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Series of papers «Qumran text of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah»

Annotation

The proposal consists of a series of papers devoted to the study of the text of the so-called Great Isaiah Scroll (1QIsa^a), the oldest surviving copy of the Book of Isaiah (dated 150-100 BCE). The scroll was discovered in one of the Qumran caves near the settlement of Khirbet Qumran off the northwest shore of the Dead Sea (today within the territory of the State of Israel) in 1947 (or late 1946). It is now housed in Jerusalem at the Israel Museum. For the research we used a digitized image of the scroll that can be viewed on the Museum's website (<http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/isaiah>).

The published papers analyze the versions of the text of the scroll. Thus, the paper *A Note on מלמ in the Great Isaiah Scroll (Isa 50:6)* deals with the interpretation of the word *młym* which occurs in the text of the scroll in Isaiah 50:6. The use of this word is found in none of the other documents ever written in Hebrew, and its meaning has remained unknown thus far. The author of the paper shows that the word represents the plural participle form of the causative stem of the verb *n-ṭ-l* 'to cause to lift (remove), of hair', 'to force to cut off or shave hair on the cheeks' (or, alternatively, 'to force to lift the yolk'). This verb rarely occurs in the texts written over the Biblical period, but its use is characteristic of the language of a later period, the so-called Rabbinic Hebrew.

The paper *My God Was My Help": A Note on the Great Isaiah Scroll (Isa 49:5)* examines the origins of the reading ^ʿzry 'my help' in the text of the scroll (Isaiah 49:5). The author of the papers argues that the original reading could conceivably have been ^ʿzy 'my might' (another possible translation: 'my asylum') as documented in the Masoretic text of the Bible as well as in the scroll 1QIsa^b, whereas the reading ^ʿzry evolved as a result of the scroll's harmonization with the texts of the Book of Psalms and Isaiah. This harmonization was favoured by two circumstances: the fact that the words ^ʿzr and ^ʿz are paronyms which were also perceived as synonyms in the late 1000s BCE.

The paper *Kumranskaya versiya tret'ej "Pesni Raba Gospodnya" (1QIsa^a): varianty teksta* (in Russian, English Title: *Qumran version of the third Servant song (1QIsa^a): textual variants*) gives an overview of the main versions of the text of the third of the Servant Songs as laid down in the scroll 1QIsa^a. The author outlines the results of the textual analysis of the fragment and observes the occurring variations that emerged as a result of copyists' errors and the scribe's editing of the text.

The published papers belong with the following areas of research: textual criticism of the Bible, Hebrew lexicology, source criticism.