University of Nebraska - Lincoln
DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Faculty Publications, Classics and Religious Studies Department

Classics and Religious Studies

1-1-2001

Review of ÉMILE PUECH, *Qumrân grotte 4, XVIII: Textes hébreux (4Q521–4Q528, 4Q576–4Q579)*

Sidnie White Crawford
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, scrawford1@unl.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/classicsfacpub

Part of the Classics Commons

Crawford, Sidnie White, "Review of ÉMILE PUECH, *Qumrân grotte 4, XVIII: Textes hébreux (4Q521–4Q528, 4Q576–4Q579)*" (2001). *Faculty Publications, Classics and Religious Studies Department.* Paper 33.
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/classicsfacpub/33

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Classics and Religious Studies at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications, Classics and Religious Studies Department by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

From *Journal of Semitic Studies* 36 (2001), pp. 170–172.

REVIEW

ÉMILE PUECH, *Qumrân grotte 4, XVIII: Textes hébreux (4Q521–4Q528, 4Q576–4Q579)* (Discoveries in the Judaean Desert 25). Clarendon Press, Oxford 1998. Pp. xviii + 229 + 15 plates + 2 figures. Price: £55.00 hardback. ISBN: 0-19-826948-X.

This volume is the twenty-fifth in the series Discoveries in the Judaean Desert (DJD), the vehicle for the publication of the entire Dead Sea scrolls corpus, begun in 1955 by Roland de Vaux of the École Biblique et Archéologique Française and continuing under the editorship of Emanuel Tov of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This particular volume is edited by Émile Puech of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris, but also on the faculty of the École Biblique, thus continuing the connection of the École Biblique to the Dead Sea scrolls publication project to the present day. The language of the present volume is French, one of the two official languages of the DJD series.

As Puech notes, the manuscripts presented in this volume were originally assigned to Jean Starcky, to whose memory the book is dedicated. Puech thus had the advantage of access to Starcky's reconstructions and notes from the 1950s on, although Puech's work goes far beyond Starcky's preliminary conclusions. The publication includes twelve Hebrew manuscripts of varying length from Cave 4, Qumran: 4Q521, "Apocalypse messianique"; 4Q522, "Prophétie de Josué"; 4Q523, "Jonathan"; 4Q524, "Rouleau du Temple"; 4Q525, "Béatitudes"; 4Q526, "Testament?"; 4Q527, "Ouvrage liturgique D?"; 4Q528, "Ouvrage hymnique ou sapiential B"; 4Q576, "Genèse[a]"; 4Q577, "Texte mentionnant le Déluge"; 4Q578, "Composition historique B"; and 4Q579, "Ouvrage hymnique?".

Oxford University Press and Emanuel Tov have done their usual masterful job in presenting this complicated volume. It follows the general format selected for the DJD volumes of the 1980s and 90s: for each manuscript the editor gives a physical description, a general discussion of its contents, a study of its paleography and date, and a study of its orthography and morphology. Each fragment or group of fragments is transcribed, followed by a set of notes on the readings, and finishing with a commentary. The photographic plates appear at the end of the volume, done to scale with the fragments placed as they would have occurred in a whole scroll. The photographs are crisp and clear, making the comparison with the transcription very easy. The manuscripts are followed by a concordance consisting of all the Hebrew words occurring in the texts of the volume, prepared by Stephen and Claire Pfann. A weakness of the present volume is the lack of a comprehensive bibliography for the texts, such as appears, e.g. in DJD 18 (Joseph M. Baumgarten, *Qumran Cave 4, XIII: The Damascus Document (4Q266–273)* [Oxford 1996]). Instead, Puech has opted to give only his own preliminary publications at the beginning of each manuscript and then refer to other secondary literature in the footnotes. This may be because the secondary literature on the Dead Sea scrolls is becoming too voluminous to include in each DJD volume; henceforth readers will need to refer to the various bibliographic tools available.

