Eschatology tailoring the Identity

In this paper I present an aspect of my Ph.D. project "Authority in Qumran". In the Ph.D. project I explore whether there is a shared worldview in three Qumran compositions: 1) The Rule of the Community/1QS; 2) 1QHodayot, and 3) 4QInstruction. More specifically, I examine whether instructions and rules regarding the community in 1QS, the hymns in 1QHodayot, and the hunt for wisdom in 4QInstruction may serve the same purpose. My hypothesis is that the selected compositions achieve similar goals by applying different approaches. I identify the common goal as persuading the readers of the eschatological worldview. In this paper I examine the connection between the eschatological passages in 1QS and the instructions and rules in the rest of 1QS. By combining transdisciplinary methods of exegesis, and cognitive literary analysis I endeavor to identify how these passages intertwine and reinforce each other and strengthen the process of persuasion. The result might indicate that this connection serves to establish and maintain a tailored identity and a sense of belonging in the reader. Conclusively, the findings in the present paper suggest that eschatology serves as the primary carrot and stick motivating continued remembrance and observance of directives in 1QS.