-21.
93. See Reeves, “Some Parascriptural Dimensions,” 830-34.
94. *Ibid.*, 833. Calabro qualifies Reeves’ conclusion as follows: “Relative age does not necessarily imply a relationship of direct dependence. Even so, Jubilees was composed in an environment (likely ca. 2nd century BCE) in which the book of Genesis was the best-known example of these traditions in writing (as can be quantitatively proven from the Dead Sea Scrolls), so some indirect dependence would be inevitable” (Calabro, May 18, 2020).

95. Reeves, "Some Parascritural Dimensions", 833n50.
96. Caquot, "Les Prodomes," 50.
97. Matthew Goff, "Gilgamesh the Giant: The Qumran *Book of Giants*' Appropriation of Gilgamesh Motifs," *Dead Sea Discoveries* 16, no. 2 (2009): 253.
98. Joseph L. Angel, "The Humbling of the Arrogant and the "Wild Man" and "Tree Stump" Traditions in the *Book of Giants* and Daniel 4," in *Ancient Tales of Giants from Qumran and Turfan: Contexts, Traditions, and Influences*, eds. Matthew Goff, Loren T. Stuckenbruck, and Enrico Morano, *Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament* 360, ed. Jörg Frey (Tübingen, Germany: Mohr Siebeck, 2016), 80.
99. Lemaire, "Nabonide et Gilgamesh," 144.
100. Amanda M. Davis Bledsoe, "Throne Theophanies, Dream Visions, and Righteous Seers" in *Ancient Tales of Giants from Qumran and Turfan: Contexts, Traditions, and Influences*, eds. Matthew Goff, Loren T. Stuckenbruck, and Enrico Morano, *Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament* 360, ed. Jörg Frey (Tübingen, DEU: Mohr Siebeck, 2016), 85.
101. Davis Bledsoe, "Throne Theophanies," 90.
102. Stuckenbruck, *Myth of Rebellious Angels*, 118.
103. Of course, Daniel in Ezekiel 14:14-20 and Ezekiel 28:3 is frequently identified with Ugaritic *dn-il* and that identification is certainly plausible, but it is also interesting to consider Ezekiel 28:3 in the same stream as Daniel 9:22. Ezekiel would have been a contemporary of the biblical Daniel, which has interesting possible implications for the Daniel/Danel of Ezekiel 14:14-20; 28:3.
104. Langlois, "Shemihazah et Compagnie(s)." Two general conclusions about the names stand out: (1) Almost all (but not all) the names end with "el"; (2) the names are not of homogeneous origin in Hebrew or Aramaic — some seem to be related to northwest Semitic (i.e., Ugaritic) mythology, but regardless of whether they have their source in Ugarit, Langlois argues that they are old — no more recent than the tablets of Ugarit, i.e., 15th-14th centuries BCE. Although the respondent to the paper, Ester Eshel, throws doubt on arguments for a Ugaritic origin of the names, she does not specifically question their antiquity (see

- pp. 177-78, and the rejoinder of Langlois on p. 178). Jonathan Ben-Dov mentions the “rabbinic tradition in the Yeruslami (y. RH 56d [1:2]), saying that the names of angels originated in Babylonia with the Jewish exiles, just like the names of months” (cited in Langlois, “Shemihazah et Compagnie(s),” 180).
105. Richard Hess, s. v. “Mehujael,” in *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, ed. David Noel Freedman (New York City: Doubleday, 1992), 4:681.
 106. *Ibid.*, 4:681.
 107. Hendel, *Text*, 47-48.
 108. Nahum M. Sarna, ed., *Genesis. The JPS Torah Commentary* (Philadelphia, PA: The Jewish Publication Society, 1989), 36.
 109. Richard S. Hess, *Studies in the Personal Names of Genesis 1-11* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2009), 41.
 110. Umberto Cassuto, *A Commentary on the Book of Genesis, vol. 1: From Adam to Noah*, trans. Israel Abrahams (Jerusalem, ISR: The Magnes Press, The Hebrew University, 1998), 232.
 111. *Ibid.*, 232. For more about their role and function, see A. Leo Oppenheim, *Ancient Mesopotamia: Portrait of a Dead Civilization*, revised ed. (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1977), 221. Cf. Wolfgang Heimpel, *Letters to the King of Mari: A New Translation with Historical Introduction, Notes, and Commentary* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2003), 578, s. v. “ecstatic.”
 112. See Heimpel, *Letters to the King*, 26 220, p. 262; 26 221, p. 263.
 113. Cassuto, *Adam to Noah*, 233.
 114. *Ibid.* Cf. Hess, *Studies*, 46.
 115. Hess, *Studies*, 46.
 116. Jeremy Black, Andrew George, and Nicholas Postgate, eds., *A Concise Dictionary of Akkadian*, second ed. (Wiesbaden, DEU: Otto Harrassowitz Verlag, 2000), 190, <https://books.google.com/books?id=-qIuVCsRb98C>.
 117. J. A. Halloran, *Sumerian Lexicon: A Dictionary Guide to the Ancient Sumerian Language* (Los Angeles, CA: Logogram Publishing, 2006), 168, <https://www.sumerian.org/sumerlex.htm>.
 118. Black, George, and Postgate, *Concise Dictionary of Akkadian*, 185.

