

The Greek Ode of Solomon

Greek-English Interlinear

by Mark M. Mattison

This Greek-English interlinear reproduces pages 57 through 61 of the Papyrus Bodmer XI, a third- or fourth-century Greek papyrus found in 1952 near Dishna, Egypt and currently conserved in the Bodmer Library in Cologny, Switzerland.

The Papyrus Bodmer XI is noteworthy as the only extant Greek manuscript of any of the Odes of Solomon. It preserves Ode 11, here simply titled “An Ode of Solomon.”

Particularly noteworthy is the presence of several lines (vv. 16c-h and 22b) which are not found in the Syriac. This type of divergence affords unique opportunities to consider the relationship between the Greek and the Syriac Odes, a question with which scholars have long struggled.

For example, where the Greek reads “everything is according to your will” in 11:22a, the Syriac reads “everything became like your remnant.” Which reading is original to the Ode? Both tropes are amply attested in Semitic contexts. If *thelema* (“will”) was meant as a pun on *leimma* (“remnant”), the variants may have been intentional. In ancient texts, variations between original and translated manuscripts were normal. Therefore, if the author was bilingual, composing the first version in Syriac and then rendering it into Greek, both readings could be equally valid, with no need to emend one to conform to the other.

The following sources were principally consulted in the creation of this illustrated Greek-English interlinear:

Alfred Adam, “Die ursprüngliche Sprache der Salomo-Oden,” *Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft*, 52.3-4 (1961), 141-156.

James H. Charlesworth, ed., *Papyri and Leather Manuscripts of the Odes of Solomon* (Dickerson Series of Facsimiles of Manuscripts Important for Christian Origins 1; Durham, N.C.: International Center for the Study of Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations and Christian Origins, Duke University, 1981).

Michael Lattke, *Die Oden Salomos in ihrer Bedeutung für Neues Testament und Gnosis*, Vol. 1 (Fribourg: Academic Press; Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1979).

Idem, *Odes of Solomon: A Commentary* (Hermeneia; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2009).

William R. Schoedel, “Some Readings in the Greek Ode of Solomon (Ode XI),” *The Journal of Theological Studies*, 33.1 (1982), 175-182.

Sigla

- [] Reconstructed text
- () Letters not included but implied
- < > Editorial correction of a scribal error
- { } Letter erroneously added by the scribe
- ‘ ’ Letter inserted over the line by the scribe
- ▲ ▼ Footnote indicated by the scribe

Particular thanks are due to Samuel Zinner for his invaluable assistance on key points, especially for his proposed emendation in v. 22b. This document was first published on-line on June 8, 2020 and most recently updated March 14, 2021. Please forward notices of errors or suggested corrections to:

mark.m.mattison@gmail.com

- I 1a περιετμήθη ἡ καρδία μου καὶ ἐφάνη τὸ ἄνθος αὐτῆς
circumcised the heart of me and appeared the flower of it
1b ἡ χάρις ἐν αὐτῇ ἐβ'λάστησεν
the grace in it sprouted
1c [κ]αὶ ἐκαρποφόρησεν τῷ θεῷ
and bore fruit to God
2a ὁ ὑψιστὼς περιέτεμέν με τῷ ἁγίῳ πν(εύματ)ι αὐτοῦ
the Most High circumcised me the holy spirit of him
2b καὶ ἐγύμνωσε πρὸς αὐτόν τοὺς νεφρ<ο>ύς μου //
and laid bare toward himself the kidneys of me
2c καὶ ἐπλήρωσέν με τῆς ἀγάπης αὐτοῦ //
and filled me the love of him
3a ἐγένετό μοι εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡ περειτομή αὐτοῦ
became to me for salvation the circumcision of him
- II 3b ἔδ{εδ}ραμον ὁδὸν ἀληθ<ε>ίας ἐν ἰρήνῃ αὐτο[ῦ]
I ran way of truth in peace of him
4 ἀπ' ἀρχῆς ἕως τέλους ἔλαβον τὴν σύνεσιν αὐτοῦ /
from beginning to the end I received the understanding of him
5a ἐστηρίχθην ἀπὸ [σ]τερεᾶς πέτρας
I was set firmly firm rock
5b ὅπου με συνεκάθικεν
where me he set
- III 6a καὶ τὸ [ὔ]δωρ τὸ λαλοῦν ἤγγι[σε] πρὸς τὰ χεῖλη μου /
and the water the speaking drew near to the lips of me
6b ἀπὸ πηγῆς ζωῆς κυρίου ἐν ἀφθονίᾳ αὐτοῦ /
from spring life Lord in lack of envy of him
7 ἔπιοι καὶ ἐμεθύσθην ὕδωρ τὸ ἀθάνατον /
I drank and became drunk water the undying
8a καὶ ἡ μέθη μου οὐκ ἐγένετο εἰς ἀλογιστίαν /
and the drunkenness of me not was to irrationality
- IV 8b ἀλλ' ἐξετράπην τῶν ματ{ε}<αί>ων
but I turned back the vanities
9a ἐπὶ τὸν ὑψιστον θεόν μου /
to the Most High God of me
9b καὶ ἐπλούτησα ἐν χαρ{ε}ίσματι αὐτοῦ //
and became rich by gracious gift of him

