

A Synopsis of New Readings (and Interpretations) in Ben Sira Manuscripts

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Bibliography

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- "New Hebrew Text of Ben Sira Chapter 1 in Ms A (T-S 12.863)." *Revue de Qumran* 27/105 (2015): 83-98.
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- Reymond, Eric D., Jean-Sébastien Rey, and Jan Joosten. "A New Hebrew Word in Ben Sira 40:4 (Ms B IX verso, line 12 = Or. 1102): *sygh*." *Revue Biblique* 124 (2017): 103-110.

N.B. In what follows, K. = Karner / R. = Reymond / RRJ = Reymond-Rey-Joosten.

verse label and manuscript citation		reference
old reading	new reading / interpretation	
1:20i-1 or 1:*9-*11 (No physical page [Ms A, col. *0], read from T-S 12.863 [Ms A I] verso, lines 1-4)		R. 2015; cf. K. 2015
-----	<p>[דברִי שְׁמַעוּ [ועשו ותכתבו]</p> <p>[בספרי חיים : אהבו יראת יי ותנ]וּ בה לבכֶם [ואל תיראו:]</p> <p>[קרבו ואל תאחרו ותמ]צאוּ חיים [לרוחכם: ובקרבתכם]</p> <p>[אתם תהיו כאנשי חיל תהיו כג]בור[י]ם[: בני אל תכחש]</p> <p>. . . My words, hear [and do (them), so you will be written]</p> <p>[in the books of life. Love the fear of the lord and set] your mind in it [but do not fear.]</p> <p>[Approach and do not tarry and you will f]ind life [for your spirit. When you approach,]</p> <p>[you will be like valiant people, you will be like h]eroe[s. My child, do not deceive . . .]</p>	
3:21 (T-S 12.867 [Ms C I] recto, lines 9-11)		R. 2017
ורעים ממך אל תִדְרוּשׁ	<p>ורעים ממך אל תִדְרוּשׁ</p> <p>and what is too exalted (assuming ראים [an Aramaic-like participial form]) for you do not seek</p>	

verse label and manuscript citation		reference
old reading	new reading / interpretation	
4:14 (T-S 12.863 [Ms A I] verso, line 4)		R. 2018
ואלהו (!) במא (!) ויהא (!)	ואלהו (!) במאזיהא God (assuming a mistake for אלה) is with those who desire her (plene 3fs suff.)	
9:10 (ENA 2536 [Ms A III] verso, lines 9-10)		R. 2017
<p>יד[ע]ר[כד] (Adler)</p> <p>ידמה (Peters)</p> <p>יד[ו]ע[י] (Smend, Ben-Hayyim)</p> <p>ידוע[ד] (Abegg and Towes)</p> <p>vs.</p> <p>יד[ב]קנו (Lévi, Segal, Rey)</p>	<p>כי הדיש לא יד[ב]קנו</p> <p>for a new one cannot compare with him.</p> <p>This reading is really a confirmation of the reading of Lévi, Segal, and Rey.</p>	
11:10 (T-S 12.871[Ms B I] verso, line 17)		R. 2017
בני למה תרבה עושק	בני למה תרבה עושר My child, why should you multiply wealth	

verse label and manuscript citation		reference
old reading	new reading / interpretation	
13:26 (T-S 12.864 [Ms A V] verso, line 20)		R. forthcoming
some read ושיח	The marks should be read ישיח “(meditation) expresses (laborious thought),” though the earlier (original) text likely read ושיח	
14:11 (T-S 12.864 [Ms A V] verso, line 29)		R. forthcoming
שָׁרוֹת	שָׁרָתָה serving	

verse label and manuscript citation		reference
old reading	new reading / interpretation	
16:27-30 (No physical page [Ms A, col. *VII], read from T-S 12.863 [Ms A VI] verso, lines 1-4)		R. 2015; cf. K. 2015
-----	<p>. [traces of letters]</p> <p>[לא ירעבו ולא ייג]עו [לא יחדלו מעבודתם]</p> <p>אִישׁ [את רעהו לא יצ]ר [ו] [לע]ו [ו] [ל]ם לא ימרו פיו]</p> <p>[ואחר הביט לארץ יי וימלאנה ב]ט [ובו]</p> <p>[נפש כל [ח]י מ]לא פניה אליה תשובתם]</p> <p>[They will not hunger or grow weary (and) [will] not [cease from their work.]</p> <p>One [does not cause di]str[ess] [to another; they] neve[r] transgress his command.]</p> <p>[After this, the Lord looked to the earth and filled it with his] go[odness.]</p> <p>[He] co[vered] its surface with the life of every] liv[ing] thing and to it is their return.]</p> <p>(Reconstruction and lineation following Segal)</p>	
31:28 (Or. 5518 [Ms B IV] verso, line 12)		R. 2017
יין נשתה בְּעֵתוֹ וְרָאִי	יין נשתה בְּעֵתוֹ וְרָאִי or וְדָאִי is wine drunk in its time and (right) measure	

