# The Bulletin 2010/11

The Canadian Society of Biblical Studies La société canadienne des études bibliques

> Volume 70 Richard S. Ascough, Editor

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I and Eye in Isaiah or Gazing at the Invisible

**Francis Landy**<sup>1</sup> University of Alberta

The prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel dined with me, and I asked them how they dared so roundly to assert that God spake to them, and whether they did not think at the time that they would be misunderstood, and so be the cause of imposition.

Isaiah answered: 'I saw no God, nor heard any, in finite organical perception; but my senses discovered the infinite in everything, and as I was then persuaded, and remain confirmed, that the voice of honest indignation was the voice of God, I cared not for consequences and wrote."

(William Blake, The Marriage of Heaven and Hell)

Once upon a time it was very easy to talk about the book of Isaiah: there were three parts, Proto- and Deutero- and Trito-, loosely stuck together, like the Trinitarian God, three in one and one in three, and one specialized in one or the other, with one's primary interest being to discern the original message of the prophet, be it Isaiah of Jerusalem or Deutero-Isaiah, the great romantic poet of the exile.<sup>2</sup> Then came Rolf Rendtorff, Odil Steck,

<sup>1</sup> A revised version of this paper is forthcoming in the *Journal of Biblical Literature*. This earlier version was delivered at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the CSBS and is published here with the permission of the editors of *JBL*.

<sup>2</sup> Trito-Isaiah was always a much more shadowy figure. Bernard Duhm, *Das Buch Jesaja* (HKAT; Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1902. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1892) 379, is usually credited with the invention of the term Trito-Isaiah. However, Trito-Isaiah has for the most part been a convenient label for the last section of

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Ronald Clements and a host of others,<sup>3</sup> who, from an historicalcritical perspective, dissolved our neat and tidy tripartite schema

Isaiah rather than a distinctive prophetic voice. The association of the prophets, and Deutero-Isaiah in particular, with Romanticism, an anti-Catholic and anti-Jewish Protestant agenda, and, on the Jewish side, with the development of Reform Judaism, is an oft-told story.

<sup>3</sup> For a good summary of recent discussion of the question of unity, see H. G. M. Williamson, "Recent Issues in the Study of Isaiah" in David G. Firth and H. G. M. Williamson (eds) Interpreting Isaiah: Issues and Approaches (Nottingham and Downer's Grove; Apollos, 2009), 21-39. Williamson writes "The most noteworthy development in study of the book of Isaiah over the past two decades or so has been the rediscovery of the book's unity" (21), and comments that "unity' is something of a slippery concept" (23). Williamson himself has been a major contributor to the discussion, particularly through his book The Book Called Isaiah (Oxford: Clarendon, 1994), in which he proposes that Deutero-Isaiah was responsible for the editing of Proto-Isaiah as a prequel to his own work. Important precursors of the unitary approach are Roy F. Melugin The Formation of Isaiah 40-55 (BZAW 141; Berlin: de Gruyter, 1976) and Leon Liebreich, "The Compilation of the Book of Isaiah" JQR 46/47 (1955-56), 259-77, 114-38. Rolf Rendtorff's most important contributions are "Zur Komposition des Buches Jesaja" VT 34 (1984) 295-320 (ET "The Composition of the Book of Isaiah" in Rolf Rendtorff, Canon and Theology: Overtures towards an Old Testament Theology, tr. Margaret Kohl [Minneapolis: Fortress. 1994], 146-69); "Jesaja 6 im Rahmen der Komposition des Jesajabuches" in J. Vermeylen (ed.) The Book of Isaiah/Le Livre d'Isaïe (BETL 81; Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1989), 73-82, (ET translation "Isajah 6 in the Framework of the Composition of the Book of Isaiah," Canon and Theology, 170-80); "The Book of Isaiah: A Complex Unity. Synchronic and Diachronic Reading" SBL 1991 Seminar Papers (Scholars: Atlanta, 1991), 8-20; republished in Roy F. Melugin and Marvin A. Sweeney (eds) New Visions of Isaiah (JSOT Su214; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996), 32-50, and "Isaiah 56.1 as a Key to the Formation of the Book of Isaiah" in Canon and Theology, 181-89. Rendtorff argues that structurally key chapters, such as chs.1, 12, 35, 40, 55, and 66, are thematically and verbally linked together. Odil H. Steck has focused on the later stages of the composition of the book, which he sees as the product of scribal accumulations rather than individual poets, selfconsciously written in relation to earlier texts and the development of the concept of the prophetic books. Steck's many articles on the subject are conveniently collected in Studien zu Tritojesaja (BZAW 203; Berlin: de Gruyter, 1991) and Gottesknecht und Zion: Gesammelte Aufsätze zu

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into a mass of competing and overlapping voices,<sup>4</sup> and at the same time redirected attention to the composition of the book as a whole,

Deuterojesaja (FAT 4; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1992), building on his earlier Bereitete Heimkehr: Jesaja 35 als redaktionelle Brücke zwischen dem Ersten und dem Zweiten Jesaja (Katholisches Bibelwerk: Stuttgart, 1985). See also "Autor und/oder Redaktor in Jesaja 56-66" in Craig C. Broyles and Craig A. Evans (eds) Writing and Reading the Scroll of Isaiah: Studies of an Interpretive Tradition, Vol.1 (Leiden: Brill, 1997), 219-59. Particularly in "The Unity of the Book of Isaiah" Interpretation 36 (1982), 117-29 and "Beyond Tradition-History: Deutero-Isaianic Development of First Isaiah's Themes" JSOT 31 (1985), 95-113, Ronald Clements argues that Deutero-Isaiah was composed as a counter-text to Proto-Isaiah. See also "A Light to the Nations: A Central Theme of the Book of Isaiah" in James W. Watts and Paul R. House (eds) Forming Prophetic Literature: Essays on Isaiah and the Book of the Twelve in Honour of John D. W.Watts (JSOTSup.235; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996), 57-69, and "Arise, arise, for your light has come': A Basic Theme in Isaianic Tradition" in Writing and Reading the Scroll of Isaiah, 441-54, in both of which he turns his attention to Trito-Isaiah. Most valuable is his cautionary note in "Isaiah: A Book Without an Ending" JSOT 97 (2002), 109-26, in which he points to elements of disunity in the book. On similar lines, see also David M. Carr "Reaching for Unity in Isaiah" JSOT 57 (1993), 61-80. Like Clements, Antti Laato "'About Zion I will not be Silent': The Book of Isaiah as an Ideological Unity (CB 44; Stockholm: Almqvist and Wiksell, 1998) sees the relationship between the three parts of the book as dialectical. Another approach, of which the principal protagonists are Brevard Childs and Christopher Seitz, is canonical, according to which the unity of the book derives from its reception and redaction in the emerging Jewish community. See, in particular, Brevard S. Childs Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979), 325-35 and Isaiah (OTL; Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2001), and Christopher Seitz Isaiah 1-39 (Interpretation; Westminster/John Knox, 1993) and his commentary on Isaiah 40-66 in NIB Vol .6 (Nashville: Abingdon, 2001), 301-557, as well as his edited volume Reading and Preaching the Book of Isaiah (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1988).

<sup>4</sup>It has always been recognized that Proto-Isaiah is a potpourri, stretching across many centuries, and correspondingly that Trito-Isaiah consists of several well-defined strata. However, recent scholarship, especially in Germany, has tended to multiply redactional levels in Deutero-Isaiah. See, in addition to the contributions of Steck noted above, Reinhard Kratz, *Kyros im Deuterojesaja-Buch: Redaktionsgeschichtliche Untersuchungen zu Entstehung und Theologie von Jes* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1991) 40-55; Antje Labahn *Wort Gottes und* 

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unified very self-consciously through keywords, images, themes, structural devices, like the mirroring of the beginning and end of the book,<sup>5</sup> or the recapitulation of chapter 6 in chapter 40.<sup>6</sup> Slightly earlier, literary criticism of the book began to develop, with a concern for the symbolism and imagination of the poet, as expressed through metaphors and sound plays, drawing upon a vast reservoir of ancient Near Eastern thought and literary creation. Here the focus was not on the historical processes through which the book came to be, but how it works as a unified poetic whole on the minds of a reader, ancient or modern. No one perhaps has equaled the pioneering work of Luis Alonso-Schökel<sup>7</sup> and his Schuld Israels: Untersuchungen zu Motiven deuteronismistischer Theologie im Deuterojesajabuch mit einem Ausblick auf das Verhältnis von Jes 40-55 zum Deuteronismus (Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 1999), and "The Delay of Salvation within Deutero-Isaiah" JSOT 85 (1999) 71-84; and Jürgen van Oorschot Von Babel zum Zion: Eine literarkritische und redaktionsgeschichtliche Untersuchung (BZAW 206; Berlin: de Gruyter, 1993).