- 10a ἀφῆκα τὴν ἀφροσύνην χαμ{ε}<αῖ> κειμένην /
I left the folly earth lying
- 10b ἀπε{ριψα}δυσάμην αὐτὴν καὶ ἔρ<ρ>ιψα ἀπ' ἐμοῦ /
I stripped off it and cast from me
- 11a ὁ κ(ύριο)ς ἐνεκ{ε}<αῖ>νισέν με ἐν τῷ ἐνδύματι αὐτοῦ /
the Lord renewed me by the garment of him
- 11b καὶ ἀνεκτητήσατό με τῷ φωτὶ αὐτοῦ
and regained me the light of him
- 12a καὶ ἀνεζωοποίησεν με τῇ ἀφθαρσίᾳς αὐτοῦ /
and recalled to life me the imperishability of him
- V 12b ἐγενόμην ὡς ἡ γῆ θά<λ>λουσα καὶ γελ{ου}<ῶ>σα τοῖς καρποῖς αὐτῆς /
I became as the earth flourishes and rejoices the fruits of it
- 13 [κα]ὶ ὁ κ(ύριό)ς μου ἐγένετο ὡς ὁ ἥλιος ἐπὶ πρόσωπον τῆς γῆς / *PBod XI,59*
and the Lord to me became as the sun upon face of the earth
- 14a ἔστιλβον οἱ ὀφθαλμοί μου
shone the eyes of me
- 14b καὶ ἐδροσίσθη τὸ πρόσωπόν μου //
and was bedewed the face of me
- 15 ηὐφράνθη ἡ ἀναπνοή μου ἐν εὐδία χρηστότητος κ(υρίο)υ /
was gladdened the breath of me by fragrance kindness of (the) Lord
- VI 16a καὶ <ἐ>πήγαγέν με ▲εἰς παράδ<ε>ισον αὐτοῦ /
and he led me into paradise of him
- 16b ὅπου ὁ πλοῦτος τῆς ▼ [τ]ρυφῆς κ(υρίο)υ
where the fullness the delight of (the) Lord
- 16c ἐθεασάμην δένδρα ὡρ{ε}<αῖ>α καὶ καρποφόρα ///
I saw trees beautiful and fruitful
- 16d καὶ αὐτο{σ}φυῆς ἦν ὁ στέφανος αὐτῶν /
and grown naturally was the wreath of them
- 16e θάλλει τὰ ξύλα αὐτῶν καὶ ἐγέλω(ν) οἱ καρποὶ αὐτῶν /
flourishes the timber of them and rejoiced the fruits of them
- 16f ἀπὸ ἀθανάτου γῆς αἱ ῥ{ε}ίζαι αὐτῶν /
from undying earth the roots of them
- 16g καὶ ὅ' ποταμὸς χαρᾶς ἐπότιζεν αὐτάς /
and the river of joy watered them
- 16h καὶ κύκλω τῆς γῆς ζ{ο}<ω>ῆς {ε}<αῖ>ωνίας αὐτῶν /
and around the earth life eternal of them
- VII 17 προσεκύνησα τὸν κ(ύρι)ον ἕνεκα τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ ///
I worshipped the Lord because the glory of him
- 18a κ[αῖ] εἶπα κ(ύρι)ε μακάρ{ε}ιοι οἱ πεφυτευμ[έ]νιοι ἐπεὶ τῆς γῆς / *PBod XI,60*
and said Lord blessed the planted upon the earth