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Hermann-Josef Stipp (Universities of München/Stellenbosch)

DIE PERIKOPE VOM „NEUEN BUND" (JER 31:31-34) IM MASORETISCHEN UND ALEXANDRINISCHEN JEREMIABUCH.

ZU ADRIAN SCHENKERS THESE VON DER „THEOLOGIE DER DREI BUNDESSCHLÜSSE"

ABSTRACT

The Book of Jeremiah has come down to us from antiquity in two differing versions, the Masoretic edition and a shorter one, represented mainly by the Septuagint. Today most scholars consider the latter text form as a witness to an older stage of growth of the book. Proceeding from this basis, which is shared by the present writer, Adrian Schenker recently advanced the theory that the older version of the Book of Jeremiah champions a peculiar "theology of the three covenant-makings", most clearly spelt out in the Septuagint Vorlage of the pericope of the "new covenant" Jer 31:31-34 (LXX 38:31-34), but expunged from the Masoretic edition for its boldness. The following article argues that if the Septuagint text is treated with the necessary regard to method, Schenker's conclusions must be met with skepticism.

Hans Ausloos (K U Leuven)

TRACES OF DEUTERONOMIC INFLUENCE IN THE SEPTUAGINT: A TEXT-CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF EXODUS 33:1-6

ABSTRACT

Because of the similarities in vocabulary and style between the book of Deuteronomy and Exod 33:1-6, literary-critical scholarship usually considers this passage to be composed by a deuteronom(ist)ic author or redactor. The present contribution contends that the first translators of the Hebrew Bible – the Septuagint (LXX) – or their Vorlage, were already aware of this relationship. This becomes obvious in the fact that the (Vorlage of) Exod 33:1-6 harmonises with deuteronom(ist)ic phraseology

on several occasions. As such, the text-critical analysis of Exod 33:1-6 demonstrates that – with respect to decisions involved in redactional criticism of Old Testament texts, specifically from the perspective of the question regarding the presence of so-called deuteronom(ist)ic characteristics – one must always take into account the possibility of harmonisation and/or harmonising interpolations.

Randall X Gauthier (University of Stellenbosch)

TOWARD AN LXX HERMENEUTIC

ABSTRACT

Assuming the Septuagint translators were attempting to communicate their Semitic source to a new audience, this article considers relevance theory for its hermeneutical import. Interacting with the insights of Ernst-August Gutt, it is suggested that the LXX achieves its relevance as an act of communication (the target text) about another act of communication (the source text), i.e. as a higher order act of communication. Such relevance may be achieved by (a) replicating the stimulus of the original ("what was said"), or (b) by producing an interpretation of the original ("what was meant"), with gradations in between. In any case, the translator would have been attempting to offer an interpretation of the source. Hermeneutical and exegetical implications are discussed in light of these issues.

J H Kroeze (North-West University, Vaal Triangle Campus), Theo J D Bothma, Machdel C Matthee, Ockert C Kruger & Jan C W Kroeze (University of Pretoria)

INTERACTIVE NETWORK GRAPHS OF BIBLICAL HEBREW DATA

ABSTRACT

Knowledge workers, including Biblical Hebrew computational linguists, should look into the possibilities offered by graphical visualisation techniques to allow explorative investigation of available linguistic data, since this may prompt new hypotheses, which may then be examined in more traditional, empirical ways. This article experiments with two-dimensional and three-dimensional implementations of interactive network graphs to enable dynamic, "what-if" investigations, using semantic-role data from Genesis 1:1-2:3, marked up in XML.

Sang Youl Cho (Asia Life University)

THE DIVINE TITLE 'FISHERMAN' IN JEREMIAH 16:16

ABSTRACT

This article proposes that the Heb. דיגים 'fishermen' in Jer 16:16 can be interpreted as the divine title of Yahweh's lesser deities. Such a proposition can be supported with extra-biblical Semitic evidence. The term 'fisherman' is used as the divine title in Ugaritic as well as Akkadian texts. Thus Heb. דיגים is regarded as the divine title which describes the belligerent character of the agent deities of Yahweh.

REVIEW ARTICLE

Ernst R Wendland (University of Stellenbosch)

THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND "FOREIGNIZING" FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENCE BIBLE TRANSLATION

ABSTRACT

This review article is written with general reference to a recently published collection of essays dealing with "the social sciences and biblical translation" (Neufeld 2008b) and with special reference to the first essay on "foreignizing translation" by Rohrbaugh. There is no doubt that a study of the social sciences is essential as background preparation for any type of translation of the Scriptures, whether more or less literal/free in nature. However, it is necessary to correct or to clarify some of the notions of modern translation theory and practice that this volume seems to propound, particularly in Rohrbaugh's contribution. I also suggest that the latter's concept of a "foreignizing" translation might be usefully combined with a "functional equivalence" approach to produce a version that can satisfy many contemporary target audiences, no matter what the language and culture concerned. For an Old Testament example, I briefly refer to the conceptualisation and translation of בְּרִית in the Chewa language of Malawi and Zambia.

BOOK REVIEWS

Cimoso, M. 2007. *Proverbi nuova versione, introduzione e commento* (I libri primo testamento biblici 22). Milano: Paoline.

This volume in the Italian series *I libri biblici* contains a new Italian translation of, an introduction to and a commentary on the Hebrew version of Proverbs. The book is divided into three parts, of which the third part contains the theological message, as Cimoso sees it.

PART 1: THE INTRODUCTION

In the introduction the author deals with wisdom as part of international literature. The issue of schools in the Ancient Near East is addressed. Genre and style are other issues dealt with. A paragraph is devoted to the dating of this book. The author also takes note of the redactional processes that Proverbs underwent.

PART 2: TRANSLATION AND COMMENTARY

The author firstly provides an Italian translation, which is richly annotated by means of pertinent footnotes. The commentary consists of rather short notes related to specific passages. One of the positive aspects of this commentary is that the author has taken the Septuagint seriously. This applies to the translation, where many references are located in footnotes, as well as the interpretation in the commentary itself.

PART 3: THEOLOGICAL MESSAGE

Cimoso discusses various "theological" aspects of the book of Proverbs. These include aspects of wisdom, theology, anthropology, ethics, philosophy and pedagogics. An interesting aspect of this discussion is the question of whether it is possible to formulate a theology of the LXX of Proverbs (p. 320-330). He refers to a great deal of research devoted to this issue and comes to the conclusion that, because of the free character of this Greek version, it is possible to refer to theological perspectives in LXX of Proverbs. However, he rightly warns that one should be aware of thinking too systematically on this issue. One needs to consistently take account of the fact that the LXX is not a homogeneous collection (Inoltre, è la LXX una collezione omogenea di libri? (p. 321)).

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