This particular collection of texts is eclectic; scholars in various sub-fields such as apocalyptic literature, pseudepigrapha, liturgical texts, wisdom literature, textual criticism and halakhah will find something of interest in the volume. Several of the texts have appeared in previous publications and attracted widespread attention, including especially 4Q521, with its reference to a messiah, and 4Q525, the Beatitudes, which have been compared to the beatitudes in Matthew's Gospel. But perhaps the most important text in this collection is 4Q524, a manuscript of the famous Temple Scroll. The remainder of my remarks will focus on this manuscript.

Puech includes thirty-nine fragments in this manuscript (although thirteen of them are unidentified). He assignes a paleographic date to the manuscript of approximately 150–125 BCE, 100–150 years earlier than 11QTemple[a], and thus "la plus ancienne copie du *Rouleau du Temple*" (p. 85). Puech does not simply present transcriptions of the fragments; he does extensive restorations based on the manuscripts 11QTemple[a] and 11QTemple[b], in constant dialogue with both the *editio princeps* of 11QTemple[a] by Yigael Yadin (*The Temple Scroll* [3 vols, rev. Eng. edn., Jerusalem 1983]) and the reconstructed text of Elisha Qimron *(The Temple Scroll: A Critical Edition with Extensive Reconstructions* [Beer Sheva and Jerusalem 1996]). The reader should exercise caution in these reconstructions, as the apparatus can be confusing. As is usual in the DJD volumes, letters within brackets are reconstructed and not extant in 4Q524. However, Puech also uses parentheses and underlining to indicate other things. Letters inside the brackets but outside the parentheses are extant in 11QTemple[a]. Letters inside the brackets *and* inside the parentheses are not extant on any manuscript. Underlined material, which can be in or out of brackets, is from 11QTemple[b]. Finally, Puech also inserts the line numbers from 11QTemple[a] into his reconstructions.

It is in these reconstructions that Puech's remarkable gifts as a paleographer shine through. First, for fragments 6–13 and 15–22 he provides a drawing of the reconstructed column, done to scale and *in the handwriting of the scribe* (Figures 1 and 2). Very few paleographers can duplicate this rather remarkable feat. Second, he constantly critiques and attempts to improve the readings for not only 4Q524 but also 11QTemple[a & b]. For example, in a footnote (p. 98) Puech rejects Yadin's reading of יאוכ[ל]ו כול צנב פר[י] ב[ו]סר in 11QTemple[a], col. XXI, line 7 (Yadin, II, 94), proposing instead ויאוכ[ל]ו כול צנכים וכוסר. This partly agrees with Qimron's reading of [ולאכול צנכים וכוסר (Qimron, 33). To this reader, a quick study of the plate (without recourse either to all the photographs or the original) admits the reading צנים [ו]כ[ו]סר ויאוכל[ו] כול. There are many other examples of this kind of "paleographic dialogue"; in each case the reader will have to reach his or her own decision.

Puech also includes an extensive commentary on the fragments, and it is in these subjective interpretations that the reader will find most room for disagreement. For example, regarding fragment 14 (parallel to 11QTemple[a] LXIV 6–11), he argues that the passage concerning traitors being "hanged from a tree"(1. 4) does refer to hanging/crucifixion, and that crucifixion was a general practice at least from the Maccabaean period (p. 102). Thus, this line cannot refer to any specific event such as Alexander Jannaeus' crucifixion of eight hundred Jews in 88 BCE *(contra* M. Hengel, J. H. Charlesworth and D. Mendels, "The Polemical Character of 'On Kingship' in the Temple Scroll: An Attempt at Dating 11QTemple", *JJS* 37 [1986], 28–38). If Puech is correct in his dating of 4Q524 to 150–125 BCE, that simple fact would seem to silence any argument that this passage at least refers to an event in the first century BCE.

This volume represents an enormous scholarly accomplishment on the part of Émile Puech, and takes its place proudly among the other volumes of the DJD series, all of which are indispensable tools for those interested in Dead Sea scrolls research.

Sidnie White Crawford
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Copyright © 2001 University of Manchester; published by Oxford University Press. "This is a pre-copy-editing, author-produced PDF of an article accepted for publication in *Journal of Semitic Studies* following peer review. The definitive publisher-authenticated version, vol. 36 (2001), pp. 170–72, is available online at: http://jss.oxfordjournals.org/ ."