119. Moses 5:31, 49.
120. Scott H. Faulring, Kent P. Jackson, and Robert J. Matthews, eds., *Joseph Smith's New Translation of the Bible: Original Manuscripts* (Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2004), OT1 p. 10, p. 94.
121. Andrew George, ed., *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (London: The Penguin Group, 2003).
122. Milik and Black, *The Books of Enoch*, 313nL6.
123. Goff, "Gilgamesh the Giant."
124. Townsend, "Returning to the Sources," 82.
125. *Ibid.*, 83.
126. Bradshaw and Dahle, "Textual Criticism and the Book of Moses."
127. See Townsend, "Returning to the Sources," 83-84.
128. Thomas A. Wayment and Haley Wilson-Lemmon, "A Recovered Resource: The Use of Adam Clarke's Bible Commentary in Joseph Smith's Bible Translation," in *Producing Ancient Scripture: Joseph Smith's Translation Projects and the Making of Mormon Christianity*, eds. Mark Ashurst-McGee, Michael Hubbard MacKay, and Brian M. Hauglid (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2020); Haley Wilson and Thomas A. Wayment, "A Recently Recovered Source: Rethinking Joseph Smith's Bible Translation," *Brigham Young University Journal of Undergraduate Research* (website), March 16, 2017, <http://jur.byu.edu/?p=21296>.
129. Townsend, "Returning to the Sources," 84.
130. Adam Clarke, *The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments* (New York City: N. Bangs and J. Emory, for the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1825), 1:151, https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Holy_Bible_Containing_the_Old_and_Ne.html?id=Lds8AAAAYAAJ.
131. Thomas A. Wayment, "Joseph Smith's Use of Adam Clarke's Commentary in the JST," interview by Laura Harris Hales, *LDS Perspectives Podcast*, Sep 26, 2017, <https://ldsperspectives.com/2017/09/26/jst-adam-clarke-commentary/>. Cf. Wilson and Wayment, "A Recently Recovered Source," 283.

132. Townsend, March 3, 2020, correctly notes: “As the BYU onomastic project ... has highlighted, many of the names in the Book of Mormon are either directly or indirectly connected to biblical names in one way or another.” However, our point has nothing to do with the fact that biblically connected names are present in the Book of Mormon, but rather with the fact that scores of additional names that have no obvious connection with the Bible were also introduced.
133. Jude 1:14-15. For evidence of Joseph Smith’s awareness of these verses, see this remark in the preface to Moses 7, the account of Enoch’s vision, as part of his history (Joseph Smith, Jr., *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Documentary History)*, 7 vols. (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1978), December 1830, 1:132. Cf. Joseph Smith, Jr., *The Joseph Smith Papers*, eds. Dean C. Jessee, Ronald K. Esplin, and Richard Lyman Bushman (Salt Lake City: The Church Historian’s Press, 2008-), History, 1838–1856, volume A-1 [23 December 1805–30 August 1834], 81, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/history-1838-1856-volume-a-1-23-december-1805-30-august-1834/87>:

The common remark was, they are “lost books”; but it seems the Apostolic Church had some of these writings, as Jude mentions or quotes the Prophecy of Enoch, the seventh from Adam.

