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Illuminating Variant Readings

Luke 6:35, Revised Standard Version:
But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.

Luke 6:35, Syriac Peshitta:
But love your enemies, do good to them, lend to them, and do not cut off any person’s hope.

Most witnesses have, “love your enemies, do good to them, and lend expecting nothing in return” (μηδὲν ἀπελπίζοντες). However, a very few (e.g. W Ξ sys) have a text that supplies a personal object for the verb (μηδὲνα), thereby requiring a different meaning for the verb, “to disappoint,” or more literally, “to cut off one’s hope.” The Peshitta and the Sinaiic manuscript of the Old Syriac clearly share this distinctive text.

Daniel 11:16, Revised Standard Version:
But he who comes against him shall take the actions he pleases, and no one shall withstand him. He shall take a position in the beautiful land, and all of it shall be in his power.

Daniel 11:16, Syriac Peshitta:
The one who comes against him will do whatever he pleases, and none will stand before him. He will arise in the land of Israel, and it will be delivered into his hands.

Where is “the beautiful land?” The apocalyptic prophecy of Daniel 11 is ambiguous in the original Hebrew, but the Syriac version of the text provides a clear answer.
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a number of other languages and a myriad of forms. The most well-known form is a 19-chapter version in Greek based on late manuscripts (none earlier than the fourteenth century); but it is now widely-believed among scholars of the text that a shorter 16-chapter version preserved in Syriac, Latin, Ethiopic, and Georgian manuscripts is closer to the gospel's original form. Of these manuscripts, those in Syriac are by far the most important: two of them are very early (fifth/sixth centuries) and thus their text has undergone fewer changes than the texts of the other witnesses. Any study of the Infancy Gospel of Thomas needs to take account of the Syriac tradition, now possible with this new critical edition. Wider studies of Syriac literature and history also benefit from this edition as the gospel was very popular in the Syri-an milieu where it generated a number of further translations (an Arabic Infancy Gospel of Thomas, and sections incorporated into the Arabic Infancy Gospel and the Armenian Infancy Gospel) and became incorporated into two popular Life of Mary collections. The present volume includes a history of scholarship on the Syriac Infancy Gospel of Thomas, a description of the extant manuscripts (now numbering over twenty and divided into three recensions), and editions and translations of each recension of the text.

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By Ágúst Magnússon
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**A New Edition of Codex I (016)**

**The Washington Pauline Manuscript**

By Justin J. Soderquist & Thomas A. Wayment

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The Zaydi Reception of Bahshamite Mu'tazilism
Facsimile Edition of MS Shiraz, Library of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Shiraz ('Allāma Ṭabāṭabā'ī Library), majmūʿa 102
Introduction by Sabine Schmidtke & Hassan Ansari

Iranian libraries hold only few manuscripts that testify to the extended and intensive Mu'tazilite past in the various centers of Zaydi scholarship in the Caspian region, in Ḫurāsān, and in Rayy. Among the few Mu’tazilite Zaydi works preserved in the libraries of Iran is a miscellany held by the library of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Shiraz ('Allāma Ṭabāṭabā'ī Library). The maṣāb, a facsimile of which is included in the present publication, was written between 673/1274-75 and 676/1277 and contains doctrinal works by Imāmi and Zaydi theologians from both Iran and from Yemen.

978-1-4632-4029-5 / Hb / April 2019 / 378 pp. / $290.00

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Sleep and Sleeplessness in Byzantium
By Nikolaos Barkas
This book uses a bio-cultural method, which combines sleep medicine with theology, history, and critical research, in order to analyse the practice of sleep-abstinence and the attitudes towards sleep in Byzantium. Focusing on Greek documentary sources, this book investigates whether Byzantines did indeed practice sleep abstinence or sleep deprivation, and their rationales for curtailing their sleep. Chapters cover the mechanics of sleep in the modern world and in the ancient world, the place of monastic vigil, and the vigil of the laty.

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Book Spotlight

The Syrian Orthodox Christians in the Late Ottoman Period and Beyond: Crisis then Revival
By Khalid S. Dinno
978-1-4632-0575-1 | Hb | 526 pp. | $85.00

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