Edward D. Herbert, *Reconstructing Biblical Dead Sea Scrolls—A New Method Applied to the Reconstruction of 4QSam^a* (STDJ XXII; Leiden/New York/Köln: Brill, 1997). XVI + 293pp. ISBN 90 04 106847. Dfl. ------

This monograph, a revised Ph.D. dissertation (Cambridge), was instigated by Herbert's interest in the textual relations between 4QSam^a and Chronicles (p. 2), but in the course of writing this study, the author dealt mainly with other issues, viz., *Reconstructing Biblical Dead Sea Scrolls*. In fact, 'Reconstructing Dead Sea Scrolls' might have been a more appropriate title, since the method presented here fits any Qumran text which is also known from parallel manuscripts. The method suggested could also be applied to a comparison of 11QT^b and 11QT^a, the manuscripts of S from cave 4 compared with 1QS, etc. (see p. 200).

In the first part of the book (chapters 1–2), Herbert develops 'a battery of tools to assist the scholars in the reconstruction of the biblical Qumran scrolls' (p. 3). In the second part these tools are applied to 4QSam^a. Where applicable, this scroll is compared with Chronicles, but the development of the tools is more central for the author than the comparison of the Samuel scroll with Chronicles.

The reconstruction of the missing parts of the fragmentary Qumran scrolls (not only the biblical texts) becomes increasingly important in our analysis of the scrolls, as it may provide information about the placement of the surviving fragments in a column, the extent of the missing text, the measures of the columns, and often the physical relation between the preserved fragments. For this purpose the author presents various methods for the reconstruction of fragmentary scrolls:

1. A calculation of the letter widths of the preserved letters as a means to calculate the content of the lacunae. The author discards the system of the unsophisticated counting of letters, since it disregards the different widths of letters (p. 5), but surprisingly he also disregards the system of counting the so-called 'corrected letter-spaces' which assigns half a value to narrow letters, and the computer-assisted approach of A. Lange which uses scanned images of letters to fill in the lacunae. There can hardly be anything wrong with the latter system, but, indeed Herbert is right in claiming that letters of average size need to be used for reconstructions, and that shrinkage of the leather needs to be taken into consideration (pp. 62–63). In order to overcome the slight complications inherent with the alternative systems of letter counts, Herbert has developed a new system for the calculation of the average width of each letter (pp. 7–11). Tables of such average sizes are provided for five scrolls on pp. 10, 29–33, and the advantage of this system is graphically illustrated on pp. 39–45.

2. The subdivision of a manuscript column into narrow vertical sections, 'so that shorter widths of text can be compared with the corresponding sections in adjacent lines' (p. 11). The description of this system on pp. 11–13 is very complicated, and not always comprehensible because of the use of line numbers and numbers for the vertical lines which are not explained. The reviewer endorses the method suggested, but wonders whether editors of texts have not always been working in this way without giving the system a name.

3. 'Critical deviations.' By comparing lacunae which differ significantly from MT (when MT has a much longer or shorter text), with the lines in the context, the author attempts to establish statistical evidence supporting non-Masoretic reconstructions. So far reconstructions were analyzed on the basis of mere impressions, but Herbert believes that statistical patterns help us in the evaluation of the reconstructions (pp. 14–18; 53–57).

4–5. On the basis of the identification of the right and left margins (criterion 4 [pp. 18–21]), and taking into consideration spaces left for new paragraphs, the author developed novel ideas regarding a 'scribal margin policy' (pp. 21–24; 63–76). Herbert shows that when not adhering to the left-hand margin, scribes often had a 'notional margin' in mind, somewhat to the left or right of the ruled vertical margin, to which he adhered.

6. The exact position in a column of all the fragments should be determined as much as possible, taking into consideration that columns may be of different width, but are almost always of the same height.

Chapter 1 establishes the theoretical background of each of these criteria, while chapter 2 works them out in detail. Constant use is made of 4QSam[a], but also of 1QM, 1QHab, 1QS, and 11QT[a], as these texts have been preserved well. Chapter 3, focusing only on 4QSam[a], uses the aforementioned criteria profitably in order to 'lay the foundations for the reconstructions of 4QSam[a]' (title of that chapter). Important contributions to scholarship are offered to the reader of this chapter in the following areas:

a. Herbert has made 64 new 'definitive identifications' of small fragments as belonging to 4QSam[a] on photographs PAM 43.113, 43.124 and elsewhere, as well as 19 likely identifications (p. 78). A complete list of these fragments is found in Appendix A.

b. A detailed orthographical-morphological analysis of 4QSam[a], important in its own right and the first of its kind, also helps in reconstructing details (pp. 82–84 and Appendix C).

c. A complete analysis of the paragraph breaks in 4QSam[a], the first one to date, reveals that 4QSam[a] reflects some 80% of the paragraph breaks of MT.

d. The width of the columns differs noticeably from case to case, ranging from 8.5 cm for col. II (not displayed in this book) to 13 cm col. LIV. The number of lines is reconstructed as 43 per column. A very enlightening table on p. 90 shows that in general 4QSamᵃ contains more material than the corresponding text in MT, a feature which was not known so far, and which must be taken into consideration in future analyses. Most columns of the scroll contain 2%–6% more material, while col. II adds as much as 26.9% and col. I 48.1%.