Though the portion of Joseph Smith’s history in which this quote appears was not compiled before about January 1843 when William W. Phelps began assisting Willard Richards in this task, Joseph Smith “dictated or supplied information for much of A-1” and was well-acquainted enough with the New Testament to make his knowledge of these verses in Jude plausible if not probable by December 1830 and January 1831 when the account of Enoch was translated.

Note also that the Prophet quoted a passage from Jude’s citation of Enoch (Jude 1:14) in a letter to the Saints in Missouri written on December 10, 1833 (Joseph Smith, Jr., *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1969], 10 December 1833, 36. Cf. Smith, *The Joseph Smith Papers*, Letter to Edward Partridge and Others, 10 December 1833, 72, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/letter-to-edward-partridge-and-others-10-december-1833/4>).

Furthermore, he used Jude 1:14-15 in connection with his teachings about Enoch on October 5, 1840 (See J. Smith, Jr., *Teachings*, 5 October 1840, 170; Joseph Smith, Jr., Andrew F. Ehat, and Lyndon W. Cook, *The Words of Joseph Smith: The Contemporary Accounts of the Nauvoo Discourses of the Prophet Joseph*, 1980, 41, <https://rsc-legacy.byu.edu/out-print/words-joseph-smith-contemporary-accounts-nauvoo-discourses-prophet-joseph>; Smith, Jr., *The Joseph Smith Papers*, Instruction on Priesthood, 5 October 1840, 6, <https://www.josephsmithpapers.org/paper-summary/instruction-on-priesthood-5-october-1840/>).

134. Note that instead of featuring two different forms of the name in succession as in the Masoretic text, some other texts render the names consistently. For example, the Cairo Geniza manuscript gives Mehuja-el twice, while the Samaritan version has Mahi-el (cf. Mehijael) twice (Shoulson, *Torah*, Genesis 4:18, p. 11; Tsedaka and Sullivan, *Israelite Samaritan*, Genesis 4:18, p. 12).
135. Dropping the suffix is what scholars call putting the name in its “hypocoristic” form, an idea that was not likely to occur spontaneously to Joseph Smith. Moreover, because the Prophet retained the “-el” suffix in Moses 5:43 (= Genesis 4:18) rather than making the name agree with its Book of Moses equivalents, it is reasonable to assume that he did not himself recognize an equivalence among Mahujah, Mahijah, and Mehuja-el.
136. As an exception to Bible manuscripts that otherwise always add “-el” to the end of the name, Wevers (*Notes*, 62n4:18) mentions the existence of “Mehuja” as a variant spelling of Mehuja-el in a Greek manuscript of Genesis 4:18.
137. Scott H. Faulring and Kent P. Jackson, eds. *Joseph Smith’s Translation of the Bible Electronic Library (JSTEL) CD-ROM* (Provo, UT: Brigham Young University, Religious Studies Center, Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship, 2011), JST OT1 p. 10 (Genesis 4:16-25; Moses 5:41-6:2), detail.
138. Faulring, Jackson, and Matthews, *Joseph Smith’s New Translation of the Bible*, OT1 page 10, p. 95.
139. Townsend, “Returning to the Sources,” 80.
140. *Ibid.*, 81: “Mahijah/Mahujah, which are the same name, come from the root מַהֵּה.” Continuing, Townsend correctly points out that the biblical name Mehujael “comes from [a] root [that

means] ‘destroyed’ or ‘smitten’ one” (ibid, citing Hess, *Studies*, 42; Ludwig Koehler et al., *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Leiden, NL: Brill, 1994), 1:567-68. However, other etymologies are possible.

For example, it is interesting that JST has Mahujah instead of Mehujah, which the MT also has written as Mehijael (same w/y spelling issue as in Mahujah and Mahijah - the LXX-A, Peshitta, and Vulgate all point to Mehijael or Mahijael), I’m drawn to the idea that the name derives from HYY/HYH and means “God gives life.” However, a paronomastic connection with MHY/MHH (“wipe out,” “annihilate” — i.e., “blot out”) is also intriguing, especially since this name occurs in the degenerate line of Cain before the Flood (cf. the use of this verb in Genesis 6:7 and 7:4). I’m even more intrigued by a possible connection between this root and the name-title “Mahan” in “Master Mahan,” which could easily be MHN (with N as an appellative), which might suggest the idea of “destroyer” or “annihilator.”

