

“REPENTANCE,”

IDB 4 (1962) 33-34
(W.A.Quanbeck)

NOTES FROM THE ARTICLE AND SOME BIBLICAL TEXTS

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The first paragraph is important.

“Repentance.

The translation of several words expressing a variety of ideas, ranging from

- (a) a change of mind,
- (b) the feeling of regret or remorse, to
- (c) repentance in the ethico-religious sense, turning away from sin and back to God. ...

The emphasis may rest on the negative side, of turning away from SIN, disobedience, or rebellion; it may also fall on the positive side, the turning back to God, the beginning of a new religious or moral life.” (33)

1. TERMINOLOGY.

בוש, *šûb* = “turn back”

Jer 8:4

| MASORETIC TEXT | TRANSLITERATION | TRANSLATION (NRSV) |
|--|-----------------|---|
| וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵיהֶם כֹּה אָמַר ה' יְהוָה הֲיִפְּלוּ וְאֵל קִיּוּמוֹ אִם יִשְׁבוּ וְאֵל יָשׁוּבוּ: מִדָּוַע שׁוֹבְקֵיב הַעַם הַזֶּה רִיבוֹשָׁלַם מִשְׁהֵב נִצָּחַת הִחְקִיזוּ בַּתְּרִמָּתִי מֵאַנּוּ לְשׁוּבוֹ: | | 4 You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD: When people fall, do they not get up again? If they go astray, do they not turn back? 5 Why then has this people -Jerusalem- turned away in perpetual backsliding? They have held fast to deceit, they have refused to return. |

Ezek 33:19

| MASORETIC TEXT | TRANSLITERATION | TRANSLATION (NRSV) |
|--|-----------------|---|
| וּבְשׁוּבוֹ רָעַשׂ מִרְשָׁתָּעוֹ וַעֲשֵׂה מִשְׁפָּט וּצְדָקָה עַל־הֵם הָאֵלֹהִים הַזֶּה: | | And when the wicked turn from their wickedness, and do what is lawful and right, they shall live by it. |

נחם, *nhm* = “to be sorry” - many think that *nhm* also means “repent.” - this is not the case.

Exod 13:17

| MASORETIC TEXT | TRANSLITERATION | TRANSLATION (NRSV) |
|--|-----------------|---|
| וַיִּיהַ פַּרְחֵה עַתְהָהָעַם וְאֵלֵהֶם אֱלֹהִים דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ פְּלִשְׁתִּים כִּי רִקָּה בּוֹאוּ כִּי אָמַר אֱלֹהִים פְּנֵי־יְהוָה הָעַם בְּרִאתָם מִלְחָמָה וְכָשׁוּ מִצְרַיִם: | | When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by ay of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer; for God thought, “If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt.” |

“In the NT the verb μετανοεω, “repent,” occurs thrity-two times

Matt 3:2

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (NRSV)

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Matt 4:17

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (NRSV)

From that time Jesus began to proclaim,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Matt 11:20

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (NRSV)

Then he began to reproach the cities
in which most of his deeds of power had been done,
because they did not repent.

the noun μετανοια, “repentance,” twenty-two times

Matt 3:8

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (NRSV)

Bear fruit worthy of repentance.

Mark 1:4

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

I have baptized you with water;
but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Luke 3:3

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

He went into all the region
around the Jordan,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins,

2. IN THE OT

"... days of national repentance such as described in

Neh 9

"An individual may also experience judgment and turn back to God, as Ahab does after Elijah denounces him

1 Kings 21

"There is a ritual of repentance
. the rending of one's clothing,
. fasting
. putting on sackcloth,
. sitting in ashes.

"There are liturgies of repentance ...

