Description of the Project

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a) General introduction

This project will deal with the Greek translation of Zechariah. It aims at analyzing the translation in order to detect the approach the translator had to his task. How did the translator translate his source text? This question can only be answered to a certain extent, but an analysis of the translation will nevertheless enable us to make some claims with a sound base of evidence. The intention is therefore to give a description of the translation technique of this particular translation unit. Such a description will also deal with the following questions:

What was the nature of the text that was translated?
What interpretations and traditions are incorporated in the translation?
What terms and methods are best suited to describe the translation technique?

b) Delimitations

The translation of Zechariah is part of a larger translation work which include the whole scroll of the Minor Prophets. Several scholars furthermore stress the similarities between this translation and larger units in Ezekiel and Jeremiah. Accordingly, an analysis of Zechariah will only form one part of the larger picture which is needed in order to give an extensive and more accurate description of the translator's work. However, the ambitions of accuracy in this analysis set the limits for the scope of the text unit.

Zechariah is an interesting textual unit with several oracles where prophecy merges with apocalypse. These are open ended texts which invite interpretation. Scholars have attempted to detect such interpretation in the Greek translation without paying attention to the translation technique found in this unit.[1] Furthermore, the discovery of the scrolls in the Judean desert shed light on many questions pertaining to textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible. The discovery of a Greek scroll of the Minor Prophets, which is taken to be an early revision, led to new insights into the early history of this translation.[2] The quotations of the Minor Prophets in the New Testament may very well add to the impression of textual variety among the Greek translation of these prophets.[3] The textual criticism of these books is therefore not a closed chapter.

As stated above the project aims at a description of the translation technique found in this text unit. This analysis will form the basis for a discussion of interpretations and traditions found in the text.

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[1] Patricia Ahearne-Kroll, "LXX/OG Zechariah 1-6 and the Portrayal of Joshua Centuries after the Restoration of the Temple," in *Septuagint Research: Issues and Challenges in the Study of the Greek Jewish Scriptures* ed. Wolfgang Kraus & R. Glenn Wooden, LXX and Cognate Studies (Atlanta, 2006).

[2] D. Barthélemy, "Redécouverte d'un chaînon manquant de l'histoire de la Septante," in *Studies in the Septuagint: Origins, Recensions, and Interpretations*, ed. Sidney Jellicoe (New York, 1974).

[3] Helmut Utzschneider, "Flourishing Bones: The Minor Prophets in the New Testament," in *Septuagint Research: Issues and Challenges in the Study of the Greek Jewish Scriptures* ed. Wolfgang Kraus & R. Glenn Wooden, LXX and Cognate Studies (Atlanta, 2006).