

THE SBL COMMENTARY ON THE SEPTUAGINT

An Introduction

SBL Press

# Septuagint and Cognate Studies

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*Edited by*  
Dirk Büchner

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## Preface

This volume is the fruit of a process begun with a special session of the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting in May, 2013 in Victoria, British Columbia, as part of the greater Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Victoria is a stone's throw away from Langley, the location of Trinity Western University and the John William Wevers Institute for Septuagint Studies. The location of the Congress that year enabled the Institute to hold one of its regular colloquia in a larger scholarly environment. The session was dedicated to the theoretical approach of the Society of Biblical Literature Commentary on the Septuagint and its application to a representative spread of translational approaches found in the LXX corpus. Seven contributors to the SBLCS presented a perspective or a chapter of commentary from their assigned books and in the months that followed, scrutinized one another's papers and engaged in further conversations. The chapters as they now appear are the culmination of this valuable process.

A commentary series needs to be clear about its presuppositions and approach, as well as how these are to be put into effect, which is why the volume begins with Albert Pietersma's chapter on what the LXX is and what should be found in the commentator's toolkit. The rest of the contributions present the reader with commentary samples that range from legal material and narrative to wisdom and poetry, as follows: Genesis 1 by Robert Hiebert, Exodus 2 by Larry Perkins, Leuitikon (Leviticus) 3 by Dirk Büchner, Numbers 22 by Spencer Jones, Esther 2 in the Old Greek and the Alpha Text, by Cameron Boyd-Taylor, Iob (Job) 34 by Claude Cox, and Psalm 57 by Jannes Smith.

In each case a careful effort is made to describe and explain the *process* of translation that was followed by each translator as they rendered their *Vorlage* into Greek for the benefit of, and according to the cultural norms of their immediate audiences. In an appendix is found the Preamble to the Guidelines for the Contributors to the Society of Biblical Literature

Commentary on the Septuagint. It is hoped that the volume will serve as a handbook for commentators in the series, and open up a new perspective on the delightful quest to discover how the translators went about their work and what they intended by it.

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## Acknowledgments

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It is to Al Pietersma that we owe the conception of the commentary series, with its solid theoretical foundation. Over the past two years he put in a tremendous amount of time to minutely scrutinize each contribution and write copious comments. For his expertise, rigor, and watchful eye we are most grateful, as we are for every other member of the team and their congenial way of sharpening each other's work. Spencer Jones, who was responsible for the final formatting and uniformity of each paper, spent countless hours in conversation with contributors and has been an invaluable helper to us all.

Langley, February 2016

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## Abbreviations

### Technical Abbreviations

*	Greek form is hypothetical
√	root form
1°, 2°, etc.	first occurrence, second occurrence, etc.
1x, 2x, etc.	once, twice, etc.
ca.	circa
esp.	especially
fem.	feminine
Heb.	Hebrew (language)
IO	indirect object
G	Old Greek translator
gen.	genitive
Gk.	Greek (language)
impv.	imperative
κατλ.	καὶ τὰ λοιπά (“and the remaining”)
masc.	masculine
MS(S)	manuscript(s)
pers.	person
pers. comm.	personal communication
pl.	plural
PN	proper name
S	subject
sg.	singular
s.v.	<i>sub verba</i> (“under the word”)
V	verb
V <sup>pass</sup>	passive verb

### Primary Texts

α'	recension attributed to Aquila
θ'	recension attributed to Theodotion

σ'	recension attributed to Symmachus
Ag.	Aeschylus, <i>Agamemnon</i>
A.J.	Josephus, <i>Antiquitates judaicae</i>
Anab.	Xenophon, <i>Anabasis</i>
Ant.	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i>
Argon.	Apollonius Rhodius, <i>Argonautica</i>
Art.	Plutarch, <i>Artaxerxes</i>
Autol.	Theophilus of Antioch, <i>Ad Autolyicum</i>
BdA	Harl, Marguerite, ed. <i>La Bible d'Alexandrie</i> . Paris: Cerf, 1986–.
BGU	<i>Aegyptische Urkunden aus den Königlichen (later Staatlichen) Museen zu Berlin, Griechische Urkunden</i>
BHK	<i>Biblia Hebraica</i> , ed. R. Kittel
BHS	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> . Edited by Karl Elliger and Wilhelm Rudolph. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1983.
BHS <sup>APP</sup>	<i>Apparatus criticus</i> to BHS
Brenton	Brenton, Lancelot Charles Lee. <i>The Septuagint Version of the Old Testament: According to the Vatican Text, Translated into English</i> . London: Bagster, 1844.
Caes.	Plutarch, <i>Caesar</i>
Cat.	Aristotle, <i>Categoriae</i>
Conf.	Philo, <i>De confusione linguarum</i>
Cor.	Plutarch, <i>Marcus Coriolanus</i>
Crat.	Plato, <i>Cratylus</i>
Cyn.	Xenophon, <i>Cynegeticus</i>
Cyr.	Xenophon, <i>Cyropaedia</i>
Deipn.	Athenaeus, <i>Deipnosophistae</i>
Descr.	Pausanias, <i>Graeciae descriptio</i>
El.	Sophocles, <i>Elektra</i>
Eq.	Xenophon, <i>De equitande ratione</i>
Eth. nic.	Aristotle, <i>Ethica nicomachea</i>
Euthyd.	Plato, <i>Euthydemus</i>
FGH	<i>Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</i> . Edited by Felix Jacoby. Leiden: Brill, 1954–1964.
Frag.	<i>Fragmenta</i>
Gen. litt.	Augustine, <i>De Genesi ad litteram</i>
Geogr.	Strabo, <i>Geographica</i>
Haer.	Irenaeus, <i>Adversus haereses (Elenchos)</i>