<sup>5</sup> The *inclusio* between chs.1-2.4 and chs.65-66 is one of the clearest of the macrostructural features of the book. See Joëlle Ferry *Isaïe: "comme les mots d'un livre scellé" (Is 29,11)* (Paris: du Cerf, 2008), 39-66; Carr, "Reaching for Unity"; Anthony J. Tomasino, "Isaiah 1.1-2.4 and 63-66, and the Composition of the Isaianic Corpus" *JSOT* 57 (1993) 81-98; Rendtorff "Zur Komposition" and many others.

<sup>6</sup> Many scholars see the prologue to Deutero-Isaiah in 40.1-11 as a commentary on ch. 6. See, for example, Roy F. Melugin "Poetic Imagination, Intertextuality, and Life in a Symbolic World" in A. Joseph Everson and Hyun Chul Paul Kim (eds.) *The Desert Will Bloom: Poetic Visions in Isaiah* (Atlanta: SBL, 2009), 11-15; Ulrich Berges Jesaja 40-48 (HKAT; Freiburg: Herder, 2008), 83-84; Williamson *The Book Called Isaiah*, 37-38, with references cited in 37 n. 21; Rendtorff, "Jesaja 6," 79-82. For a critical view, see Joseph Blenkinsopp, Isaiah 40-55 (AB 19A; New York: Doubleday, 2002) 50, 179 and Francis Landy, "The Ghostly Prelude to Deutero-Isaiah" *BibInt* 14 (2006) 334-35.

<sup>7</sup> A large part of Alonso-Schökel's groundbreaking doctoral thesis *Estudios de poética hebréa* (Barcelona: Flor, 1963), was devoted to analyses of much of Isaiah, focusing in particular on alliterative patterns. Alonso-Schökel's work is adapted and abbreviated in English as *A Manual of Hebrew Poetics* (Rome: Pontifical Institute, 1988).

student Rémi Lack<sup>8</sup>, but the literary response to the text, as a work of the imagination, has remained a powerful, if surreptitious, undercurrent in contemporary Isaianic studies.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Rémi Lack La Symbolique du Livre d'Isaïe: essai sur l'image littéraire comme element de structuration (Rome: Pontifical Institute, 1973). Lack's work is influenced by French Structuralism.

<sup>9</sup> One may note Edgar W. Conrad *Reading Isaiah* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991); Peter D. Miscall Isaiah (Readings; Sheffield: JSOT Press 1993; republished by Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2006); Isaiah 34-35: A Nightmare/A Dream (JSOTSup 281; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999); and (as Quinn-Miscall) Reading Isaiah: Poetry and Vision (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2001); various studies by Francis Landy, some of which are collected in Beauty and the Enigma and Other Essays on the Hebrew Bible (JSOTSup. 306; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 2001): José Severino Croatto's commentaries on Deutero- and Trito-Isaiah (Buenos Aires: Lumen, 1994, 2001); Guido Benzi Ci è stato dato un figlio: il Libro dell'Emmanuele (Is 6.1-9.6): Struttura Retorica e Interpretazione Teologica (EDB; Bologna, 2007). Inevitably, the literary approach to Isaiah has been subject to the methodological diversification that has typified the literary study of the Bible and literary criticism in general. Benjamin Sommer A Prophet Reads Scripture: Allusion in Isaiah 40-66 (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1998) and Patricia Tull Willey Remember the Former Things: The Recollection of Previous Texts in Second Isaiah (SBL Diss. Series 161; Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997) both focus on intertextual links with other prophetic books, though Sommer insists on the term "allusion" rather than "intertextuality". See also Peter Miscall "Isaiah: the labyrinth of images" Semeia 54 (1991), 103-21. Hyun Chul Paul Kim Ambiguity, Tension, and Multiplicity in Deutero-Isaiah (New York: Lang, 2003) analyses indeterminacy in selected texts; see also his "The Spider-Poet: Signs and Symbols in Isaiah 41" in The Desert Will Bloom, 159-80. An exhilarating exploration of Deutero-Isaiah from a number of methodological perspectives is John Goldingay, "Isaiah 40-55 in the 1990s: Among Other Things Deconstructing, Mystifying, Intertextual, Socio-Critical, Hearer-Involving" BibInt 5 (1997) 225-46. Goldingay's three part commentary on Deutero-Isaiah provides a much more detailed literary reading, which clearly conflicts with the redactional stratification of Steck and his pupils (The Message of Deutero-Isaiah (London and New York: T & T Clark, 2005; (with David Payne) Isaiah 40-55 (2 Vols. ICC; London and New York: T & T Clark, 2006).

The tension between literary and historical approaches is evident in the caution with which even sympathetic commentators treat the literary quality of the text. Blenkinsopp, for instance, in his three part Anchor Bible commentary, eschews the term "poetry", preferring "recitative," (*Isaiah 1-39*, 79), and comments that "Isaiah also contains, especially in the later phases of

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Robert Carroll, in one of my favourite and most frequently cited articles on Isaiah, wrote:

So is Isaiah a *blinded* text awaiting the *insightful* critic? Or is Isaiah such a blinded text that only a blinded critic can read it? Or is it the case that only blind readers can imagine (with a trace of the Latin *imaginari* "picture mentally") the insightful text produced by whatever the sign "Isaiah" stands for? Blind writer, blind reader? Blindsight of both writer and reader may produce the kinds of insightful readings of Isaiah which this strange biblical text invites. This the most visionary of texts calls for the most visionary of readings.<sup>10</sup>

composition, much that is, from the literary point of view, mediocre at best..." (81). Williamson likewise frequently remarks on the modest poetic quality of particular texts, e.g. *Isaiah 1-5* (ICC; London and New York, T& T Clark, 2006) 380, on 5.18-19; "Poetic Vision in 7.18-25" in *The Desert Will Bloom*, 77-89: "its poetic value is apparently not very high" (79).

George Aichele, Peter Miscall, and Richard Walsh, "An Elephant in the Room: Historical-Critical and Postmodern Approaches to the Bible" *JBL* 128 (2009) 383-404, have recently challenged historical-criticism of the Bible from a postmodern point of view. See also Stephen D. Moore and Yvonne Sherwood "Biblical Studies 'after' Theory: Onwards Towards the Past. Part One: After 'after Theory,' and Other Apocalyptic Conceits" *BibInt* 18 (2010), 1-27, and John Van Seters' sharply-worded response to Aichele, Miscall and Walsh in *JHS* 9/26 (2009). Van Seters argues that Aichele et al. caricature historical criticism, and that what they promise is works of fiction. I have my own disagreements with Aichele, Miscall and Walsh. In particular, I do not think that "the postmodernist lives in endless irony and parody" (398) – at least I do not, nor did Derrida, explicitly. But this is matter for another article.

<sup>10</sup> Robert P. Carroll, "Blindsight and the Vision Thing" in Writing and Reading the Scroll of Isaiah, 79-93 (93). The companion piece to this article is "Revisionings: Echoes and Traces of Isaiah in the Poetry of William Blake" in J. Davies, G. Harvey, and W. G. E. Watson (eds) Words Remembered, Texts Renewed: Essays in Honour of J. F. A. Sawyer (JSOTSup 195; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1995), 226-41. Carroll was one of the few scholars who genuinely bridged the worlds of historical- and literary-criticism.

