

John 8.12 parallels Isaiah 9.1-2 and thereby provides a reproof to the Pharisees' declaration in John 7.52.<sup>1</sup>

But such connections are not easily accessible to English readers because the pericope of the adulteress is still printed in the text between John 7.52 and 8.12. The RSV translators made the daring move to relegate this pericope to a marginal note, but then due to outside pressures they were forced to print the passage as part of the text in the second edition. No other English translators have dared to follow the RSV's original move—for the pericope of the adulteress has become an immovable fixture in a long tradition. It is true that this "fixture" has been bracketed, or marked off with single lines (similar to the practise of marking obeli, employed by several ancient scribes to the same passage), or set in italics. But there it stands—an obstacle to reading the true narrative of John's Gospel. Some of the readers may read the notes about how this passage is not found in the earliest MSS, but how many see the connection between John 7.40-52 and John 8.12ff? Isn't it the task of translators to remove those obstacles that keep the reader from comprehending the meaning of the original text? If so, this "fixture" should be relegated to the margin, so that the reader can see the continuity of John's narrative.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from my note on John 7.53-8.11 in "Guide to the Ancient Manuscripts", *Eight Translation New Testament*.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

### NEW FROM UBS

Johannes P. Louw and Eugene A. Nida: **Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament based on Semantic Domains**. New York: United Bible Societies 1988. Volume 1: Introduction and Domains, xxv + 845 pp. + maps. Volume 2: Indices, iv + 376 pp. + maps. ISBN 0-8267-03410 (Volume 1); 0-8267-0342-9 (Volume 2); 0 8267-0340-2 (two-volume set). Available to Bible translators from New York at \$20.00.

An example may help to show how this new type of lexicon works in practice. *Dikaiosunē* (the lexicon itself uses untransliterated Greek) is listed with four meanings in four different domains: (a) "righteousness" in domain 88, Moral and ethical qualities and related behaviour, is defined as "the act of doing what God requires", with a citation in Greek and English of Mt 5.10; (b) "be put right with" in domain 34, Association, Rom. 1.17, where an alternative interpretation is discussed; (c) "religious observances" in domain 53, Religious activities, Mt 6.1; and (d) "charity" in domain 57, Possess, transfer, exchange, with an alternative interpretation of Mt 6.1.

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Philip C. Stine (ed.): **Issues in Bible Translation**. Fifteen papers on discourse structure, sociolinguistics, and the sociological approach to exegesis, given at the Triennial Translation Workshop held in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, USA in May 1987. Available from Stuttgart at approx. DM 3.20.

The UBS Translator's Handbook on Obadiah and Micah by David Clark and Norm Mundhenk has been adapted into French by René Péter-Contesse under the title **Manuel du Traducteur pour les livres d'Abdias et de Michée**. Available from Stuttgart at approx. DM 5.00.

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E. Riggenbach: **Der Brief an die Hebräer**. Theologische Verlagsgemeinschaft (Wuppertal: Brockhaus 1987, DM 58). ISBN 3-417-29216-6. A reprint of the 1922 edition.

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From Jerusalem comes a new series called **Jewish New Testament Publications**, the first three volumes of which are by David H. Stern. His **Messianic Jewish Manifesto** (295 pp., \$11.95) is described as "Ideology, theology and program for Messianic Judaism". Part of this book is published separately under the title **Restoring the Jewishness of the Gospel** (93 pp., \$5.95). These books provide background for the third volume in the series, **Jewish New Testament: Text** (approx. 400 pp., \$14.95), "a completely new translation of the New Testament from the original Greek which brings out its Jewishness". These publications are available from 78 Manahat, 96901 Jerusalem, Israel, or in North America c/o UMJC, 9057-B Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. The prices stated are for North America; elsewhere there is a 30% surcharge, and on all orders there is a charge of \$1 per book for postage and handling.

## NOTES

Issue 121 (October 1987) of the Summer Institute of Linguistics' **Notes on Translation** contains at least two articles of wide interest. D. A. Carson's "The Limits of Dynamic Equivalence in Bible Translation" (1-15) emphasizes the need to preserve the historical distance of the original text, and to provide where necessary explanatory notes which will be "as neutral" and as objective as possible". Donald Heckman's "Some Comparisons between Old and New Testament Exegesis" (15-31) contrasts the two testaments in terms of text, linguistic characteristics, literary analysis, historical and social setting, and theology; a useful bibliography is appended.

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We are happy to announce the relaunching of the Maltese quarterly **Sijon**, described as "a review for the teaching of Sacred Scripture". Originally founded in 1969, its publication was interrupted in 1976 by work on the translation of the Bible. The first issue in this new series (1988/1) is entirely in Maltese, but articles in English may also be published. **Sijon** may be obtained from The Bible Society, Catholic Institute, Floriana, Malta, price £m1.50.0 p.a.