<i>Hell.</i>	Xenophon, <i>Hellenica</i>
<i>Herm.</i>	Tertullian, <i>Adversus Hermogenem</i>
<i>Hist.</i>	<i>Historiae</i>
<i>Hom. Phlm.</i>	Chrysostom, <i>Homiliae in epistulam ad Philemonem</i>
IG	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae: Editio Minor</i> . Berlin: de Gruyter, 1924–.
<i>Il.</i>	Homer, <i>Iliad</i>
<i>Leg.</i>	Plato, <i>Leges</i>
LXX	Septuagint
LXX.D	Kraus, Wolfgang, and Martin Karrer, eds. <i>Septuaginta Deutsch: Das griechische Alte Testament in deutscher Übersetzung</i> . Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2009.
<i>Mem.</i>	Xenophon, <i>Memorabilia</i>
m. Menah.	Mishna Menaḥot
<i>Mos.</i>	Philo, <i>De vita Mosis</i>
MT	Masoretic text
NETS	New English Translation of the Septuagint
NJB	New Jerusalem Bible
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
<i>Oed. tyr.</i>	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus tyrannus</i>
<i>Opif.</i>	Philo, <i>De opificio mundi</i>
<i>Or. Graec.</i>	Tatian, <i>Oratio ad Graecos</i>
Pesh	Peshitta
<i>Phaed.</i>	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i>
<i>Phileb.</i>	Plato, <i>Philebus</i>
<i>Phoc.</i>	Plutarch, <i>Phocion</i>
<i>Praep. ev.</i>	Eusebius, <i>Praeparatio evangelica</i>
P.Rev Laws	Papyrus Revenue Laws
<i>Prom.</i>	Aeschylus, <i>Prometheus vincus</i>
Ra	Rahlfs, Alfred. <i>Septuaginta: Id est Vetus Testamentum graece iuxta LXX interpretes</i> . Revised by Robert Hanhart. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2006.
Rahlfs	Rahlfs, Alfred. <i>Psalmi cum Odis</i> . SVTG 10. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1967.
<i>Rhet. Alex.</i>	Pseudo-Aristotle, <i>Rhetorica ad Alexandrum</i>
<i>Sam.</i>	Menander, <i>Samia</i>
SamPent	Samaritan Pentateuch
<i>Septim.</i>	Hippocrates, <i>De septimestri partu</i>
Sib. Or.	Sibylline Oracles

<i>Sik.</i>	Menander, <i>Sicyonii fragmenta aliunde nota</i>
<i>Sp. Laws</i>	Philo, <i>Special Laws</i>
<i>Superst.</i>	Plutarch, <i>De superstitione</i>
Syh	Syro-hexapla, the Syriac version of Origen's Hexapla
Teb.	Tebtunis Papyrus
Tg. Job	Targum for Job
Tg. Neof.	Targum Neofiti
Tg. Onq.	Targum Onqelos
Tg. Ps.-J.	Targum Pseudo-Jonathan
<i>Them.</i>	Plutarch, <i>Themistocles</i>
<i>Tim.</i>	Plato, <i>Timaeus</i> ; Aeschines, <i>In Timarchum</i>
T. Iss.	Testament of Issachar
T. Reu.	Testament of Reuben
<i>Vesp.</i>	Aristophanes, <i>Vespae</i>
We <sup>ed</sup>	Wevers's Göttingen edition at the pertinent location
Zi	Joseph Ziegler's Göttingen edition at the pertinent location

### Secondary Sources

ACCS	Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture
ACW	Ancient Christian Writers
AASF	Annales Academiae Scientiarum Fennicae
AAU	Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis
AB	Anchor Bible
AnBib	Analecta Biblica
BCOTWP	Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms
BDAG	Danker, Frederick W., Walter Bauer, William F. Arndt, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.
BDB	Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. <i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Oxford: Clarendon, 1907.
BDR	Blass, Friedrich, Albert Debrunner, and Friedrich Rehkopf. <i>Grammatik des neutestamentlichen Griechisch</i> . Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1976.
BETL	Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovanien-sium

