A RECENTLY DISCOVERED FRAGMENT OF A COMMENTARY ON HOSEA FROM QUMRAN'S FOURTH CAVE

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SINCE my publication of a fragment of pešer Hosea in 1956, a large piece of a similar work has appeared from Bedouin hands. This is almost certainly not part of the same scroll, for the handwriting differs considerably, and is, indeed, identical with that on 4QpPs 37, parts of which I have previously published. The upper and lower margins of this scroll seem to have been about 2 cm. deep, the internal margin of 1.5 cm., and the lines are ruled fairly regularly at .7 cm., with letters some .3 cm. square. The script I have described in connection with 4QpPs 37. The skin of this scroll is fairly coarse, and the color varies between fawn to patches of dark brown.

4QpHos$^b$

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<td>בֵּסֶדֶרְיוֹן יִנְטַיְבָה</td>
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<td>בְּפַרְדָּקְו יִנְמֹמְק</td>
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[... ] and they were pleased with
[... ] and they turned aside
[... ] with thorns, and her paths
[... ] and in blindness and bewilderment

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1 Cf. JBL, LXXV (1956), 93, Pl. 2.
[... ] and the period of their treachery [they did] not

[... ] they are the generation of Visitation

[... ] Last [Generation (?)]

[... ] in the periods of wrath, for

[... ] for

[... ] in the turning of the captivity of

Col. ii

[And she did not know that] it was
I who gave her the grain, [the wine,]

[and the oil, and] who lavished [silver], and gold (which) they used for Baal. Its interpretation

is that [... ] they were satisfied, and they forgot God who [... ]

his commands which he had sent to them [through the medium of?]

his servants, the prophets, they cast behind their backs. But they listened to those who misled them, and they honored them,

7 Cf. in CD xx.23; מועל in CD i.3.
8 Cf. in 1QS iii.18; מועל in 1QS iv.18-19; קך in CD xix.10.
9 Cf. 1QH (fragments) i.15; (sing.) CD i.5; 1QH iii.28.
and in their blindness they feared them like gods.

Therefore, I shall take back my grain in its time, and my wine [in its season,]
and I shall take away my wool and my flax, from covering [her nakedness.]
And now I shall uncover her lewdness in the sight of [her] lovers, and no-
one shall rescue her out of my hand.
Its interpretation is that he smote them with hunger and nakedness to be a shame and ignominy in the sight of the nations upon whom they relied. But they will not save them from their torments. And I shall put an end to all her mirth, [her feasts, her [new] moons and her sabbaths, and all her ap-
pointed feasts. Its interpretation is that [...] they led in the festivals of the Gentiles, and [that?]

\[...\] they led in the festivals of the Gentiles, and [that?]
their rejoicing (?) will be turned for them into mourning.
And I shall lay waste [her vines]

[and her fig trees] of which she said,
These are my hire [which my lovers]

gave me], and I shall make them a forest, and the beasts of the field shall devour them [...]

Cf. Hos 2 14

MT וְזָכַרְתִּי.

MT מִשְּחַר, for the more usual מִשְׁמַר.

MT וְזוֹכַר.