

We are pleased to congratulate the doctoral student **Gad Barnea** for receiving a scholarship on behalf of the The Joseph & Racheline Barda Chair for the Study and Research of Jewish Heritage in Egypt for his research on:

“Khnum is against us since Hananiah has been in Egypt”: Yahwism between Egypt and Samaria, 418–399 BCE – historical, devotional, and biblical implications.

Supervised by Dr. Dan’el Kahn (Haifa)
and Prof. Dr. Kristin De Troyer (Salzburg)

The research studies the connection between the Yahwist-Jewish community on the island of Elephantine in Egypt and the communities in Samaria / Northern Levant in the late 5th century BC. The study traces important characters in the life of the community and their connection to Samaria, as well as devotional / religious ties between the community in Egypt and the traditions from Samaria and Phoenicia. One of the results of the study is to show that there exists a very high probability that a figure named Hananiah mentioned in several important documents from the Elephantine archive is identified with the figure of Hananiah who served as governor of Samaria in the first half of the fourth century BCE. This may explain a number of important points in the history of the community that have hitherto not been understood. In addition, the study focuses on a number of devotional characteristics – such as the attitude of community members to the polytheistic beliefs around them and the adoption by them of a number of Egyptian and Phoenician characteristics. The conclusions of the study aim to contribute to the understanding of the earliest Egyptian Jewry for which we have documentation from primary sources, to the study of the Bible in this period as well as to the understanding of relations between Egypt and Samaria at the end of the first Persian rule in Egypt.

Congratulations!