Isa 63:7-64:12

Dan 9:4-19

Hos 6; 14

"The growth of the personal understanding of sin and repentance is accompanied by criticism of religious formalism

Hos 6:6

MASORETIC TEXT

TRANSLITERATION

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

כִּי חָדַשׁ חַפְצֵי יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ
וְדָעַת אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִלְעֹתוֹ:

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Amos 5:21-24

| MASORETIC TEXT | TRANSLITERATION | TRANSLATION (NRSV) |
|--|-----------------|---|
| שנאית מאסית חגיגכם ואל אצרת בעצרותיכם: כי אם תלעי-ויל לעתו ומגזיתכם אל ארצה ושלם מיריאתכם אל אטיב: הרס מעיל המון שירך וזמתר נבילה אל אשמע: וילג כמים משפט וצדקה כנחל יאתו: | | 21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. 22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. 23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. 24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream. |

“Repentance is renewal of life; it demands a new heart and spirit

Ezek 18:31

| MASORETIC TEXT | TRANSLITERATION | TRANSLATION (NRSV) |
|--|-----------------|--|
| השילכו מעליכם תאכיל-פשעכם אךש פשעכם בם ועשו לכם בל חדש רוחה החדש ולמה תמתו תיב ישראל: | | Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? |

“It is a human possibility because it is the result of the divine redemption

Isa 44:22

| MASORETIC TEXT | TRANSLITERATION | TRANSLATION (NRSV) |
|---|-----------------|---|
| מיחית כבוע פשעך וקענו חואטיתך שוהב איל פי גאליתך: | | I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you. |

Jer 31:31-33

| MASORETIC TEXT | TRANSLITERATION | TRANSLATION (NRSV) |
|--|-----------------|--|
| הנה ימים בואם נאם יהוה וכרית תאמתיב ישראל ו-תאמתיב יהודה בית החדש: אל כבתיר אךש כרית תאבאותם יבום החיויק בידם | | 31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make with the house of Israel and the house of Judah a new covenant 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand |

הַלּוֹצִיאֵם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם
 אֲרֻשְׁהֶמָּה הַפְּרוּ תַּאֲבִירֵי
 וְאֲנֹכִי בְעֵלְיִת כֶּם
 נְאֻם־ה' יְהוָה:
 כִּי תֵאָז הַבְּתִיר
 אֲרֻשׁ אֶכְתֹּר תַּאֲתִיב יִשְׂרָאֵל
 אַחֲרַי הַיָּמִים הֵהֵם
 נְאֻם־ה' יְהוָה
 נָתַתִּי תַּאֲתוֹרֵיִת בְּקִרְבְּכֶם
 וְעִלְלֶכֶם אֶכְתַּבְנָה
 וְהִיִּיתִי לָהֶם אֱלֹהִים
 וְהֵמָּה יִהְיוּ לְעַם:

to bring them out of the land of Egypt
 --a covenant that they broke,
 though I was their husband,
 says the LORD.
 33 But this is the covenant
 that I will make with the house of Israel
 after those days,
 says the LORD:
 I will put my law within them,
 and I will write it on their hearts;
 and I will be their God,
 and they shall be my people.

Ezek 11:19

MASORETIC TEXT

TRANSLITERATION

TRANSLATION (NRSV)

וְנָתַתִּי לָהֶם בֵּל אֶדָח
 רוּחַ חַדָּשׁ אֶתֶּן בְּקִרְבְּכֶם
 וְהִסְרִיתִי בָל הָאֶבֶן
 מִבְּשָׂרָם
 וְנָתַתִּי לָהֶם בֵּל בְּרֹשׁ:

I will give them one heart,
 and put a new spirit within them;
 I will remove the heart of stone
 from their flesh
 and give them a heart of flesh,

Ezek 36:26

MASORETIC TEXT

TRANSLITERATION

TRANSLATION (NRSV)

וְנָתַתִּי לָכֶם בֵּל חַדָּשׁ
 רוּחַ חַדָּשׁ אֶתֶּן בְּקִרְבְּכֶם
 וְהִסְרִיתִי תַּאֲבֵל הָאֶבֶן
 מִבְּשָׂרְכֶם
 וְנָתַתִּי לָכֶם בֵּל בְּרֹשׁ:

A new heart I will give you,
 and a new spirit I will put within you;
 and I will remove from your body
 the heart of stone
 and give you a heart of flesh.