verse label and manuscript citation		reference
old reading	new reading / interpretation	
36:9 (T-S 16.313 [Ms B VI] verso, line 6)		R. 2019
צר	צי desert-dweller or ship	
36:23 (T-S 16.313 [Ms B VI] verso, line 17 margin)		R. 2019
כָּלְּ .. תְּסוּגֵר בְּבִטָּן (Schechter and Taylor, Lévi) כָּלְּ [מֵאֲכָל] תְּסוּגֵר בְּ... (Smend) כָּלְּ [תְּסוּגֵר בְּ... (Ben-Hayyim) [---] תְּסוּגֵר בְּ [---] (Beentjes)	כל נא[ב]לת סוגרת Anything that is eaten fills (?), (but some food is more pleasant than others)	
39:31 (Mas col. I, line 1)		R. 2014
[פּי]הוּ	[פּ]יו his mouth	
40:4 (Or. 1102 [Ms B IX] verso, line 12)		RRJ 2017
עור or שע[יר]	סיגה course linen (or raw flax)	

verse label and manuscript citation		reference
old reading	new reading / interpretation	
40:6 (Or. 1102 [Ms B IX] verso, lines 15-16)		R. 2017
מעט טעמחזון נפשו	מעט טעמחזון נפשו (his) sense is little due to the vision of his soul (assuming מעט טעם מחזון נפשו)	
40:15 (Mas col. II, line 5)		R. 2014
צור (Strugnell) vs. צר (Yadin and others)	שן צר rocky crag (lit. tooth of a rock)	
40:15 (MS.Heb.e.62 [Ms B X] recto, line 6)		R. 2017
ושורש חנף ען שן צור:	ושורש חנף ען שן צור: the godless root dwells (<i>qal</i> part. of עון) (on) the rocky crag	
40:16 (Mas col. II, line 6)		R. 2014
חצ[י]ר (Strugnell)	חציר ^ו grass	

verse label and manuscript citation		reference
old reading	new reading / interpretation	
40:19d+ (Mas col II, line 10)		R. 2014
-----	וּמְשֹׁנֵי יְהִי אִשָּׁה נְחֻשָׁקָת better than both [of these (is) a de]voted [wife]	
40:20 (Mas col II, line 11)		R. 2014
-----	[דו]דִּי[ם] friends	
40:22 (MS.Heb.e.62 [Ms B X] recto, line 14)		R. 2016
יע[ע]מידו but Ben-Hay. יח[ח]מידו	יְעַמְּדוּ they will cause (the eye) to stand still	
40:24 (MS.Heb.e.62 [Ms B X] recto, line 16)		R. 2016
אח וְש[ותף] (Smend)	אחי[ם ועז]רִים בְּעֵת צָרָה	
אח וְ[עוזר] (Lévi)	Brother[s and he]lpers (deliver) in the time of distress	
40:28 (Mas col. II, line 20)		R. 2014
נא[סף]	נא[סף] one gathered (<i>sin/shin</i> written for etymological <i>samekh</i>)	

verse label and manuscript citation		reference
old reading	new reading / interpretation	
41:2 (Mas col. III, line 1)		R. 2014
עצמה (Yadin) vs. עצבה (Strugnell)	עצבה healing (?) (from phonetic variant of עזב II “to restore” and cognate to Syr ‘šābā’ “healing”?)	
41:2 (Mas col. III, line 2)		R. 2014
-----	מְשֹׁל	
41:2 (MS.Heb.e.62 [Ms B X] verso, lines 9-10, margin)		R2017
איש נוקש ומושל בכל	איש נוקש ומושל בכל a person stumbling and made to fall (<i>hophal</i> part. of נשל) by anything	
41:4d (MS.Heb.e.62 [Ms B X] verso, line 13)		R. 2016
[בש]אול	בשא[ו]ל in She[o]l	

verse label and manuscript citation		reference
old reading	new reading / interpretation	
41:8 (Mas col III, line 9)		R. 2014
-----	הָ[וִי] woe!	
41:9a+-b (MS.Heb.e.62 [Ms B X] verso, line 18)		R. 2016
••••ת (Cowley-Neubauer); תַּמְ[רוֹ] (Lévi) תַּפְּרָחֻ (Smend)	תַּפְּרָחֻ If you flourish	
41:9b+-c (Mas col. III, line 11)		R. 2014
עלם (Yadin) vs. עם (Strugnell)	עם people	
41:18 (Mas col. III, line 21)		R. 2014
מעדה	מעדם of people (assuming mistake for אדם)	

