

CLARIFYING

MORE

BAFFLING

BIBLICAL

PASSAGES

BY

THOMAS F. McDANIEL, Ph.D.

©

Thomas F. McDaniel
2008
All rights reserved

PREFACE

This volume, *Clarifying More Baffling Biblical Passages*, contains twenty-nine chapters which focus on problematic Hebrew and Greek biblical texts and terms that were not addressed in my two other books, entitled, respectively, *The Song of Deborah: Poetry in Dialect—A Philological Study of the Song of Deborah with Translation and Commentary* and *Clarifying Baffling Biblical Passages*. The former volume is a 2003 revision of *Deborah Never Sang: A Philological Study on the Song of Deborah* (Jerusalem: Makor, 1983). It is available now online at <http://daniel.eastern.edu/seminary/tmcdaniel/Deborah.pdf>. The latter volume is also available online at <http://daniel.eastern.edu/seminary/tmcdaniel/CBBP.pdf>.

The *Summary* chapter in *The Song of Deborah: Poetry in Dialect* has a “Supplemental Lexicon” containing fifty-five old Hebrew words which never made it into the standard lexicons of Biblical Hebrew. Fifty of these fifty-five lost words have been recovered thanks to Arabic cognates. Similarly, in the book *Clarifying Baffling Biblical Passages* fifty-eight old Hebrew words appearing in eighty-four phrases (in fifty-five different verses) were recovered—thanks again to Arabic cognates. A list of all fifty-eight words is provided in the *Summary* chapter of that book. In this volume, *Clarifying More Baffling Biblical Passages*, I present over seventy new translations of problematic Hebrew words, most of which are based upon Arabic cognates.

For the readers of this study the eight volume *Arabic-English Lexicon* of Edwin W. Lane and the two volume *Lexicon Heptaglotton* of Edmund Castell are available at <http://daniel.eastern.edu/seminary/tmcdaniel/LaneLexicon.htm> and <http://daniel.eastern.edu/seminary/tmcdaniel/Castell.htm>.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Having been retired now for seven years and thoroughly enjoying the role of a *Professor Emeritus* at the Palmer Theological Seminary in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, I have had the opportunity to pull together more of my research notes and assorted articles for online publication in this volume, *Clarifying More Baffling Biblical Passages*, which follows the same format as its predecessor, *Clarifying Baffling Biblical Passages*, noted in the Preface above. In addition to the acknowledgments made in the earlier volume, I want to acknowledge here my indebtedness to my mentors back in the 1950's and 1960's whose instruction and inspiration provide me with the philological tools and a strong desire to participate in the critical study of biblical texts. The distinguished professors are name here in chronological order of when I studied under them, starting with my undergraduate work.

Pierce Ellis (University of Richmond)
Edward Dalglish (Eastern Baptist Seminary)
Ephraim Speiser (University of Pennsylvania)
Franz Rosenthal (University of Pennsylvania)
Moshe Greenberg (University of Pennsylvania)
Wilfred Lambert (Johns Hopkins University)
George Glanzman (Johns Hopkins University)
Samuel Iwry (Johns Hopkins University)
Delbert Hillers (Johns Hopkins University)
Herbert Huffmon (Johns Hopkins University)
George Krotkoff (Johns Hopkins University)

Narberth, Pennsylvania
June, 2008

ABBREVIATIONS

A-text	Codex Alexandrinus
AB	Anchor Bible, New York
<i>ABD</i>	<i>The Anchor Bible Dictionary</i>
<i>AJSL</i>	<i>American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literature</i> , Chicago
AnBib	Analecta Biblica, Rome
AOS	American Oriental Society, New Haven
ATD	Das Alte Testament Deutsch, Göttingen
AV	Authorized Version of the Bible, 1611 (same as KJV, 1611)
B-text	Codex Vaticanus
<i>BASOR</i>	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i> , Philadelphia
<i>BCTP</i>	A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching
BDB	F. Brown, S. R. Driver, C. A. Briggs, <i>Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> , New York
BH ³	R. Kittel, <i>Biblica Hebraica</i> , third edition, Stuttgart, 1937
BHS	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i>
BibOr	Biblica et Orientalia, Rome
<i>BR</i>	<i>Bible Review</i>
BSC	Bible Student's Commentary
<i>BibT</i>	<i>Bible Today</i>
BTal	<i>Bet Talmud</i>
<i>CAD</i>	I. Gelb, L. Oppenheim, et al., eds., <i>The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago</i>
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i> , Washington, D. C.
CTM	<i>Concordia Theological Monthly</i>
CV	<i>Communio Viatorum</i>
DR	<i>Downside Review</i>
EBC	The Expository Bible Commentary
<i>ET</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
GKC	<i>Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar</i> , ed. E. Kautzsch, tr. A. E. Cowley, Oxford
HAT	Handbuch zum Alten Testament, Tübingen
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i> , Cambridge, Massachusetts
IBCTP	Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching
ICC	International Critical Commentary, Edinburgh
<i>IDB</i>	<i>The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i>
IVPNTC	IVP New Testament Commentary Series
<i>JAOS</i>	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i> , New Haven, Boston
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i> , Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Missoula, Montana