<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
BIOSCS	<i>Bulletin of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies</i>
BKAT	Biblischer Kommentar Altes Testament
BSac	<i>Bibliotheca Sacra</i>
BTL	Benjamins Translation Library
BTS	Biblical Tools and Studies
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
CBSC	Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges
CGLC	Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics
COUt	Commentaar op het Oude Testament
C-S	F. C. Conybeare and St. George Stock. <i>Grammar of Septuagint Greek</i> . Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2010.
CTSRR	College Theology Society Resources in Religion
DCH	Clines, David J. A., ed. <i>Dictionary of Classical Hebrew</i> . 9 vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 1993–2016.
DJD	Discoveries in the Judean Desert
DK	Diels, Hermann, and Walther Kranz, eds. <i>Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker, griechisch und deutsch</i> . Zurich: Weidmann, 2004.
ECC	Eerdmans Critical Commentary
EeC	Études et commentaires
<i>Elr</i>	<i>Encyclopaedia Iranica</i> . Edited by Ehsan Yarshater. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1982–.
EnAC	Entretiens sur l'antiquité classique
GELS	Muraoka, Takamitsu. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint</i> . Leuven: Peeters, 2009.
GKC	Gesenius, Wilhelm. <i>Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar</i> . Edited by Emil Kautzsch. Translated by Arthur E. Cowley. 2nd ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1910.
GRBS	<i>Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies</i>
HALOT	Koehler, Ludwig, Walter Baumgartner, and Johann J. Stamm. <i>The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Translated and edited under the supervision of Mervyn E. J. Richardson. 2 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2001.
HBS	Herders biblische Studien
HCOT	Historical Commentary on the Old Testament
HCS	Hellenistic Culture and Society

HKAT	Handkommentar zum Alten Testament
HRCS	Hatch, Edwin, and Henry A. Redpath. <i>Concordance to the Septuagint and Other Greek Versions of the Old Testament</i> . 2 vols. Oxford: Clarendon, 1897. Repr., Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
IBHS	Waltke, Bruce K., and Michael O'Connor. <i>An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax</i> . Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.
ICC	International Critical Commentary
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JHS	<i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i>
JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
Joüon	Joüon, Paul. <i>A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew</i> . Translated and revised by T. Muraoka. 2 vols. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1991.
JRitSt	<i>Journal of Ritual Studies</i>
JSCS	<i>Journal of Septuagint and Cognate Studies</i>
JSJSup	Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series
JSS	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KAT	Kommentar zum Alten Testament
L&N	Louw, Johannes P., and Eugene A. Nida, eds. <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains</i> . 2nd ed. New York: United Bible Societies, 1989.
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
LEH	Lust, Johan, Erik Eynikel, and Katrin Hauspie, eds. <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint</i> . Rev. ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2003.
LHBOTS	Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies
LSJ	Liddell, Henry George, Robert Scott, and Henry Stuart Jones. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> . 9th ed. with revised supplement. Oxford: Clarendon, 1996.
Mayser	Mayser, Edwin. <i>Grammatik der griechischen Papyri aus der Ptolemäerzeit</i> . 2 vols. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1906–1933.
MM	Moulton, James H., and George Milligan. <i>The Vocabulary</i>



	<i>of the Greek Testament</i> . London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1929. Repr., Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.
MSU	Mitteilungen des Septuaginta-Unternehmens
NIDOTTE	VanGemeren, Willem A., ed. <i>New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis</i> . 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
OBO	Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis
OLA	Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta
OTL	Old Testament Library
RHR	<i>Revue de l'histoire des religions</i>
RVV	Religionsgeschichtliche Versuche und Vorarbeiten
SBLCS	Society of Biblical Literature Commentary on the Septuagint
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLPS	Society of Biblical Literature Pseudepigrapha Series
SBLTT	Society of Biblical Literature Texts and Translations
SCS	Septuagint and Cognate Studies
Smyth	Smyth, Herbert W. <i>Greek Grammar for Colleges</i> . Revised by Gordon M. Messing. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1956.
<i>Suppl.</i>	<i>Aeschylus Supplices</i>
SVTG	Septuaginta: Vetus Testamentum Graecum
SVTP	Studia in Veteris Testamenti Pseudepigraphica
TAPA	<i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i>
TDOT	<i>Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament</i> . Edited by G. Johannes Botterweck and Helmer Ringgren. Translated by John T. Willis et al. 16 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974–2006.
THB	Text of the Hebrew Bible
Thackeray	Thackeray, Henry St. J. <i>A Grammar of the Old Testament in Greek according to the Septuagint</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1909.
TLG	<i>Thesaurus Linguae Graecae</i>
TLZ	<i>Theologische Literaturzeitung</i>
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Supplements to Vetus Testamentum
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary

WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>

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