Nibley also suggests the following (Nibley, “Churches in the Wilderness,” 157):

The man who boldly put the questions to Enoch himself was Mahijah, the asker. And, since we are playing games, what the Ma- most strongly suggests is certainly the all-but-universal ancient interrogative, *Ma*, who? Or what? So that the names Mahujah and Mahijah both sound to students of Semitics like questions. In the newly discovered texts from Ebla (Tel-Mardikh) the same names are written with Ma- (Amorite) and Mi (Phoenician-Hebrew).

141. See Townsend, “Returning to the Sources,” 81.
142. Townsend, March 3, 2020.
143. Parry and Tov, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader*, Part 3, 4Q530, Fragment 7, column ii, end of line 7, 951.
144. Calabro, May 18, 2020.
145. Hess, s.v. “Mehujael,” Freedman, *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, 4:681.
146. Hess (ibid.) transliterates the Samaritan Pentateuch reading incorrectly. We have corrected it here.
147. Ibid.

148. Although we do not take it to be the case that every revelation of Joseph Smith was a transcription from a written source, we note that both in the case of physical texts such as the Book of Mormon and texts seen only in vision, such as in D&C 7, Joseph Smith saw his English translations as being generally faithful to what was written in ancient manuscripts. Notwithstanding the fact that he was obliged to render the meaning of passages in his own vocabulary, we believe his evident care in rendering names literally (Brant A. Gardner, *The Gift and Power: Translating the Book of Mormon*, Salt Lake City: Greg Kofford Books, 2011), 157–58; Royal Skousen “Translating the Book of Mormon: Evidence from the Original Manuscript,” in *Book of Mormon Authorship Revisited: The Evidence for Ancient Origins*, ed. Noel B Reynolds (Provo, UT: Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies, 1997), 75–76, might be thought of as extending the possibility of reproducing errors in the transcriptions of names from the ancient sources.
149. With respect to Genesis 4:18, Cassuto, *Adam to Noah*, 232, argues that “no scribe would have made so noticeable a mistake as to vary the spelling of the same word occurring twice in succession. Ineluctably we must conclude that the two different forms [i.e., Mehujael and Mehijael] were fully intended.” He continues (*ibid.*, 232–33):

Nor is this an isolated example. On the contrary, such divergences are due to a common practice, in general use, which accords with oriental principles of thought and literary taste, although incongruous with European intellectual and aesthetic criteria. When two variant traditions exist, they are both quoted, side by side, so as not to invalidate one of them. Not only can there be no objection to this thesis — contrary to the opinion of several scholars whose judgment is molded by European ways of thinking, to which they are habituated — but we may go further and regard the practice referred to as the customary and favorite method followed by Scripture. Whenever it is possible to vary the phrasing, the Bible endeavors to do so in order to avoid monotony, and such variation is considered a mark of literary elegance. Even the repetitions, which are a heritage from oral epic poetry (see above, pp. 212 f.), are not, in the written books,

literal, if a change of formulation is at all possible. What has been said of the *form* applies also to the *content*. In the next action we shall discuss an interesting example of two traditions different from each other in *content*; and countless other instances may be found in biblical and Talmudic literature. With reference to variations in form, which are also numerous, it will suffice to mention two examples: the name *Peniel* and *Penuel* (Genesis 32:31-32), and the refrains at the end of the stanzas in the Psalms, which in most cases do not recur in exactly the same wording, but alter their phrasing slightly from time to time.