Part of the difficulty I have had in working with this text for many years is the sheer difficulty of the language, and of finding a critical idiom adequate for it. Blindsight, Carroll tells us, is a term he borrows from optics, where it refers to residual vision in a blind field, and with greater poetic license, to Paul de Man's "Blindness and Insight."<sup>11</sup> It suggests the coincidence of blindness and insight in the ideal critic, and Isaiah's commission to the people: "Hear attentively, but do not comprehend! See intently, but do not perceive!" To be faithful critics, according to this commission, is not to perceive; it means an undoing of the structures of knowledge, power and judgment whose rectification, according to Kant, constitutes the task of the true critic.<sup>12</sup> On the other hand, the critic, in Carroll's view, is someone who goes blindly wherever the text leads her, to the heart of the vision, which is invisible.<sup>13</sup> The text teaches her how to read, as Umberto Eco tells us; but to read is precisely not to read, in any familiar way.<sup>14</sup> Hanna Liss, in one of the best books recently to be written

<sup>12</sup> Kant used "critique" in several senses. Common to them all, however, is the insistence that critique requires a free and open space in which to pursue an inquiry, based on a priori principles; that it be neither dogmatic nor skeptical; and that it be self-critical. See Judith Butler "Critique, dissent, disciplinarity" *Critical Inquiry* 35 (2009) 776-78. In the study of religion, perhaps the most committed Neo-Kantian, and the scholar most thoroughly imbued with the Enlightenment project, is Jonathan Z. Smith, with his familiar formula that the task of the critic is description, comparison, redescription and rectification. See his essay "When the Chips are Down" in *Relating Religion: Essays in the Study of Religion* (Chicago and London: Chicago University Press, 2004) 5, and "Bible and Religion" ibid, 197-98.

<sup>13</sup> De Man himself, in a passage quoted by Carroll ("Blindness and the Vision Thing", 92) holds that reader and critic collaborate "to make the unseen visible" (*Blindness and Insight*,141). However, Carroll goes beyond de Man, in his plea "for profoundly imaginative acts of interpretation (ibid, 93).

<sup>14</sup> Umberto Eco, Six Walks in the Fictional Woods (Cambridge and London: Harvard University Press, 1994). Eco proposes that the Model Reader – an ideal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> "Blindsight and the Vision Thing," 80. Carroll refers to de Man's "Blindness and Insight" on p. 92, and in particular to de Man's essay "The Rhetoric of Blindness: Jacques Derrida's Reading of Rousseau" in *Blindness and Insight: Essays in the Rhetoric of Contemporary Criticism* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1971) 102-41.

on Isaiah, has shown us how Isaiah systematically engages in techniques of defamiliarization, so as to enter a different world, a world which, according to Maurice Blanchot, is radically incommensurable with ours.<sup>15</sup> In writing about Isaiah, I try to find a poetic, parabolic language to communicate the vision, and this means seeing beyond or otherwise than the overt messages of the words, being alert for their hidden significance, their associative and intertextual fields, their sounds, the sensuality of language and imagery, and for whatever they do not and cannot say. It requires very close reading of small segments of text, knowing that the reading is always partial, and that one is blind, or blinded, not only in that one is blundering about in darkness, but that one's starting point is blindness, or perhaps being blinded by too much light, like the headlights of a car coming at you in darkness, or through the violent deprivation of sight, when the world and all its presuppositions have to be learned anew.<sup>16</sup> Maurice Blanchot

type to be distinguished from the empirical reader – is one that the text tries to create, and that the text is a set of instructions that teaches the reader how to read (ibid, 10). Six Walks, as the title suggests, is a series of reflections on the vagaries of reading, the importance of rereading, of lingering on the text, of the interchange of fiction and reality. See further his *The Role of the Reader:* Explorations in the Semiotics of Texts (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1979).

<sup>15</sup> Hanna Liss, *Die Unerhöhrte Prophetie: Kommunikative Strukturen prophetische Rede im Buch Yesha'yahu* (Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 2003). See also the English summary of the book in "Undisclosed Speech: Patterns of Communication in the Book of Isaiah" *JHS* 4/4. Much of the book is devoted to examining the techniques of defamiliarization, for instance how ch.10 reverses Assyrian imperial propaganda. Liss cites Blanchot's essay "Prophetic Speech" (*The Book to Come*, tr. Charlotte Mandel [Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2003] 73-82) at the beginning of her conclusion (ibid. 272), and offers a detailed exposition (ibid. 273-90).

<sup>16</sup> I note here J. Hillis Miller's description of the critical process:

Criticism might be defined as the professionalizing or institutionalizing of the urge to talk and write in response to an act of reading or seeing. Such talking or writing ... is not without its dangers... The picture or text requires that you give yourself body and soul to the act of reading or seeing. That is always risky. Criticism is tentative, even tactile ...

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writes that the prophet does not, or does not only, reveal the future, but takes away the present, in all its solidity.<sup>17</sup> Isaiah opens his eyes to a new world, and to utter desolation.<sup>18</sup> Samuel Beckett, in Endgame, has a wonderful parable of a painter who thinks the end of the world has come, and all he sees are ashes.

This difficulty with working through the text implicates also its unity. There is clearly an immense desire to unify the book, for instance through the permutations of the call vision of chapter 6, which have been explored by many scholars. At the same time, one cannot ignore its refractoriness to easy coherence, for example the differences between Proto-, Deutero- and Trito-Isaiah. More generally, every poem is an achievement against enormous odds, an assertion of beauty and truth, to borrow from Keats, against its failure. Hélène Cixous writes that the best writers look death, and God, in the face.<sup>19</sup> In particular, Isaiah is a profound reflection on

> The writer feels his way like a blind man without seeing for certain where the writing is going, as is the case right now with this essay. If you could see to the end you would not need to write the essay, but since you don't know where you are going you might fall into an unforeseen pit or enter a blind alley, an aporia, a blank wall, in the act of writing or feeling your way blindly. It is even possible to claim that talking or writing in response to reading or seeing is a futile attempt to ward off the effect of the story or picture by "explaining" it, by weaving an integument of words around it to veil it ("What do Stories About Pictures Want?" *Critical Inquiry* 35 Sup. [2008] 61)

<sup>17</sup> "Prophetic speech announces an impossible future, or makes the future it announces, because it announces it, something impossible, a future one would not know how to live and that must upset all the sure givens of existence. When speech becomes prophetic, it is not the future that is given, but the present that is taken away, and with it any possibility of a firm, stable, lasting, presence" ("Prophetic Speech," 73).

<sup>18</sup> This is evidently so in 6.11-12, which I will discuss later.

<sup>19</sup> "To begin (writing, living) we must have death.... What we hope for in the School of Dreams is the strength both to deal and to receive the axe's blow, to look straight at the face of God, *which is none other than my own face*, the face of my soul" (Hélène Cixous, *Three Steps on the Ladder of Writing*, tr. Sarah Cornell and Susan Sellers [New York: Columbia University Press, 1993], 7, 63). The three steps of Cixous' *Three Steps* are the School of the Dead, the School of

catastrophe and exile, as well as a vision of hope in an unaccommodating world. The poetic unity of the book corresponds to that vision of hope, to the unification of all humanity in the worship of God and international peace, as is evidenced repeatedly in the last chapters.<sup>20</sup> To the extent that this hope is impossible, an ever-receding horizon, so is poetic unity unattainable, at least within the book.

My subject is the relationship between the "I" and the "Eye", between the prophet and the vision, as a way of thinking about the problem of poetic unity and of a language that will communicate the vision and experience. The book is framed as a vision: "שע"הו חוון" "the vision of Isaiah"; the vision is attributed to him, part of his life, but he also emanates from it, is constituted as a prophet by it. Isaiah sees with God's eye, is entirely absorbed in his role as an emissary. From this point of view, the ideal prophet interposes no obstacles to the divine clairvoyance, seeing into the remote and infallible future. However, the very word "חוון", used almost exclusively for prophetic vision, conveys a difference from normal seeing, that seeing is non-seeing. It is manifested as a

Dreams, and the School of Roots respectively. For her, the encounter with death is a necessary preliminary to writing. The relationship of writing to death is a pervasive motif in Romantic theories of poetry, for instance in Rilke's *Sonnets* to Orpheus. See Blanchot's essay "Rilke and Death" in Gabriel Josipovici (ed) *The Siren's Song* (Brighton: Harvester Press, 1982), 176. Derrida, especially in his discussions of Freud, associates writing with death drive, since it preserves that which is past (Jacques Derrida, *Archive Fever: A Freudian Impression*, tr. Eric Prenowitz (Chicago: University of Chicago Press [1995] 10-13, and see also "Freud and Scene of Writing," tr. Alan Bass in *Writing and Difference* (London: Routledge, Kegan and Paul, 1978), 196-231, esp. 230).