All these introductory analyses allow for a full-scale reconstruction of the context of the scroll in chapter 4. In the introduction to this chapter the author notes (p. 94) that the full text of the scroll cannot be reconstructed, and that his main aim is to locate patterns of disagreement with the MT of Samuel. Thus the description of the textual relations is a formal one, and the corresponding data from the LXX are mentioned only secondarily, as explained on p. 94. The discussion will say, e.g., on 2 Sam 19:10 '4QSamᵃ has the plus דויד after המלך, and is supported by SLXX [= the LXX of Samuel]' (p. 175). While many scholars would simply say that the scroll reflects the same reading as the LXX, or that the LXX reflects the reading of 4QSamᵃ, for Herbert this is manuscript support for the scroll.

This chapter uses the measurements analyzed and presented in the previous chapters, and is therefore very difficult to read, especially with regard to the 'vertical dividers' in the text. To the best of my knowledge, nowhere in the book is it explained what exactly vertical line *a* is, line *b*, etc., but the discussion is based on such stretches as '7abc.' For each column the author provides a very helpful transcription of each column, including the vertical dividers, but the identity of the elements represented as *a*, *b*, etc., is not explicitly indicated. At the same time, the reader infers that 'a' is the utmost right divider, and 'f' the utmost left divider, but he has to remind himself constantly of these parameters, as the reconstructions do not provide this information. Because of the complicated analysis in chapter 4, the reader draws much comfort from Appendix D which handily lists some of the results of the analysis in the form of the scroll's deviations from MT. In this Appendix the reader finds a helpful comparison of details in the scroll and MT together with notations on the amount of certainty of the reconstructions, references to the source of information for the readings of 4QSamᵃ (after all, the scroll has not yet been published), and additional textual sources. These additional sources are recorded as 'support for MT,' 'support for 4QSamᵃ,' and 'divergent witnesses.' Unfortunately the terminology used ('support for...,' 'divergent witnesses') gives the impression that the scroll and the MT are the two main traditions of the biblical text of Samuel, which are or are not supported by other sources. The employment of

different terminology would have been more objective. Further, the data on the amount of agreement between the scroll and/or the main tradition of the LXX and LXX^{Luc} is not readily available from the listing. Nevertheless, the list is very helpful.

The kernel of chapter 4, and probably of the book as a whole, is a 100 page textual commentary of the text of 4QSam^a in 2 Samuel, which has been singled out because of its many parallels in Chronicles. The commentary includes a detailed presentation of the content of the fragments of that scroll together with a reconstruction of the text in the lacunae and an indication of the vertical dividers. The high-quality plates on pp. 249ff. display photographs of the fragments themselves, with an indication of their placing in the column (including details regarding the line numbers, column size, and margins). This presentation, together with the analyses of Ulrich of 4QSam^c and 4QDaniel, are among the most helpful presentations so far of the column structures of biblical Qumran manuscripts. The discussion and analysis of each fragment includes all the technical data on the scroll and its reconstruction, as wel as an analysis of the other textual witnesses, including Josephus.

In the conclusion (pp. 197–200), the author considers as his main contribution to scholarship the development of 'a new range of tools' and the detection of '101 newly identified deviations' of the scroll from the MT in 2 Samuel. This presents, in the author's words, a '55% increase in the number of validly identified deviations for 2 Samuel' (p. 197).

We agree with the latter, but would probably formulate the former differently. I am not certain that the author has indeed developed a '*new* range of tools' though this is not to diminish the value of the criteria and methods used in this study. The extent of the lacunae has been calculated in the past, but the author calculates them differently. The use of vertical dividers has not been described as a 'system' by others, but all those involved in the edition of texts use similar procedures, without giving them a specific name. One simply cannot reconstruct the context of a fragment without doing exactly what Herbert is doing. These methods may have been followed less in 4QSam^a, but they have been followed in the editions of many other texts. This pertains also to the calculation of paragraphs. The one aspect which probably is novel is the understanding of a 'marginal notion' in the minds of scribes, often differing from the visible vertical ruling.

All the same, even if several of the methods presented are already familiar, this is an important and valuable study, which should be consulted by all those who specialize in the study of the Qumran manuscripts and in textual criticism. Some readers may find the monograph often too technical and too much based on statistical models, but other readers may consider this procedure an advantage. Various aspects of this study are helpful in the

analysis of scribal features, extending beyond 4QSam[a]. In my view, the primary achievement of this study is the detailed reconstruction of the content of 4QSam[a] and the *mise en page* of all the columns of 2 Samuel. Further, the detailed scribal/textual notes are of great help for the textual scholar and commentator. This is a rich study, well indexed, very well written, and presented in a beautiful typographical layout.

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