

### 3. TEXT CRITICISM

*How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament*

Jason S. DeRouchie, PhD

Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Theology

Bethlehem College & Seminary

Elder, Bethlehem Baptist Church

Spring 2019

*Goal:* Establish the passage's original wording.

#### 1. The Nature of Text Criticism

- a. *Some Facts:* Poor memory, impaired judgment, mishearing, and errors of sight or misunderstanding caused the best intentioned scribes to omit, substitute, or repeat letters or enter words.
- b. *Definition:* The discipline of restoring the biblical authors' original words by comparing and contrasting the various copies and translations of the Bible.
- c. *More Facts:*

#### 2. A Simplified Journey into Text Criticism—Psalm 22:16[H17] as a Case Study

- a. *The English translations of Ps 22:16[H17]*
  - (1) Textual comparison
    - a) ESV: "They have pierced my hands and feet<sup>1</sup>" (cf. NKJV, NRSV, NASB, NIV, CSB)
    - b) NET: "Like a lion, *they pin* my hands and feet."
  - (2) Footnote: ESV: "<sup>1</sup>Some Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint, Vulgate, Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts *like a lion* [they are at] *my hands and feet.*"
- b. *The Question*
  - (1) The NT refers to this psalm numerous times in relation to Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection:

Ps 22:1[H2], "My God, my God why?"	Matt 27:46; Mark 15:34
Ps 22:7[H8], "they wag their heads"	Matt 27:39
Ps 22:8[H9], "let him deliver him"	Matt 27:43

Ps 22:15[H16], “my tongue sticks to my mouth”	John 19:28
Ps 22:18[H19], “divide my garments ... [by] lots”	John 19:24 and Matt 27:35
Ps 22:22[H23], “I will tell ... to my brothers”	Heb 2:12 and Matt 28:10; 20:17; Rom 8:29
Ps 22:24[H25], “[He] has heard, when he cried”	Heb 5:7

(2) Does Ps 22:16[H17] contain a Messianic prediction of Christ’s crucifixion? (see John 19:23, 37; 20:25; Luke 24:40)

c. *The Most Important Texts and Versions*

(1) The Facts:

a) Texts:

b) Versions:

(2) The Hebrew Texts:

a) Masoretic Text (MT)

b) Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS)

c) The Samaritan Pentateuch (Smr)

(3) The Versions/Translations

a) Septuagint (LXX)

b) Targums (T)

c) Peshitta (S)

d) Vulgate (V)

d. *Assessing the Text Problem in Ps 22:16[H17]:*

(1) *The guiding principle:* The more original reading is the one that best explains the rise of all the others.

(2) The ESV translation and note:

a) Ps. 22:16[H17]. “They have pierced my hands and feet<sup>1</sup>”

- b) Footnote: ESV: “<sup>1</sup>Some Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint, Vulgate, Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts *like a lion* [they are at] *my hands and feet*.”

(3) External evidence:

a) The Texts:

- MT: כְּאֵרֵי יָדַי וְרַגְלָי (“like a lion my hands and feet”)
- DSS: כְּרִי [וְ] יָדַי וְרַגְלָי (4QPs<sup>f</sup>; followed by LXX, V, S)

b) The Difference:

- MT: כְּ (“like”) + אֵרֵי (“lion”)
- DSS: כָּרוּ (“they burrowed, gouged, pierced”)

c) Assessment:

(4) Internal Evidence:

(5) Conclusion: