

Interview with Mr. Andrew Wilson  
Senior, Carleton University  
23 March 2022

**LaToya Leary:** Hey Andrew. Tell us about yourself?

**Andrew Wilson:** My name is Andrew Wilson. I am a fourth year student in Carleton University's Bachelor of Humanities program and I have an interest in early Christianity.

**LaToya:** Awesome! What were your thoughts and feeling when Dr. Dolansky asked you to be a part of this partnership?

**Andrew:** I was excited because it gave me a good opportunity to get some work and work experience in academia since I've been thinking about it as a possible career path... so yes, I was excited.

**LaToya:** So, in this process you were able to experience the writing and publication process in ways that are quite rare for people in your particular state of matriculation. Tell us about your experience and can you, perhaps, share about one of the most impactful experiences? Impactful can be anything really. It could be the thing that shocked you the most. It doesn't have to be thing that hugely shifted the direction of your life or anything of that nature.

**Andrew:** Ok. Well, I would say one of the big things for me was taking all the material, or rather, it wasn't so much collecting the material, it was seeing how much of it I ended up leaving out. I had more than what would fit in the allotted space so I had to cut a little of it out... something that Professor Dolansky helped me with saying, "We could leave this out. We could leave that out." It was remarkable. The article, I guess, I was expecting it to be more like a... almost an encyclopedic thing, but it really wasn't. That was the thing that surprised me the most.... How much I was constrained by the format to leave out.

**LaToya:** Yeah. Was that really hard for you? With my graduate peers... my colleagues, we often find that in a lot of our discussion when it comes to shortening articles, the answer becomes just rewrite it because sometimes it's a lot easier to rewrite a piece than it is to significantly shorten it. How did you feel about that?

**Andrew:** Well, luckily we did this at the planning stage so I hadn't written the article yet. This was more... I kind of did a layout of how I wanted to do it so we kind of went over and said, "so you can take this out, that out." By the time the article really came, it was much shorter than what it would've been if I had written it with the material that I already gathered.

## Nile

by Andrew Wilson; Shawna Dolansky

### What is the Nile?

The Nile is a river in Egypt that is more than 4,100 miles (6,600 km) long. While the Nile also flows through other African countries, it is most heavily associated with Egypt. The river has been essential for Egypt's prosperity from antiquity to the present.

Although many Egyptian gods were associated with the Nile, Hapi is perhaps the most significant. Hapi was the god greeted by Egyptians every spring, since he symbolized the annual flooding of the Nile, which brought prosperity and fertility to the land. This cyclical flood was so predictable that Egypt came to be known as the only site in the region with a steady food supply. The Bible and other ancient documents report that when food was scarce in other areas, migrants came to Egypt for supplies (Gen 12:10, Gen 41:57). Egyptians believed that the predictability of the Nile's floods depended on upholding their larger religious principles and practices, which staved off the powers of chaos and maintained cosmic order.

The English word "Nile" derives from the river's Greek name, *Neilos*, and its Latin name, *Nilus*. In the Hebrew Bible, there is no proper noun or title for this river: the Nile is often simply referred to as "the river" (e.g., Gen 41:1) or "the river of Egypt" (e.g., Amos 8:8). This Hebrew word used for river here may derive from the generic Egyptian word for river. Following the Hebrew, the Septuagint does not use the specific word *Neilos*, which appears in other ancient Greek texts. However, modern English translations typically insert the word Nile where it is implied. The Nile is not mentioned in the New Testament.



**LaToya:** Awesome! So, would you like to share anything about your future goals? I know you're in your fourth year so you are about to graduate. What do you plan to do post-graduation?

**Andrew:** Well, I don't have any firm plans. I suppose that my first thought is probably to try and get a job. If that doesn't work, a lot of people would go to grad school, but I was actually

# **SBL** SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

thinking of maybe trying... since the Bachelor of Humanities program is very great program, but before I actually go into a religion graduate program I would probably prefer to have a religion undergraduate degree so I am more familiar with the kind of basic stuff people expect you to know when you're in grad school.... I just would feel more comfortable having one before. There's very much in my life that's still uncertain though so I can't really say for sure, but that's sort of the direction to which I am traveling.

**LaToya:** Ok. That makes sense. Thanks for chatting with me. Feel free to message if you have any questions. I hope you have a great day!