3. IN THE NT

"John the Baptist continues the prophetic demand for repentance:

Matt 3:8, 10

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (NRSV)

8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance.

10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees;
 every tree therefore
 that does not bear good fruit
 is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"A new development is his relating of repentance to the imminent kingdom of God and to a BAPTISM granting FORGIVENESS of sins.

“The preaching of Jesus resembles that of John the Baptist

“Repentance is necessary for life under the kingly rule of God

Mark 1:15

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (NRSV)

15 “The time is fulfilled,
and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, and believe in the good news.”
(i.e. that the kingdom of God is near, a reality)

Luke 13:1-3

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (NRSV)

1 At that very time there were some present
who told him about the Galileans
whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.
2 He asked them,
“Do you think that because these Galileans suffered
in this way
they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?
No, I tell you;
but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

“It involves the total person:

Matt 23:26

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (NRSV)

26 You blind Pharisee!
First clean the inside of the cup,
so that the outside also may become clean.

WLM: As any informed person knows the condemnations of some pharisees against others are much more colorful in the Talmud than anything that is found in the NT. An important point is to say, “some pharisees.”

“But he deepens (WLM, really?) the prophetic demand in his interpretation of the inwardness of sin

Matt 5:28

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

28 But I say to you
that everyone who looks at a woman with lust
has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

“by his insistence on ... love of enemies

Matt 5:44

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

44 But I say to you,
Love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you,

“and by the radical rejection of everything that hinders return to God

Matt 5:29

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

29 If your right eye causes you to sin,
tear it out and throw it away;
it is better for you to lose
one of your members
than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Matt 6:19

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

19 I will give you the keys of
the kingdom of heaven,
and whatever you bind on earth
will be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth
will be loosed in heaven.”

Matt 7:13

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

13 “Enter through the narrow gate;
for the gate is wide and the road is easy
that leads to destruction,
and there are many who take it.

Mark 3:31-35

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

- 31 Then his mother and his brothers came;
and standing outside,
they sent to him and called him.
32 A crowd was sitting around him;
and they said to him,
“Your mother and your brothers and sisters
are outside, asking for you.”
33 And he replied,
“Who are my mother and my brothers?”
34 And looking at those who sat around him,
he said,
“Here are my mother and my brothers!
35 Whoever does the will of God
is my brother and sister and mother.”

Mark 10:21

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

- 21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said,
“You lack one thing;
go, sell what you own,
and give the money to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven;
then come, follow me.”

Luke 14:33

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

- 33 So therefore, none of you can become my disciple
if you do not give up all your possessions.

Matt 18:3

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

- 3 “Truly I tell you,
unless you change and become like children,
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

“He offends ... by his association with tax collectors and sinners ... his justification ...

Luke 5:32

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

32 I have come to call not the righteous
but sinners to repentance."

"The new element ... Jesus announces that the time has come:

Mark 1:15

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

15 "The time is fulfilled,
and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, and believe in the (this) good news."

Repentance is no longer only demand; it has become possibility, for what is impossible with men is possible with God

Mark 10:27

GREEK - will be added later

TRANSLATION (*NRSV*)

27 Jesus looked at them and said,
"For mortals it is impossible,
but not for God;
for God all things are possible."

"Repentance is completed by FAITH. Return to God is now no longer response to law but to a person; it is discipleship ...

WLM - from the Jewish point of view much can be said about such an interpretation of sin and repentance and the implicit mis-reading by, mainly gentiles, of the views in the Tanakh and about the Torah.

"In the preaching of the apostolic church ...

...

"The term "repentance" occurs infrequently in the writings of **Paul** and not at all in the **FOURTH Gospel** or the **Johannine letters**.

"For both Paul and John repentance is included in faith.

"Paul speaks of faith as union with Christ, the death of the old nature, the putting on of the new humanity, resurrection to newness of life, and new creation.