<sup>20</sup> Chapters 65-66 attempt, probably self-consciously, to tie together the loose threads of the book, for example its maternal imagery. See the commentaries of Croatto, *Imaginar el Futuro*, 391-502 and Burkard M. Zapff *Jesaja 56-66* (Die Neue Echter Bibel; Würzburg: Echter Verlag, 2006), 413-42 for abundant examples. Clements' assertion in "Isaiah: A Book Without an Ending", 110, that the conclusion is unsatisfactory, based on the offensiveness of 66.24, is consequently one-sided.

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book, already a metaphor, the purity of the gaze sullied by the tricks and density of language, open to the Platonic charge of deception and ambiguity.<sup>21</sup> The book is the vision, in its perfection and totality, as well as the vision in the other sense, as something imagined, an aspiration for a perfect world. As soon as it is spoken, however, it becomes something heard, interpreted, and reported: "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth, for the Lord has spoken..." To hear is something other than to see. It evokes the interiority of the speaker, or an intimation beyond the horizon.<sup>22</sup> The book, as language, as a maze of competing voices, renders the vision opaque, signified, only to be realized beyond the borders of the book.

As Peter Ackroyd showed many years ago, the prophet is constructed as an ideal figure, a character in the book.<sup>23</sup> He attributes the success of the book, indeed, to that of the prophet, to whom more and more material was ascribed, because of his prestige. Autobiographical and biographical passages, as well as first person references, occur throughout the book, to form a composite portrait, especially if, with many modern commentators,

<sup>21</sup> Some scholars think [117] is a conventional title for a prophetic book or oracle (cf. Obad 1, Nah.1.1), with no necessary implication of visionary experience. Cf. Ehud Ben Zvi *A Historical-Critical Study of the Book of Obadiah* (BZAW 214; Berlin and New York: de Gruyter, 1996), 12; W. A. M. Beuken *Jesaja 1-12* (HThKAT; Freiburg: Herder Verlag), 57. This, however, is to beg the question. Carroll, "Blindsight and the Vision Thing," 80-81, remarks that whatever its technical meaning, the word [117] points to the importance of vision and perception in the book. As one might expect, literary interpretation emphasize the metaphor; for instance, Conrad *Reading Isaiah*, 117-53 and Miscall *Isaiah* 12, 22. A useful discussion is John Goldingay, "The Theology of Isaiah", *Interpreting Isaiah*, 168-90 (169). See also his "Isaiah 40-55 in the 1990s, 235-36, in which he argues that "the exilic Isaiah claims the mantle of Isaiah of Jerusalem" and "takes part in his resurrection."

<sup>22</sup> See Landy, "Vision and Voice in Isaiah" *Beauty and the Enigma*, 371-91, esp. 374-75.

<sup>23</sup> Peter Ackroyd, "Isaiah I-XII: Presentation of a Prophet" (VT Sup.29; Brill: Leiden, 1978), 16-48. See also "Isaiah 36-39: Structure and Function" in W.C.Delsman et al. (eds.) Von Kanaan bis Kerala: Festschrift für J.P.M. van der Ploeg (Neukirchen-Vluyn: Neikirchener Verlag, 1982), 3-21.

we see the prophetic voice in the second half of the book as being an avatar of that in the first, as being fictively identified with it.<sup>24</sup> The prophet, however, adds his own level of complexity. As well as being an "eye", he is an "I", who responds to the vision and is addressed by it. The prophet has a double function and origin, as representative of humanity as well as of God. He is the first audience for his message, which we hear physically at one remove. The prophet, moreover, lives outside his message. We see him walking with his son to meet the king, having sex with the prophetess, and so on. All these are signs, naturally, but also speak for the body as supplementary to his role, as a sign of the world as a material realm, possessed and judged by God, indeed, but also autonomous, with its own concerns and needs.<sup>25</sup> The prophet is a double agent, who speaks for humanity to God and vice versa. Since the message is one of condemnation, at least in part, it is also self-destruction.

The tension between the "eye" and the "I" is evident in ch. 6, Isaiah's inaugural vision. It is a metaprophetic key to the book, which tells us how to read and understand it, as well as introducing Isaiah to his task.<sup>26</sup> As an initiation scene, it conforms to a typical

<sup>25</sup> The materiality of the sign is pointed out by Benzi, *Ci è stato dato un figlio*, 125

<sup>26</sup> By metaprophecy I mean a discourse that reflects upon itself. Similarly, Ehud Ben Zvi has analysed Jonah as a metaprophetic book, whose very strangeness renders it a means for reflecting on prophetic literature. Virtually all commentators note the structural centrality of ch.6. For instance, Marvin A. Sweeney *Isaiah 1-39 with an Introduction to Prophetic Literature* (FOTL 16; Grand Rapids Eerdmans, 1996), 136, says that it is "paradigmatic for Isaiah's

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death and resurrection pattern. Isaiah "sees" God, surrounded by his seraphim, singing "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory". The temple shakes from the sound of the one calling, and Isaiah fears death, for to see God is to die, and he is a man of unclean lips, who cannot speak without polluting the divine presence. A seraph flies to him with a coal, plucked with tongs from the altar, and touches his lips with it; purified, he hears God saying, "Whom shall we send? Who will go for us?" and, uniquely among the prophets, Isaiah says, "Here I am, send me". Then he hears: "Go and say to this people: Hear intently, but do not understand! Look attentively, but do not perceive! Make fat the heart of this people, make its ears heavy, dazzle its eyes, lest it see with its eyes, and hear with its ears, and its heart understands, and it repent, and is healed!" Isaiah responds, "Until when, my Lord?" and is told, "Until the cities are laid waste, without inhabitant, and houses without human beings, and the land is waste, desolate."

This is evidently very strange. It is a classic double bind: if the people faithfully obey the command not to understand, they have understood; correlatively, if they understand, and still worse, repent, they are in contravention of the divine will. To understand suggests that they have not listened and understood; to be repentant is to be unrepentant.<sup>27</sup> Furthermore, the responsibility for not

entire prophetic career." Extensive discussions may be found in Williamson, *The Book Called Isaiah*, 30-56; Jörg Barthel *Prophetenwort und Geschichte: Die Jesajaüberlieferugn in Jes 6-8 und 28-31* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1997), 66-117; and Liss *Die Unerhöhrte Prophetie*, 34-71.

<sup>27</sup> A minority of scholars read the last phrase 6.10 disjunctively, as a prediction that they will ultimately repent, for instance through interpreting  $\exists U$  to mean "once again," as in 6.13. See especially Shizuka Uemura, "Isaiah 6:9-10: A Hardening Prophecy?" Annual of the Japanese Biblical Institute 27 (2001) 23-57. Jacques Vermeylen Du Prophète Isaïe à L'apocalyptique: Isaïe, I-XXXV, miroir d'un demi-millenaire d'experience religieuse en Israël Tome 1. (Paris: Gabalda, 1977) 197, thinks that the Waw of  $\exists U$  is adversative and that the phrase was added subsequently, to ameliorate the harshness of the commission.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup>Berges, Jesaja 40-48, 91; Childs, Isaiah, 296; others think that the prophet and/or his circle belonged to a group who identified themselves as distant disciples of the 8<sup>th</sup> century prophet e.g. Rainer Albertz, Israel in Exile: The History and Literature of the Sixth Century B.C.E., tr. David Green (Atlanta: SBL), 378. Labahn, "The Delay of Salvation", 83-84, proposes that Deutero-Isaiah is the product of the rivalry and gradual merger of an Isaianic school and a Deuteronomistic school in 5<sup>th</sup> century Jerusalem. Goldingay, The Message of Isaiah 6, comments that the new prophet "hides" behind the old. The most spectacular interpretation is that of Klaus Baltzer, who suggests that the servant in Deutero-Isaiah is modeled on Moses (Deutero-Isaiah, tr. Margaret Kohl [Hermeneia; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2001] 20-22).

understanding and perceiving, communicated through the imperatives, "Hear intently!" "Look attentively!" is taken away in the next verse (v.10): "Make fat the heart of this people, make its ears heavy, dazzle its eyes!" Isaiah is to speak in such a way that they will not comprehend, even if they should wish to. So if they do respond, listening and looking intensely and conscientiously abstaining from understanding and perception, their responses are preconditioned, their senses are already blocked.

