

The Greek Ode of Solomon

Illustrated Greek-English Interlinear

by Mark M. Mattison

This illustrated 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 Cologne, 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.” The images below are from the Bodmer Lab (<https://bodmerlab.unige.ch/fr>), used by permission of the Fondation Martin Bodmer, Cologne (Geneva).

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 *thelēma* (“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.

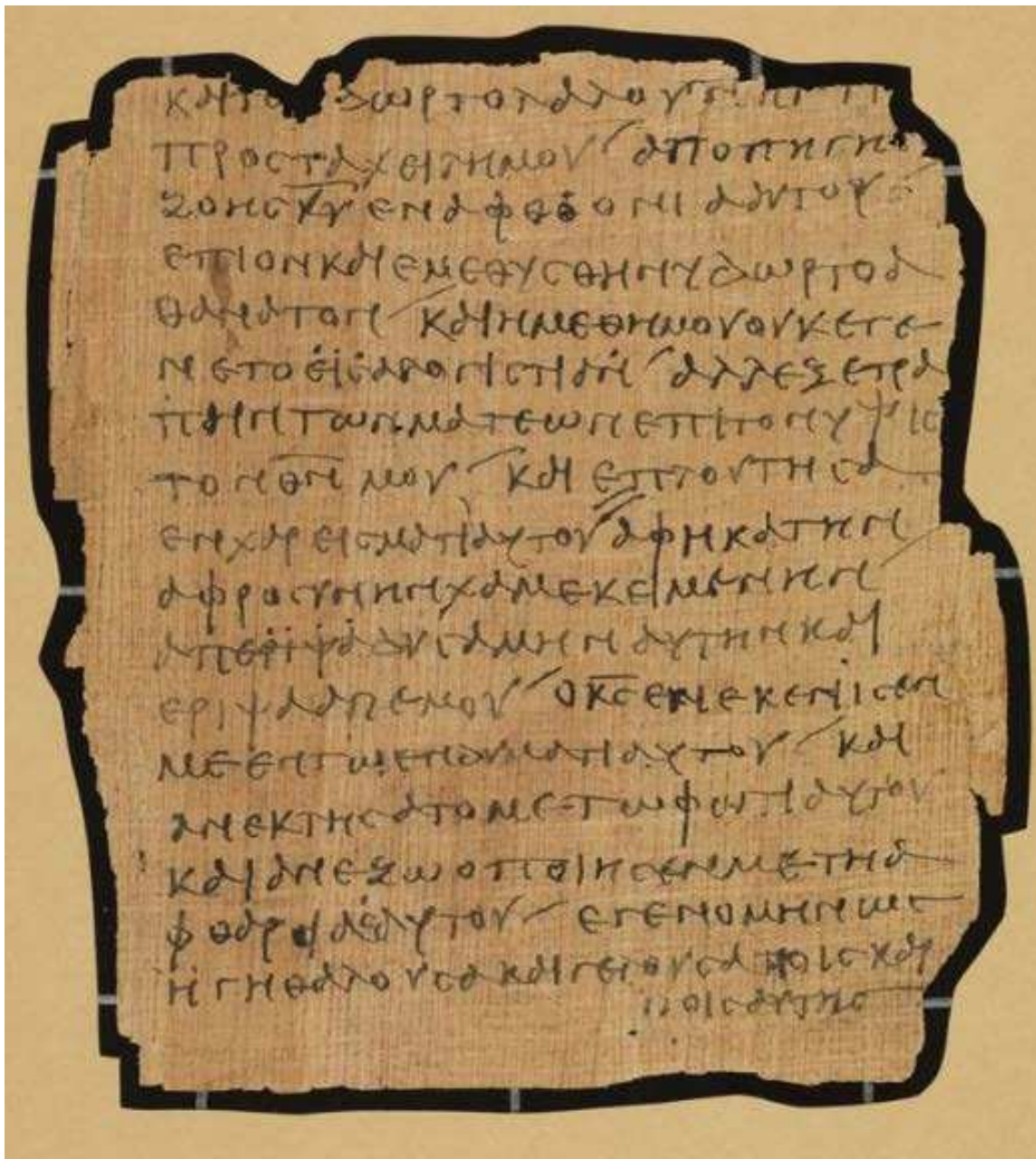
Sigla

- [] 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 his proposed emendation in v. 22b.

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Papyrus Bodmer XI,58

(6a) καὶ τὸ [ὔ]δωρ τὸ λαλοῦν ἤγγι[σε]
and the water the speaking drew near
πρὸς τὰ χεῖλη μου / (6b) ἀπὸ πηγῆς
to the lips of me from spring
ζοῆς κυρίου ἐν ἀφθονίᾳ αὐτοῦ /
life Lord in lack of envy of him

(7) ἔπιον καὶ ἐμεθύσθην ὕδωρ τὸ ἄ-
I drank and became drunk water the
θάνατον / (8a) καὶ ἡ μέθη μου οὐκ ἐγέ-
undying and the drunkenness of me not
νετο εἰς ἀλογιστίαν / (8b) ἀλλ' ἐξετρά-
was to irrationality but I turned back
πην τῶν ματ{ε}<αί>ων (9a) ἐπὶ τὸν ὕψις-
The vanities to the Most High
τον θεόν μου / (9b) καὶ ἐπλούτησα
God of me and became rich
ἐν χαρ{ε}ίσματι αὐτοῦ // (10a) ἀφήκα τὴν
by gracious gift of him I left the

ἀφροσύνην χαμ{ε}<αί> κειμένην /
folly earth lying
(10b) ἀπε{ρινα}δυσάμην αὐτὴν καὶ
I stripped off it and
ἔρ<ρ>ινα ἀπ' ἐμοῦ / (11a) ὁ κύριος ἐνεκ{ε}<αί>νισέν
cast from me the Lord renewed

με ἐν τῷ ἐνδύματι αὐτοῦ / (11b) καὶ
me by the garment of him and
ἀνεκτήσατό με τῷ φωτὶ αὐτοῦ
regained me the light of him

(12a) καὶ ἀνεζωοποίησεν με τῇ ἁ-
and recalled to life me the
φθαρσίᾳ αὐτοῦ / (12b) ἐγενόμην ὡς
imperishability of him I became as
ἡ γῆ θά<λ>λουσα καὶ γελ{ου}<ῶ>σα τοῖς καρ-ποῖς αὐτῆς /
the earth flourishes and rejoices the fruits of it