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DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS

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THE TEXTUAL RELATION OF THE PESHITTA
OF EZEK 1-12 TO MT AND TO
THE ANCIENT VERSIONS
(Tg^J and LXX)

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Problem

The dilemma of the Syriac version is its mysterious provenance and the direct relationship it may have to the other versions (particularly LXX and Tg^J). Thus some scholars have automatically discarded or ignored the Peshitta version as a useful tool (as a textual witness) for the study of the Hebrew text. The knowledge of textual problems, in this case the relationship of S to the ancient versions, is of extreme importance in the analysis and study of the Hebrew Bible. The awareness of LXX, Tg^J, and MT employed in the textual composition of S will help in exegetic, semantic, and linguistic studies of the OT.

Method

Critical editions of the OT with their apparatus constitute the basic database for this study. This work consists of a comparative, analytic, and evaluative study of the Peshitta version of Ezekiel in relationship to the ancient versions (LXX and Tg^J) and to MT. The study covers the first twelve chapters of Ezekiel, but only those readings in the S that indicate a probable relationship to an external source are taken into consideration.

Conclusion

S (Ezek 1-12) was based on a Hebrew text similar to that of MT, and any relationship to another ancient version can be explained as a mere coincidence or by the use of a common translation technique. In this case S is useful as a tool in textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible, for it is a valuable witness to a Hebrew consonantal text very similar to MT.