There are a number of problems, issues and perspectives, which I will briefly note. First of all, "unknowing" is a familiar trope in mystical as well as prophetic literature. To attain true knowledge means undoing the knowledge and wisdom of our world. This is certainly true of Isaiah, where conventional wisdom is unwisdom and vice versa.<sup>28</sup> If the object is the knowledge of God, as in Isaiah 11.9, that can only be attained through a transformation of consciousness.

Secondly, to whom is the prophecy addressed? Who are "this people", an expression which, as many commentators note,

See also Barthel *Prophetenwort und Geschichte*, 69. Such readings, however, would render the sequence beginning with ]D, "lest," without a conclusion.

<sup>28</sup> This theme is pervasive in at least Proto-Isaiah. One may note, for instance, 5.20-21, 28.14-22, 29.13-14. In contrast, the wisdom of the Davidic heir in 11.1-9 is beyond the seeing of the eyes and hearing of the ears. In Deutero-Isaiah wisdom is associated with the nations (44.25) and the makers of idols (40.20); the wisdom that is overthrown is that of the Babylonian and other empires (see also 52.15). One need not suppose an opposition between prophets and sages, as suggested by William McKane, Prophets and Wise Men (London: SCM, 1983), and J. William Whedbee, Isaiah and Wisdom (Nashville and New York: Abingdon, 1971). H.G.M. Williamson, "Isaiah and the Wise" in John Day, Robert P. Gordon and H. G. M. Williamson (eds.) Wisdom in Ancient Israel: Essays in Honour of John Emerton (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), 133-41, provides a summary of scholarly positions, and suggests both common ground between Isaiah and "the wise," and that Isaiah might have felt that his experience transcended conventional wisdom. Sonnet, "Le Motif de l'endurcissement", 234, suggests that the sapiential tradition became increasingly esoteric.

implies distantiation from God?<sup>29</sup> Are we an insider group, like the disciples of 8.16, who know about the instruction to prevent communication, while the immediate audience do not? There are many versions of this hypothesis, which, however, does not solve the problem of why the prophet (and God) should act in such a peculiar way, or the ambiguity of whether we are included in the designation.<sup>30</sup> If we are not included, then the prophecy does not concern us. We are third parties and onlookers. To the extent that the prophecy is directed towards the indeterminate future, we put ourselves into the subject position of "this people", with our own degree of distantiation and identification.

Thirdly, a secret that is revealed is no longer a secret, even if all that is revealed is that there is a secret.<sup>31</sup> If this people is told that it is blinded or deluded, it is challenged to uncover that which is being concealed from them.<sup>32</sup> Hanna Liss argues that the commission is a mark of great respect for the people, because it ascribes to them a capacity to look beyond appearances, to change their theological paradigms.<sup>33</sup> The imperatives: "Hear intently, but

<sup>30</sup> For example, Conrad, *Reading Isaiah* passim, radically distinguishes the intended audience from the original one, designated by העם הזה. The most sophisticated treatment is by Jean-Pierre Sonnet, "Le Motif de l'endurcissement (Is 6,9-10) et la lecture d'Isaïe'," *Biblica* 73 (1992) 208-239, according to whom the meaning of "this people" kept on changing during the course of the book's development, until it potentially included all readers.

<sup>31</sup> "The secret necessarily exemplifies (a) double bind, for the secret can be a secret only to the extent that it is hidden, but the secret can be hidden only to the extent that it is revealed" (Elliot R. Wolfson, *Language, Eros, Being: Kabbalistic Hermeneutics and Poetic Imagination* [New York: Fordham University Press] 164).

<sup>32</sup> See Jonathan Magonet, "On the Impossibility of Prophecy: A study of Isaiah 6" in David J. Goldberg and Edward Kessler (eds.) *Aspects of Liberal Judaism: Essays in Honour of John Raynor* (London: Valentine Mitchell, 2004), 170-83.

<sup>33</sup> Liss, *Die Unerhöhrte Prophetie*, 19, 281. She argues that "a people of unclean lips" (6.5) is not in itself derogatory; it simply refers to the conditions of their everyday, ambivalent existence, and challenges them to look beyond them.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Otto Kaiser *Das Buch des Propheten Jesaja Kapitel 1-12* (ATD; Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1981), 132; Ronald E. Clements *Isaiah 1-39* (NCBC; London: Marshall, Morgan and Scott, 1980), 76; Beuken, *Jesaja 1-12*, 176, are a representative sample.

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do not understand, see attentively but do not perceive" suggest a double dynamic, of an intense effort to discern, and an equally intense renunciation of any conclusion or interpretation. This suggest a model of reading: "the more closely one listens, the less one understands, the more indefatigably one looks, the more complexity and unfathomability one finds".<sup>34</sup>

response, or even really a question. It is a prayer, drawing upon the resources of the liturgical tradition.<sup>37</sup> "How long" measures a gap, in which prophetic language is transformed into nonsense in the people's ears, and which is subtended on his side by the verbal equivalent of a groan, of intolerable waiting.

We do not know how long this waiting lasts. "And I wait for YHWH who hides his face from the house of Jacob, and I wait/hope for/in him" Isaiah says in 8.17. Deutero-Isaiah is a deliberate inversion of Proto-Isaiah, in which the blindest and most deaf of prophets (42.19) brings light to the world, on behalf of a blind and despairing people. The introduction to Deutero-Isaiah in 40.1-11 is often seen as a call scene that echoes chapter 6. proclaiming the end of the era of judgment: "Comfort you, comfort you, my people."<sup>38</sup> However, there is still the problem of whether this promise is a snare and delusion. The tremendous rhetoric of Deutero-Isaiah owes both its power and its pathos to the prevalence of the great powers and the insignificance of Israel.<sup>39</sup> We are still waiting for the advent of YHWH to Zion, no matter how close it is. Hence the desperate urgency of doubled imperatives throughout Deutero-Isaiah:40 עורי עורי שורי "Awake, awake!" (51.9, 52.1); סורו סורו , "Turn aside, turn aside!" (52.10); or the repeated deictic הנה: "Behold, your God" (40.9);

<sup>38</sup> See n. 5 above.

<sup>40</sup> Blenkinsopp *Deutero-Isaiah 40-55*, 181. See also Claus Westermann, *Isaiah 40-66*, tr. David G. M. Stalker (OTL; Philadelphia: Westminster, 1969), 34

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Landy, "Strategies of Concentration and Diffusion in Isaiah 6," In *Beauty and the Enigma*, 322. Sonnet writes that through the book the commission is transformed from a founding narrative to an allegory of reading, in which bafflement and illumination alternate, for instance in the *mashal* of 29.11-12 ("Le motif de l'endurcissement," 233, 236).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup>This is the so-called *Rückprojizierungsthese*, that the narrative was composed retrospectively by Isaiah, so as to account for his failure. This approach has been especially influential in German scholarship, though it has medieval roots. See, for example, Erhard Blum, "Jesajas prophetisches Testament: Beobachtungen zu Jes 1-11" *ZAW* 108 [1996] 547-68; *ZAW* 109 [1997] 12-29). As Barthel, *Prophetie und Geschichte*, 115-17, points out, it amounts to a recognition that no experience is unmediated. It is curious that the one prophet who, according to biblical tradition (Isa 38), was at least temporary successful, is haunted by his failure.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Jonathan Magonet, "The Structure of Isaiah 6" *Proceedings of the Ninth World Congress of Jewish Studies: Division A (The Period of the Bible)* (1985), 96, stresses that this anguish paradoxically leads to greater identification with his people.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> It occurs especially frequently in Jeremiah (4.14, 4.21, 12.4, 23.26, 31.22, 47.5) and in Psalms (6.4, 74.10, 80.5, 90.13, 94.1). See Hans Wildberger, *Isaiah 1-12*, tr. Thomas H. Trapp (Hermeneia; Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991) 273; Clements, *Isaiah 1-39*, 80; Kaiser, *Das Buch*, 132; Hans-Peter Müller "Sprachliche und religionsgeschichtliche Beobachtungen zu Jesaja 6" ZAH 5 (1992) 163-85 (177). Norman Habel, "The Form and Significance of the Call Narratives" ZAW 77 (1965) 296-323 (312), thinks it constitutes the prophetic objection to his mission; but see Burke O. Long "Reports of Visions Among the Prophets" JBL 95 (1976) 353-65 (361 n. 29).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> As Goldingay, "Isaiah 40-55 in the 1990s," 225, writes: "Isaiah 40-55 shouts very loud." Its volume, in his further argument, is related to issues of deconstruction and of powerlessness.

