CHAPTER THREE

VARIANTS IN PAR DUE TO DIFFERENT VOCALISATION: POINTING AND VOWEL LETTERS

1. Pointing

In many cases the translator of Par clearly had the consonantal text of MT before him, but interpreted it in a different way from the pointed text. In most of these instances the MT tradition of pointing clearly interprets a right, and the translator has misunderstood the text. But occasionally his rendering represents an improved vocalisation of the consonantal text.

Below are set out the variant forms presupposed in Par. Once again the textform of G is taken as basic. Name-variants such as I 15.22 are not listed; variants involving the definite article of the type מַשֵּׁל : 이ν πυφί = מַשֵּׁל have also been ignored as of little significance.

(i) Names in MT taken as common nouns

Erroneous pointing in MT:
I 8.38; 9.44 פַּר וַשָּׁר : πρωτότοκος αὐτοῦ G O L R = בְּךֶם, "c Ec 1 pl MSS" (BH). MT "has clearly arisen from the falling of one of the six sons from the text and this supplies the deficiency. The absence of the connective before בֵּית shows also that the word originally was first born" (Curtis, cf. Rudolph). MT’s paseq before ב in both cases seems to indicate an awareness of the anomaly.
24.23 רָעָב : נִוּל G O (L) = בֵּן (BH). The pointing in MT is again due to an early omission in the Heb: see Curtis and BH.

Erroneous or less likely pointing presupposed in Par:
I 8.14,31 הָעָי : δὲλφός αὐτοῦ G = נָאָה (BH ad v. 31). Bertheau and BDB, p. 26b, adopt G’s pointing in v. 14, but Rothstein rightly rejects the change.
9.8 נַחַל : οὐτοῦ G L (in doublet) R (in doublet) = נַחַל (BH: so "nonn MSS").
v. 37 ἡμὲν : καὶ ἄδελφος αὐτῷ οὗ (B S lack αὐτῷ by oversight : may be hardly to be presupposed contra BH) = ἡμὲν.
13.7 ἦν ἄναθά : οἱ ἄδελφοι αὐτῷ G O L R = ἦν (BH). The parallel II Rg.6.4 is identical.¹
31.13 ἀναθ: : οἱ νῦν αὐτῷ G O L R in doublet² = ἀναθ:

(ii) Common nouns taken as names

Erroneous pointing in MT:
I 20.2 λέλαμβαν : Μολχόλ G (O) R in doublet = λέλαμβαν (BH).³

Erroneous pointing in Par:
I 26.7 ἀναθ: : Αχύονδ G (O R) = ἀναθ:

(iii) Different forms of common noun, including participial

Erroneous pointing in Par:
I 9.18,24 λέξεις : αἱ πῦλαι G (O) R, G O R = λέξεις. Rudolph so reads in v. 24, but Rothstein rightly calls the change unnecessary.
I 22 λέξεις : ταῖς πῦλαις G O (R) = λέξεις.
12.9/8 λέξης : ἐρήμου L G = (Aramaic) BH counsels “dl ἐρήμου G”!
24.4 ἐρήμου : τῶν δυνατῶν G O L R = ἐρήμου (BH: so “pl MSS”). Rothstein comments that Par’s pointing is unsuitable.
II 3.7 ἐρήμων : τοὺς ἐρήμους G O L R = ἐρήμων. BH without citing Par notes that “Ec I” so reads.
22.5 ἐρήμων : οἱ τοξόται G O L R = ἐρήμων : “I c G ... vel e pe MSS ... 2 R 8, 28 M ἐρήμων” (BH). Rehm, p. 118, prefers the latter.

¹ Cf. Driver, Samuel, ad loc.
² See Part I, p. 164.
³ See Part I, p. 162.