150. *Ibid.*, 232.
151. Salvatore Cirillo, “Joseph Smith, Mormonism, and Enochic Tradition” (Masters Thesis, Durham University, 2010), 97. Cf. Stuckenbruck, *Book of Giants*, 27.
152. For a more complete account, see Bradshaw and Dahle, “Could Joseph Smith Have Drawn on Ancient Manuscripts When He Translated the Story of Enoch?,” 318-19.
153. Academy for Temple Studies, “Panel Discussion in Provo - Enoch and the Temple,” YouTube video, 24:21, Mar 15, 2013, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaRw40r-TfM>.
154. Nibley asked Black if he had an explanation for the appearance of the name Mahujah in the Book of Moses, and reported his answer as follows: “Well, someday we will find out the source that Joseph Smith used” (Nibley, *Teachings of the Pearl of Great Price*, 269. For the rest of Nibley’s account, see pp. 267-69). Elsewhere Nibley gives a similar account (Hugh W. Nibley, “Letter to Frederick M. Huchel,” in *Boyd J. Petersen Collection* [Provo, UT: L. Tom Perry Special Collections. Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Boyd Jay Petersen Collection, MSS 7449, Box 3, Folder 3, 1997]):

On the week [the Milik and Black translation of the Aramaic Enoch fragments] appeared in 1976, I spent several days with Dr. Black. He was greatly impressed by certain parallels between the Qumran Book of Enoch and Joseph Smith’s. When I started asking for explanations he would switch to other topics. ... He is president of the St.

Andrews Golf Club in Scotland, the oldest in the world, and greatly preferred talking golf with Billy Casper, who also happened to be visiting here at the time, than splitting heads about the Book of Enoch. He did say a number of times, shaking his head in a bemused fashion, “Someday we will find out where Joseph Smith got that. . . . Someday a source will turn up.” Which I doubt not for a moment, since we already have an impressive sampling. I am afraid it will not be what Brother Black is hoping for.

See also the video excerpt of an interview of Hugh Nibley recorded in connection with a National Interfaith Conference on the Dead Sea Scrolls, 20 November 1992, in the Kresge Auditorium of Stanford University (Nibley, “What Did Hugh Nibley Have to Say About the LDS Enoch and the Aramaic Book of the Giants?”, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tTuzRQ6bcI>). His comments on his encounter with Black appear at about 6:04–6:50.

155. Martinez, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated: The Qumran Texts in English*, 260–62. Of course, different translations differ in page size and comprehensiveness. The *Book of Giants* occupies two pages in the translation of Geza Vermes (Geza Vermes, ed., *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English*, revised ed. [London: Penguin Books, 2004], 549–50) and six pages in the more complete translation of Michael Wise, Martin Abegg, Jr., and Edward Cook that includes an introduction and commentary (Michael Wise, Martin Abegg, Jr., and Edward Cook, eds. *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation* [New York City: Harper-Collins, 1996], 290–95). The most complete publication of the *Book of Giants*, including translations of many tiny fragments and both the Aramaic original and the English translation runs thirty-six pages (Parry and Tov, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader*, 938–74). However, even comparing Parry and Tov’s most extensive English version to Nickelsburg and VanderKam’s English translation of *1 Enoch* reveals that the *Book of Giants* is only about 12% the size of *1 Enoch* (George W. E. Nickelsburg and James C. VanderKam, eds., *1 Enoch: A New Translation* [Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2004], 19–170). No commentary is included in this *1 Enoch* translation, though the pages are in a smaller format than those of Parry and Tov.

In practical terms, if we take 2% as a low approximation and 12% as a high approximation of relative page count, this means that one

would expect significant resemblances to Moses 6-7 in *1 Enoch* be roughly eight to fifty times more numerous than in the *Book of Giants*. In actuality, however, the parallels in *1 Enoch* are far less dense and generally less relevant and pertinent than those in the *Book of Giants*, especially if one excludes *1 Enoch Book of Parables*, where some of the most important and singular resemblances occur. Note also that a good proportion of the resemblances between the *Book of Giants* and the Book of Moses are unique, while many of the resemblances in *1 Enoch* are also found in the *Book of Giants*.

156. For more about these and other examples, see Jeffrey M. Bradshaw and David J. Larsen, *Enoch, Noah, and the Tower of Babel, In God's Image and Likeness 2* (Salt Lake City: The Interpreter Foundation and Eborn Books, 2014), 41–49, <https://archive.org/details/131203ImageAndLikeness2ReadingS>. For a more comprehensive and up-to-date discussion of relevant affinities between the *Book of Giants* and Moses 6-7, see “Book of Moses Essays,” The Interpreter Foundation, <https://interpreterfoundation.org/book-of-moses-essays/>; especially essays #5-13, 24, and 26.