"Behold, here they are!" (41.27). Repeatedly we are told that Cyrus, the Lord's anointed, sent to bring deliverance to the world, "does not know me" (45.4, 5). The affirmation of monotheism and of the nullity of other gods is apparently refuted, both by the triumph of other deities and the failure of the Israelite metanarrative. The absence of God, under the figure of selfconcealment, is the hidden voice (or absence of voice) in the text, just as the invitation to unimaginable joy overlays inconsolable grief. As Deutero-Isaiah progresses, and still more if one advances into Trito-Isaiah, the expectations of imminent vindication and utopian transformation are countered by equally exigent voices of doubt, desolation and mystery. I need only mention, at this point, the servant in 52.13-53, who goes to his death in utter silence, unheard and unregarded, yet is the object of fascinated attention, and whose death is the source of renewed life.

It is possible that the interdict on communication applies also to Deutero-Isaiah, as to the entire book, for example, the motif of comfort is intended to deceive us with false hope. Of course, this would be a perverse reading, and would threaten to reduce the entire discourse to incoherent babble. "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak with this people" (28.11).<sup>41</sup> Isaiah, according to the commission, apparently speaks normal Hebrew, lulling the people with the beauty of his language, and a familiar prophetic idiom – the book as we have it. But this masks another, purely destructive, intent, entirely unknown to the people. The words do not have their common meaning, or perhaps any meaning at all.

However, this would not only make my task, and the task of any interpreter, impossible, but it would belie the degree to which Isaiah does make sense, for instance in the call to ethical

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responsibility, the prediction of invasion, the vision of ultimate peace. For a book which is sealed, according to 29.11, it is remarkably readable. It could be that to the degree to which Isaiah is clear, he resists the divine command. <sup>42</sup> I've already pointed to the prophet's duality, as representative of humanity as well as divine messenger. His aspirations for a better world are credible. But he also communicates divine ambivalence.<sup>43</sup> God sends and does not send him at the same time. Throughout Proto-Isaiah, at least, visions of destruction are schematically juxtaposed with those of felicity. <sup>44</sup> In chapter 2, for instance, the vision of the end of days in which all nations beat their swords to ploughshares is matched, virtually without transition, with one of the day of the Lord, when he rises up to "terrify the earth." Similar, though transposed, contrasts structure both Deutero- and Trito-Isaiah.

There are, as it were, two voices, or two realities, in Isaiah, that of the present world and the future one, and the problem of the book is how to bridge them. It is a problem of translation. Isaiah has to translate the language of the future age in terms of this one, while letting the audience know that their mother tongue is now strange, that the conditions of their world have shifted. It is a translation back from the language of the future to the present, but also an anticipation of the language of the future in the present, as, for example, when the prophetic voice projects itself into future personae: "And you shall say on that day..." (12.1) and foresees an end to the era of incomprehension: "Then shall the eyes of the blind be percipient, and the ears of the deaf open, and the lame skip like a gazelle, and the tongue of the dumb sing..." (35. 5-6).

In the initiation scene, as Ed Conrad points out, the prophet undergoes the entire prophetic process, and becomes a prototype

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> There is no compelling reason to attribute this verse to the people. See J. Cheryl Exum "Whom Will He Teach Knowledge?" A Literary Approach to Isaiah 28" in David J.A. Clines, David M. Gunn and Alan J. Hauser (eds) *Art and Meaning: Rhetoric in Biblical Literature* (JSOTSup 19; Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1982) 120; Baruch Halpern, "'The Excremental Vision': The Doomed Priests of Doom in Isaiah 28" *HAR* 10 (1986) 114.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> This point of view is represented by Mattiteyahu Tsevat "The Vision of Isaiah" in *The Meaning of the Book of Job and Other Biblical Studies* (New York: Ktav, 1980) 171-74.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Kirsten Nielsen, "Is 6:1-8:18 as Dramatic Writing" *StTh* 40 (1986) 6, argues that both God and Isaiah are conflicted: "both Yhwh and Isaiah emerge as characters distinguished by deep inner tensions."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup>On the tendency to structure the book through diptychs, see Beuken Jesaja 1-12, 43.

for the people.<sup>45</sup> He is, he says, "a man of impure lips" who dwells "among a people of impure lips". After his purgation by the seraph, his lips are purified, and he inhabits a different world. However, he has no resources for communicating that other world except the language of this one. The "other tongue" is indistinguishable from Hebrew, even if the prophet uses his poetic virtuosity to impart dissociation, for example through retardation, ambiguity and complex and contradictory metaphors.

The two worlds are radically separated. "On that day" is the marker of a time discontinuous with ours. There is no logical connection, no historical process, that can account for the reversal from catastrophe to restitution. At the same time they are superimposed on each other. Isaiah lives in both realms at once. Synchronic and diachronic axes are equated and conflict. A mediating position is alternation. The miraculous defeat of the Assyrians in ch.38 is immediately followed by Hezekiah's fatal interview with the Babylonian envoys in Isaiah 39, whose consequence is the exile. Chapter 6 concludes with what appears to be, so we can postulate Isaiah hearing, the answer to the question "How long?" – "And there will still be in it (i.e. the land) a tenth, and it shall return (or repent)"<sup>46</sup> – except that we are told it shall be for a repeated burning, and yet the holy seed will survive.

The present and the future worlds thus coexist simultaneously, or alternately, in the consciousness of the prophet and of the readers. The narrative, from beginning to end, from creation to apocalypse, is criss-crossed by alternative readings, proleptic conclusions, sudden peripateias. The prophet, his sons and disciples, are signs of the future age, they embody it in the present (8.18). They stand for the immanence of the future in the present, but also for the perennial message of the prophet (or prophets), in particular the ethical demand suggested by the keywords "justice" and "righteousness", the political stance of quietness and trust, the social vision of equality and simplicity. In

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28.17, the new Temple is constructed with justice and righteousness; presumably, wherever those qualities are to be found, the Temple is built. The seeds of the new world are found in this one. On the one hand, the book is closed, sealed, written; it is framed by a ringing conclusion, which recapitulates the beginning. On the other, it is open, to interpretation, and even more to the ethical response of the listeners and readers. The book is an invitation to adopt the subject position of prophet and listener, to say "Here am I! Send me!", and with the Davidic scion in ch. 11, to judge beyond the appearance of the eyes and arbitrate beyond the hearing of the ears. One inserts oneself into the space of the sealed book, like the unwary person in 29.12 who does not know how to read, and learns how to read.<sup>47</sup> In a sense, the reading of the book takes place outside as well as inside the book, for instance if one reads, or lives, with quietness or trust, or conducts one's life with justice and righteousness. At various points it thematizes listening, for instance, "and he listened with a listening, great was the listening" in 21.7, where the fictive persona of the watchman listens in the silence and darkness, and does not know what will come next.

In the next chapter following the commission, and several years later, we see the prophet in the workaday world. Together with his son, Shear Yashuv, he is sent to meet king Ahaz on the path by the fuller's field, and to encourage him in the face of the fearful Syrian-Ephraimite alliance. It is a somewhat comical encounter, replete with puns and malentendus.<sup>48</sup> Essentially,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Conrad, Reading Isaiah, 110-13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> In 6.13, שבה is triply ambiguous: it may mean "return," "repent," or be iterative ("once again").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Goldingay, "Isaiah 40-55 in the 1990s," 234, writes that without "wilful dyslexia" there would be no possibility of prophecy. See also Sonnet, "Le Motif de l'endurcissement," 235, who suggests that the inability to read provides access "à l'inouï de Dieu," and Ferry *Isaïe*, 9.

לא האמינו כי לא האמנו כי לא האמנו (כי לא האמנו כי לא האמינו כי לא האמינו כי לא האמנו כי לא האמנו כי לא האמנו הוא אם שאלה ("If you do not stand fast in faith, you will not stand fast at all", in v. 9; the pun between שאלה, "ask," and שאלה (as deep as) Sheol" in v. 11; and the duplication of אות, "sign," in v.11 in הלאות הלאות, "exhaust," in v. 13. In addition, Benzi *Ci è stato dato un figlio*, 105-06, suggests four different significations for the word אות.

