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

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SINCE my publication of a fragment of peser 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.

4Q	pHos ^b		
c	ol. i		•
	1		
	2		
	3	ז ציר [
[] and they were pleased with	4	וירצו [
[] and they turned aside	5 6	ו רילוזו	
[] with thorns, and her paths	7		בסירים וונתיבותיה [
[] and in blindness and bewilderment	8		וכעורון יבתמהון [

¹ Cf. JBL, LXXV (1956), 93, Pl. 2.

² Cf. Palestine Exploration Quarterly, LXXXVI (1984), 69-75; JBL, LXXV (1986), 93 f., Pl. 4.

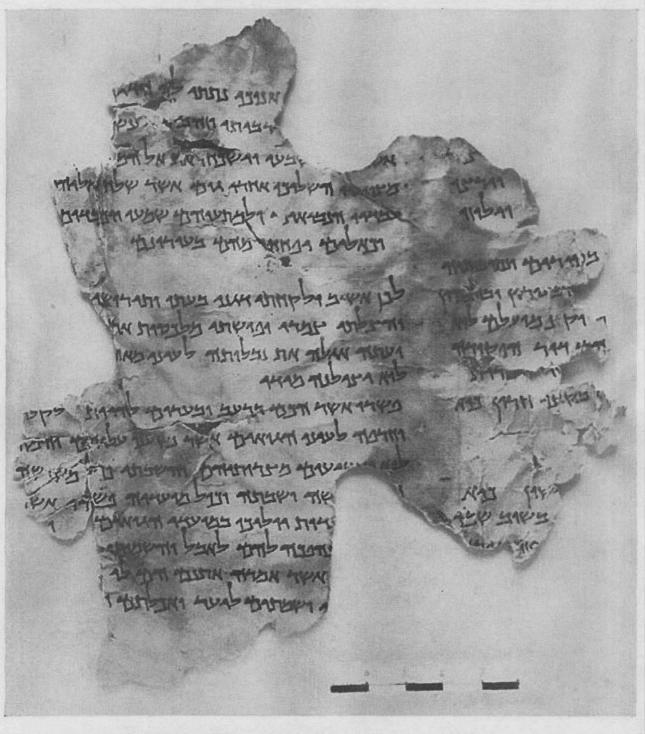


Photo: Palestine Archaeological Museum

[] and the period of their treachery [they did] not	9	ה וקץ מועלםי לוא [
[] they are the generation of Visitation	10] אם דור הפקודה:
[La]st [Gen]eration (?)	11	נד] וֹר אַנתוּרית
[] in the periods of wrath, for	12	ן בקצי הרון • כיא [
	13	
	14	
[] for	15	ומשון כיא
[] in the turning of the captivity of	16	בשוב שבי [
	17] טפֿר. [

Col. ii

+ווהיא לוא ידעה כיאו אנוכייי בתתי

I who gave her the grain, [the wine,]			<u>זירוש</u>	לה הרגן נ והו
[and the oil, and] who lavished [sil-	2 7	הרבית	וכסף	והיצהר

- ver], and gold (which) they us[ed פשרוץ פשרוץ for Baal. Its interpretation]
- is that [...] they were satisfied, אש[ר] שבער וישכחו את [] שבער וישכחו את and they forgot God who [...]
- his commands which he had sent 4 מצוותיו השליכו אחרי גום אשר שלח to them [through the medium אליהם [בידוּ of?]
- his servants, the prophets, they 5 שמער כבדיו הנכיאים ולמחעיהם שמער כמst behind their backs. But they listened to those who misled them, and they honored

them.

And she did not know that it was 1

⁷ Cf. אין מעל ישראל in CD xx.23; פיע מעל ישראל in CD i.3.

⁸ Cf. מועד פקודה in 1QS iii.18; פקודה in 1QS iv.18-19; מועד פקודה in CD xix. 10.

Cf. 1QH (fragments) i.15; (sing.) CD i.5; 1QH iii.28.

140 JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE		
and in their blindness they feared them like gods.	6	וכאלים יפחדו מהם בעורוגם
	7	
Therefore, I shall take back my grain in its time, and my wine [in its season,]	8	נילכן אשוב ולקחתי דגני כעתו ותירושי (במועדו
and I shall take away my wool and my flax, from covering [her nakedness.]	9	והצלתי צמרי ופישתיא מלכסותי את [ערותה
And now I shall uncover her lewd- ness in the sight of [her] lov[ers, and no-]	10	יועתה אגלה את נבלותהיי לעיני מאה[ביה ואיש
one shall rescue her out of my hand.	11	לואי יצילנה מידי
Its interpretation is that he smote them with hunger and naked- ness to be a sha[me]	12	פשרו אשר הכם ברעביי ובערום להיות לקלו[ן
and ignominy in the sight of the nations upon whom they relied. But they	13	וחרפה לעיני הנואים אשר נשענו עליהם והמה
will not save them from their tor- ments. And I shall put an end to all her mirth,	14	לרא יושיעום מצרותיהם ייוהשכתי כוליי משושה
[her fe]asts, her [new] moons and her sabbaths, and all her ap- pointed feasts. Its interpreta- tion is that	15	יוֹ(גה חד)שה ושבתה וכוליי מועדיהיי פשרו אשר

the Gentiles, and [that?]

[...] they led in the festivals of 16 שדות יוליכו במועדי

זגראים ולאשרז

⁴ Cf. Hos 2 11.

ופשתי MT ומשתי.

⁴ MT πιους; cf. LXX τοῦ μή καλύπτειν.

¹⁶ Cf. Hos 2 12.

יבלחה MT אלא MT לא MT לא.

¹⁹ Cf. 4QpPs 37 iii.4; 4Qplsab ii.1 (JBL, LXXVII [1958], 216).

²⁰ Cf. Hos 2 13.

י MT כל MT ים. מל MT.

[their rejoicing (?)] will be turned for them into mourning. And I shall lay waste [her vines]	17	נהפכה להם לאבל! בר <u>השמותי²² (גפנה</u>
[and her fig trees] of which she said, These are my hire [which my lovers]	18	ותאנתה] אשר אמרה אתנסיי הם∞ לי (אשר נתנו
[gave me], and I shall make them a forest, and the be[asts of the field] shall devour them [19	לי מאהב]י ושמתים ליער ואכלתם הנית השדה

²⁵ Cf. Hos 2 14

יוהשמתי MT ב

²⁷ MT אתן, for the more usual אתן.

א MT המה. אים.