verse label and manuscript citation		reference
old reading	new reading / interpretation	
42:7 (Mas col. IV, line 13)		R. 2014
מתת (Yadin) vs. ותת (Qimron)	ותת and giving	
42:9a-b (Mas col. IV, line 16)		R. 2014
[] בש	בתִּשׁ The scribe first wrote בשת “shame” then corrected it to בת “daughter”	
42:9c-d (Mas col. IV, line 17)		R. 2014
ובימיה (Yadin) vs. ובעליה (Strugnell)	ובְּעַלְיָהּ her marriage (reflecting וּבְעַלְיָהּ) or: one married (assuming a mistake for וּבְעַלְיָהּ)	

verse label and manuscript citation		reference
old reading	new reading / interpretation	
42:11a-b (MS.Heb.e.62 [Ms B XI] verso, line 17)		R. 2016
<p>תַּקְמַתְּ לִּלְלוֹלְלוֹלְלוֹ (Cowley-Neubauer)</p> <p>[בני ע] ל [בתו] ל [תד] [הק] [ם] מ [שמר] (Lévi)</p> <p>בְּנֵי עַל בַּת עוֹלָה [ה] [החז] ק משמר (Smend)</p> <p>מְשַׁמֵּר לִּלְלוֹלְלוֹ לִּלְלוֹלְלוֹ (Ben-Hayyim)</p> <p>[.....] ל [.....] ל [.....] (Beentjes)</p>	<p>בְּנֵי עַל [] ל [] הַזֶּקֶם מוֹסֵר [ר]</p> <p>My son, over a [] make strong the bon[d],</p>	
42:15 (Mas col. V, line 0 [above line 1])		R. 2014
[מעש] [ו] or [מעש] [יו] (Qimron)	מְעַשֵּׂי [ו] or מְעַשֵּׂי [ש] his works	
42:25b / 43:1a (MS.Heb.e.62 [Ms B XII] recto, line 17)		R. 2016
<p>וימי ישב [ע] ל [] ל [טוהר:]</p> <p>(Ben-Hayyim)</p>	<p>וימי ישב [ע] ל [ה] ב [י] טֵּם תוֹם [] ל [טוהר:]</p> <p>and who [assuming a mistake for ומי] could be sated at beholding their [splendor],</p> <p>[their] fo[rm [] is pure indeed.</p>	

verse label and manuscript citation		reference
old reading	new reading / interpretation	
43:1 (Mas col. V, line 17)		R. 2014
מ[ביע הד]רו (Yadin)	מ[פי]ע נהרו cause its light (or radiance) to shine	
מ[בי]ט נהרו (Strugnell)	or: מ[בי]ע נהרו spreads its radiance or: מ[צי]א נהרו bring forth its shining	
43:9 (Mas col. VI, line 2)		R. 2014
במרוז []	במרמ[י אל] in the divine heights	
43:12 (Mas col. VI, line 5)		R. 2014
בגב[ורה]	בגבו[רה] with its might	
43:13 (MS.heb.e.62/5 [Ms B XII] verso, line 15)		R. 2019
זיקים	זלקים lightning bolts	
43:18 (Mas col. VI, line 12)		R. 2014
לבנו (Yadin) vs. למנו (Strugnell)	לבנו its whiteness	

verse label and manuscript citation		reference
old reading	new reading / interpretation	
44:1 (Mas col. VII, line 6)		R. 2014
[אהללה נא] אנ[שי] חסד	[אהללה נ]א אנ[שי] חסד let me praise people of piety	
44:3c (MS.Heb.e.62 [Ms B XIII] verso, line 5)		R. 2016
היועצים בתבונתם	היועצים בתבונתם בְּעוֹלָם those counselling for their understanding of the world	
44:3d (Mas col. VII, line 8)		R. 2014
בנב[ואתם]	בנבו[אתם] for [their] proph[ecy]	
44:4c-d (MS.Heb.e.62 [Ms B XIII] verso, line 7)		R. 2016
most have correctly במשמרותם but Ben-Hayyim offers במשמרותם and במשמרותם	במשמרותם for their sayings (lit., nails)	

verse label and manuscript citation		reference
old reading	new reading / interpretation	
44:14 (Mas col. VII, line 21)		R. 2014
ודור	ודר and generation	
44:15 (Mas col. VII, line 22)		R. 2014
[תשנ] ה עדה	[ת]שן עדה [let] the congregation repeat	
44:18 (MS.Heb.e.62 [Ms B XIV] recto, line 3)		R. 2016
לבלתי השחית (most scholars)	לבלתי תשחית so that it (i.e., destruction כלה) would not annihilate (all flesh)	