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however, the king and the prophet live in different worlds; theirs is a dialogue of the deaf.<sup>49</sup> The impasse is broken by a new figure, the the young girl who gives birth to the child Immanuel. עלמה and whose pregnancy is the "sign" the king does not wish to receive, and gets anyway. This is of course one of the most controverted and complex passages in the book, and I will not enter the thicket of problems here. But I do want to point to the unborn child as the figure of the future, who anticipates the pastoral diet of curds and honey of the new age. From the interaction of king and prophet, with its confrontation of divine and human agendas, these political and sacred heavyweights battling it out, we turn to a young girl, and the simple human processes of a child being conceived, born, given a name, and acquiring knowledge of good and evil. The child is other than the prophet and introduces, as many have said, a patriarchal or even edenic idyll, in a purely feminine ambit.

I want to turn, before concluding, to two other moments, out of many, in which the prophet appears as a character, in his fullness as a human being, in apposition to God and his mission. The first is chapter 20, a curious chapter, in which the prophet is instructed to walk barefoot and naked for three years, in token of the captivity of Egypt and Ethiopia. He does not speak – though there is a strange ambiguity in v. 2 – or resist; it is not even clear whether he knows the meaning of his exposure, at least before the end of the period. He is reduced here to bare humanity, without any of the trappings of culture. He is, moreover, a sign of the humiliation of Egypt and Ethiopia, and thus enacts in his own body the suffering and exile of the other, of Egypt as the antitype of Israel, and Ethiopia as the most distant land. The prophet is then intermediate between Israel and the nations, and belongs to neither. To be naked is to be marginalized, the object of scandal, especially if Isaiah is a high-class prophet, the associate of kings, priests and scribes. We have to imagine him wandering, the most down and out of downs and outs, repulsive, embodying a message that even he does not know. Elsewhere in the book, the naked are to be clothed, on the fringes of society; the naked are those from whom one averts one's eyes. And it is with those eyes, precisely, that Isaiah looks at us.

The second text comes from close to the end of the book, in 61.1-3, the very centre of Trito-Isaiah: "The spirit of my Lord YHWH is upon me; because YHWH has anointed me as a herald to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, an opening of eyes for the bound...." Here the prophet sees himself in continuity with the spirit of YHWH; the Lord has anointed him, not Cyrus, nor any Davidide, to bring freedom and consolation. The passage is the converse of chapter 6. In chapter 6, the prophet is sent to prevent healing; here his mission is to bind up the wounds of the broken hearted, that have been suppurating since the beginning of the book. He is to proclaim freedom for the captives, "a year of favour for YHWH, a day of vengeance for our God" (61.2). The word for "freedom" (TTT) is elsewhere used for the jubilee (Lev.25.10), and suggests the restitution of all things, when slaves are freed and land returns to its original owners. The year of favour and day of vengeance, however we understand them, likewise convey an end to the period of grief, especially given the conclusion, "to comfort all mourners." Isaiah's question, "How long?" is apparently answered. In the next verse, the end of Isaiah's vision, in which the returnees are compared to trees subject to repeated burning, is recapitulated. The listeners and mourners of Zion become "oaks of righteousness, the plantation of God, to be resplendent." Ethical and theophanic motifs intertwine with that of the return to the land and the end of history; a tree planted by God is unlikely to be uprooted. Yet at the centre of the vision, of the illumination of Zion in chapters 60-62, there is the prophet. He is both selfeffacing and self-glorifying. His presence can perhaps be detected

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Liss, *Die Unerhöhrte Prophetie*, 89, for instance, argues that Ahaz is constrained by his religious-political horizon. Along similar lines, Rüdiger Bartelmus, "Jes 7,1-17 und das Stilprinzip des Kontrastes: Syntaktisch-Stilistische und traditionsgeschichtliche Anmerkungen zur "Immanuel-Perikope" ZAW 96 (1984) 58, argues that the narrative has a tragic dimension, since Ahaz is limited by his ideology.

in the extraordinary verbal dexterity of the passage, for instance the metathesis of **DN**, "dust" in **DND**, "turban, beauty" in "a turban/beauty instead of dust" in 61.2. The spirit, the intangible divine impulse, is translated into syllables, the play and tricks of human communication, and thus into a human presence.

A chapter later, however, we hear "For Zion's sake, I will not be quiet, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be still" (62.1). The prophet seems unable to stop, and a few verses later says, "On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen. All day and all night they are not hushed, who continually remember/bring to mind YHWH; let there be no silencing them." Are these watching reminding YHWH of his responsibility, just as in 63.7 the poet/prophet says "I will make mention of loving deeds of YHWH", before accusing him of abandoning his people? Are they reminding us? Are they saying the name over and over, lest it be forgotten? And what would happen if they fell silent?

### LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES ÉTUDES BIBLIQUES 25

Minutes of the 2010 CSBS Annual General Meeting

Concordia University Montreal, QC May 29, 15:30 – 17:00

In Attendance: James Magee, Paul Thiessen, Robert Calley, Carmen Palmer, Christine Mitchell, Harold Remus, John Kloppenborg, Keir Hammer, Louis Jonker, Steven Scott, Dan Machiela, Jeremy Penner, Richard Ascough, Derek Suderman, Barak Obama (yes, we are that important), Osama bin-Ladin (nice to see them getting along), Glen Taylor, Marion Taylor, Daniel Smith, John McLaughlin, Tyler Williams, Rev. Dr. President Robert Derrenbacker Jr., Gary Yamasaki, Ryan Schellenberg, FredTappenden, Steven Muir, Ian Brown, William Arnal, Marvin Lloyd Miller, Christiana de Groot, Ehud Ben Zvi, Bill Morrow, Rebecca Idestrom, Lissa Wray Beal, Adam Brown, Chelica Hiltunen, Kyung Baek, Terry Donaldson, Richard Last, Gerbern Oegema, Michele Murray, Daniel Miller, Mark Boda, Jack Horman, Mary Louise Mitchell, Sonya Kostamo, Margaret MacDonald, Jared Sommers, Francis Landy, P. G. Kirkpatrick, Phil Harland.

- Approval of the Agenda + Business Arising (Richard Ascough / Tyler Williams; PASSED)
- 2.

3.

Approval of the Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting, June 1, 2008 (Terry Donaldson / Harold Remus; PASSED)

- President's Report (Frances Landy):
  - Tony Burke stepping down from program coordinator position

### 4. Membership Secretary (Bob Derrenbacker)

- 36 nominees for membership, Bob Derrenbacker / Richard Ascough (passed)
- As of May 25, 2010, 318 members have paid their membership dues for 2010 out of a membership base of 403 (79%) (cf. 77% at this time last year). About 75% of that number renewed their dues using PayPal (cf. 63% at this time last year; 57% the year before).
- Membership in CSBS has remained stable in the last few years. While people have been removed from CSBS for a variety of reasons, a healthy number of new members nominated to CSBS each year have kept membership growing modestly over the past number of years. Currently there are 403 members.

### 5. Executive Secretary's Report (Phil Harland)

- Next year's dates unknown but aiming for Sun-Tues
- Coming meeting locations: 2011 University of New Brunswick & St. Thomas University, Frederickton; 2012 Wilfrid Laurier University & University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON; 2013 Victoria University, Victoria, BC, 2014 Brock University, St. Catherines, ON

### 6. Student Liaison Officer's Report (Sonya Kostamo)

- Congratulations to student essay prize winners and information for next year's competition
- Student and new member sessions were announced.

### 7. Vice-President's Report (Margaret MacDonald)

• Awards: Scott (Paul S. Evans); Bear (Colleen Shantz);

### LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES ÉTUDES BIBLIQUES 27

Wagner (Phil H.)