ABBREVIATIONS

<i>JBS</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Storytelling</i>
<i>JETS</i>	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
JPSTC	Jewish Publication Society Torah Commentary
<i>JQR</i>	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i> , Philadelphia
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
<i>JSOT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i> , Sheffield
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i> , Oxford
KJV	King James Version of the Bible (same as the AV, 1611)
LTSB	<i>Lutheran Theological Seminary Bulletin</i>
LXX	Septuagint
MBC	Mellon Biblical Commentary
MT	Masoretic Text
NCB	New Century Bible
NITGTC	The New International Greek Testament Commentary
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, New York, 1992
NTL	New Testament Library
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
OTL	Old Testament Library, Philadelphia and London
<i>PEFQS</i>	<i>Palestine Exploration Fund, Quarterly Statement</i>
<i>PEQ</i>	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i> , London
RSV	Revised Standard Version of the Bible, London and New York, 1952
SC	The Speakers Commentary
<i>TDNT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i>
<i>TDOT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament</i>
<i>USQR</i>	<i>Union Seminary Quarterly Review</i>
<i>UT</i>	C. H. Gordon, <i>Ugaritic Textbook</i> , Rome
<i>VT</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i> , Leiden
VTSup	Vetus Testamentum Supplements, Leiden
<i>WTJ</i>	<i>Westminster Theological Journal</i> , Philadelphia
ZAH	<i>Zeitschrift für Althebraistik</i>
<i>ZAW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i> , Gießen and Berlin
ZNT	<i>Zeitschrift für neuen testamentliche Wissenschaft</i>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	v
ABBREVIATIONS	vi
CHAPTERS I–XXIX	1–426
I. SUGGESTIONS FOR GENESIS 2:1–3, 8:11 AND 39:6	1
II. NOTES ON GENESIS 6:3–4	9
III. AMBIGUITIES ABOUT ABRAM AND ISHMAEL	25
IV. WHAT KIND OF ARAMEAN WAS JACOB?	36
V. MOSES SAID “PLEASE! BEHOLD!”	44
VI. PROBLEMS IN THE BALAAM TRADITION OF JOSHUA 24:9–10	62
VII. THE PRAYER OF JABEZ	84
VIII. A PSALM BY A BLIND POET	110
IX. NOTES ON PSALMS 70 AND 40	119
X. PSALM 109: A WOMAN’S LAMENT	146
XI. THE ROYAL LADY OF PROVERBS 31	159
XII. THE “STRANGER WOMEN” OF PROVERBS	196
XIII. SEVEN PROBLEMS IN ISAIAH 8:1–15	210
XIV. UNRECOGNIZED WORDS IN ISAIAH 53:9a AND EZEKIEL 43:7b	226

TABLE OF CONTENTS

XV. JEREMIAH WAS NOT DECEIVED	237
XVI. DECEIVING OR DECEIVED PROPHETS EZEKIEL 14:9 AND 20:25–27	257
XVII. NOTES ON HABAKKUK 2:1–5	267
XVIII. SHORT NOTES ON OLD TESTAMENT TEXTS	278
XIX. THE DERIVATION OF NAZARETH AND NAZARENE	286
XX. A NOTE ON THE WIDOW’S DONATION	302
XXI. THE MULTIPLE MEANINGS OF “HOSANNA”	305
XXII. THE MEANING OF EPHRATHAH	314
XXIII. CLARIFYING MARK 3:17 AND 9:49	322
XXIV. HOW DID “RUST” GET INTO MATTHEW 6:19 –20	342
XXV. ADAM, ENOSH, AND “THE SON OF MAN”	358
XXVI. NEW TESTAMENT MISCELLENEA	387
XXVII. PROBLEM QUOTATIONS IN THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS	398
XXVIII. LUKE’S MISREADING IN 16:9 OF TWO HEBREW WORDS	420
XXIX. SUMMARY	439
BIBLIOGRAPHY	446