THE LORD’S TORMENT ENDS (5.15–20)

15. “He ἔν δὲ μεσημβρία, καὶ σκότος κατέσχε(ν)1 πᾶσαν τὴν Ἰουδαίαν· καὶ ἐθορυβοῦντο καὶ ἠγωνίων μὴποτε ὁ ἥλιος ἔδυ, ἐπειδὴ ἐτὶ ἔζη· γέγραπται αὐτῶν ἥλιον μὴ δύναι ἐπὶ πεφωνεμένων.2 καὶ τις αὐτῶν εἶπεν· Ποτίσατε αὐτὸν χολὴν μετὰ ὅξους· καὶ κεράσαντες ἐπότισαν. 16. καὶ ἐπλήρωσαν πάντα καὶ ἐτελείωσαν κατὰ τῆς κεφαλῆς αὐτῶν τὰ ἀμαρτήματα. 17. καὶ πολλοὶ μετὰ λύχνων νομίζοντες ὅτι νύξ ἐστιν ἐπέσαντο.3 καὶ ἦν ἡ δύναμις μου ἡ δύναμις κατέλειψάς με· καὶ εἰπὼν ἄνελήφθη. 20. καὶ αὐτὸς4 ὥρας διεράγη τὸ καταπέτασμα τοῦ ναοῦ τῆς Ἱερουσαλήμ εἰς δύο.

15. And it was noon and darkness covered all Judaea. And they were troubled and distressed lest the sun had already set since he was alive. It is written by them, ‘The sun is not to set on one who has been put to death.’ 16. And one of them said, ‘Give him gall with vinegar to drink.’ And having mixed it they gave it to him to drink. 17. And they fulfilled all things and they accumulated the sins on their head. 18. And many were going about with lamps, supposing it was night, stumbled. 19. And the Lord cried out saying, ‘My power, the power, you have left me.’ And saying this he was taken up. 20. And at the same hour the curtain of the temple in Jerusalem was torn in two.

Text Critical Notes

1. This is the first of the nine occasions when the scribe omits the movable final ν at the end of the line and marks this with a horizontal bar.357 In the other eight examples the crossbar is written supralinearly. Here, however, it is written at the same level of the middle crossbar of the epsilon and to the right of the letter. This appears to be due to inconsistent scribal practice.

2. The form written here by the scribe is an orthographic variant of the regular spelling πεφωνεμένω. Such confusion between short and long vowel sounds is not uncommon in later koine manu-

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357 On the use of the moveable ν see BDF §20, 12–13.
scripts. Caragounis demonstrates the occurrence of this type of scribal error in  Premiership where, at Jn 5.29, instead of the correct reading ἐκπορεύσονται the scribe writes ἐκπορεύσωνται.358

3. The word written by the scribe as ἐπέσαντο, has caused substantial discussion in the various editions of the text. This debate stems from two problems: (i) the text is overwritten by the scribe at this point; and (ii) the form ἐπέσαντο is either orthographically incorrect, or syntactically incomplete. The first problem is commented upon by Kraus and Nicklas who observe, ‘The scribe overwrote the original text with ἐπές, under the overwritten π can still be seen the remains of an alleged σ, and under the second σ before the αντο, which was probably added later, an underwritten μ.’359 Their observation is correct concerning the fact that the text has been overwritten, although it is extremely difficult to reconstruct the underwriting. The result is that the third and fourth letters are oversizes, and the middle horizontal stroke of the second epsilon is thinkened to obscure what was written beneath.

The second problem involves determining what the scribe actually meant (or meant to write) when he penned the form ἐπέσαντο. The correct aorist third person plural form of πίπτω is ἐπέσαν, not ἐπέσαντο. This incorrect form has led to various attempts to introduce emendations. Vaganay helpfully organizes the suggestions under three heads:360

1. Adding a conjunction and changing the form of the verb.

   (καὶ) νομίζοντες ὅτι νῦξ ἐστιν ἀνέπεσαν.
   ὁτὲ...

von Schubert361

   (καὶ) νομίζοντες ὅτι νῦξ ἐστιν ἀνεπαύσαντο.

Gebhardt362

   νομίζοντες ὅτι νῦξ ἐστιν (καὶ) ἀνέπεσαντο.

Lods363

359 ‘Der Schreiber überschrieb ursprünglichen Text mit ἐπές, wobei unter bzw. über π noch Reste eines vermeintlichen σ zu sehen sind und das zweite σ vor αντο wohl nachträglich (über μ?) zugefügt wurde.’ Kraus and Nicklas, Das Petrusevangelium und die Petrusapokalypse, 36.
361 H. von Schubert, Die Composition des pseudopetrinischen Evangelienfragments (Berlin, 1893).
362 Gebhardt, Das Evangelium und die Apokalypse des Petrus, 43.