- Nominations: Sonya Kostamo for Student Liaison; Zeba Crook for Program Coordinator, Marion Taylor for vicepresident (Christine Mitchell / John M. (passed).
- 8. Programme Coordinator's Report (Tony Burke):
  - Lower number of NT paper submissions for meeting this year; need for new seminars (Historiography ends next year)
  - Thank you to Marie France, the local area coordinator
  - Banquet relatively inexpensive this year
- 9. Communication Officer's Report (Richard Ascough)
  - Could members please supply email addresses if they have not been receiving CSBS information?
  - Bulletin will be posted online

- Explained book award procedure and thanked anonymous referees for their work
- Consulted membership on what types of emails they would or would not like to receive (esp. whether members wanted more emails with [1] info on potential closures and [2] info on new programs): Tyler W. asked about how many of each there were each year and Richard answered 3-4; Harold R. asked if there could be two separate email lists and Richard explained the logistical problems with that

### 10. Treasurer's Report (Robert Derrenbacker)

• SSHRC Travel Grant. As expected, SSHRC renewed the travel grant for this fiscal year in the amount of \$4,755. 14 members applied for travel funds in the amount of \$6,677. Disbursement of funds is based on the formula of 40% for non-student members and 80% for student members for travel to Montreal, for a total amount of \$4,403, making a difference of \$352, which we will be holding back for next

year's travel to the Congress in New Brunswick. SSHRC travel funds: Bill M. mentioned that the amount of these funds has remained about the same since the 1980s and that there should be an increase, particularly since we are fulfilling the expectations of SSHRC; Michele M. mentioned that this issue has been raised with SSHRC and the answer was that they would "look into it".

- *Financial Statements*. Robert R. W. Bishop, our accountant, has prepared a *Review of Financial Statements* for fiscal year 2009. It is available for review by the membership and will be published in the *Bulletin*.
- *Current Account.* The financial picture of CSBS is good. To date, we have generated about \$15,750 through dues renewals.
- *Restricted Funds.* To date, the pattern of donations for this fiscal year is down slightly thus far when compared to previous years with \$2,827 (cf. \$2,999 in 2009; \$3,087 in 2008; \$3,593 in 2007; \$3,787 in 2006). The breakdown for this fiscal year is the following:

RBY Scott	\$1,000
Jeremias	\$597
Founder's	\$597
Undesignated	\$633
TOTAL	\$2,827

- *Projected Expenses and Income*. Expenses are calculated on the assumption that the costs for the Congress (including the CSBS dinner), travel grants, and payments from special funds (e.g., student prizes, the Craigie Fund, etc.) are to be self-financing.
- Projected Expenses/Receipts for 2009-2010 (FY10). Bob provided an overview of the numbers.

### LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES ÉTUDES BIBLIQUES 29

Restricted Funds. As of April 30, 2010, our portfolio value with Jennings Capital Inc. was \$118,311.35, including \$44.01 cash on deposit. As a point of reference, at this time last year, our portfolio value as of April 30, 2009 with Jennings Capital was \$90,448, including cash on deposit of \$13,037. The initial investment in 1998 was \$57,000.00. Among other things, the goal of that strategy was to produce income of about \$2,500 per year for CSBS's business. This is happening thanks to the excellent work of Wayne McCready and our endowment committee. Harold R. reported on the society's investments and explained the endowment committee (on behalf of Wayne McCready).

11. Other Business.

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- ESCJ: Terry mentioned that he is now the editor of the series and encouraged submission of manuscripts for publication; Travel volume and Jack Horman's volume to come out soon.
- Kim Stratton mentioned the new 12-month MA in Religion at Carleton beginning in 2011

Adjournment (John McLaughlin/Tyler Williams; passed).

(The minutes were prepared by Philip Harland, June, 2010).

### ROBERT W. R. BISHOP

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### CANADIAN SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUGUST 31, 2010

(Unaudited)

Review Engagement Report Statement of Financial Position Statement of Operations Statement of Changes in Fund Balances Statement of Cash Flows Notes to the Financial Statements

Schedule of Restricted Funds

### **REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT**

To the Directors of Canadian Society of Biblical Studies

<sup>2</sup>I have reviewed the statement of financial position of Canadian Society of Biblical Studies as hat August 31, 2010 and the statements of operations, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended. My review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to me by the Association.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently I do not express an opinion on these financial statements.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these cinancial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

"Robert W.R. Bishop"

February 21, 2011

J. J. J. J. J.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at August 31, 2010

(Unaudited)

		General		Restricted		ESCJ	2010		2009
		Fund		Funds		Fund	 Total		Total
ASSETS									
Cash	\$	25,484	\$	1,132	\$		\$ 26,616	\$	26,093
Accounts receivable		658		-		-	658		1,386
Investments (Note 5)		-		116,859		-	116,859		89,024
Funds held by CCSR (Note 6)		- 13 <u>-</u>	1			11,753	 11,753		11,753
	\$	26,143	\$	117,991	\$	11,753	\$ 155,886	\$	128,256
LIABILITIES									
Accounts payable	\$	7,319	\$		\$		\$ 7,319	\$	
Deferred revenue (Note 4)		658		-			 658	) )	827
		7,977		-	1		7,977		827
FUND BALANCES									
Unrestricted		18,165		-			18,165		11,902
Restricted		-		117,991		11,753	129,744		115,527
		18,165		117,991		11,753	147,909		127,429
	s	26,143	S	117,991	\$	11,753	\$ 155,886	\$	128.256

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS For the Year Ended August 31, 2010 (Unaudited)

			ral Fund	Restric	ted Funds	ESCJI	Fund
<b>)</b>	199	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	200
REVENUE							1.11
-Membership dues	\$	17,242	\$ 15,698	\$	s -	s - s	
SHRC travel grant	*	4,755	4,755	φ -	φ -	ə - >	
CSBS dinner		3,096	5,245		-		
mongress registration		1,540	1,765				
Subscriptions and other		600	117			16122041	
Puonations		-		5,387	5,499		
vestment income (Note 5)		1		17,275	(21,487)	1	
<b>1</b>		27,233	27,580	22,663	(15,988)		
XPENSES	8.20		200				
Accounting and audit		1 910	1 705				
Pank charges		4,810	4,705	-			
Computer software		88	131	-	-		
Songress expenses		226	393	-	-	1997	
raigie Lecture		713	814	-	-	-	
CSBS dinner		-	-		1,065	80 - 10 - 10 - 10	
Pies and memberships		3,126	5,846	-		영상 관계적	
Executive		2,351	2,349	-	-		
Executive Ember travel		4,292	4,914	1.5	-	-	
		4,403	4,922		-		
ffice, printing and postage		88	271		S. 1998	-	
			-	2,000	2,206		
bscriptions		7,319	7,583	-		-	
2		27,416	31,928	2,000	3,271	1.1.1.1	
CESS OF REVENUE						58. MA	
OVER EXPENSES	\$	(183) \$	(4,348) \$	20,663 \$	(19,259) \$	- S	

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

For the Year Ended August 31, 2010

(Unaudited)

	General F	und	Restricte	ed Funds	ESCJ F		
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	
BALANCE, OPENING	\$ 11,902 \$	9,584 \$	103,774	\$ 129,699 \$	11,753 \$	11,753	
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(183)	(4,348)	20,663	(19,259)	- '	handar Al an	
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	6,446	6,666	(6,446)	(6,666)		1016-	
BALANCE, CLOSING	\$ 18,165 \$	11,902 \$	117,991	\$ 103,774 \$	11,753 \$	11,753	

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL STUDIES TATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS For the Year Ended August 31, 2010 Jnaudited)

		General I	Fund	Restricted	d Funds	ESCJ F	und
<u> </u>		2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009
ASH PROVIDED BY (USED FOR)							
PERATIONS							
xcess of revenue over expenses	Ş	(183) \$	(4,348) \$	20,663 \$	(19,259) \$	- \$	
Unrealized change in market value (Note 5)		-		(21,490)	26,727	Sec 10	- 
hanges in non-cash working capital:							
Accounts receivable Investments		169	123	559 (6,344)	(559) (59)	1.00	
Deferred revenue		(169)	(123)	19. T = 1	-		
terfund transfers		6,446	6,666	(6,446)	(6,666)	-	-
HANGE IN CASH		13,582	2,318	(13,059)	184		
ASH, OPENING		11,902	9,584	14,191	14,007		20
ASH, CLOSING	\$	25,484 \$	11,902 \$	1,132 \$	14,191 \$	- \$	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS August 31, 2010 (Unaudited)

### 1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Canadian Society of Biblical Studies is an unincorporated non-profit organization, the purpose of which is to stimulate the critical investigation of the classical biblical literatures, together with other related literature, by the exchange of scholarly research both in published form and in public forum.

The Society is a registered charity and is income tax exempt.

### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### (a) Basis of Presentation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") applicable to a going concern and do not include any adjustments that might be necessary should the Society be unable to continue to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of operations. The Society is dependent upon membership dues, grants, donations and income from investments to support it as a going concern. While the Society has been successful to date in securing such sources of revenue, there can be no assurance that it will be able to do so in the future.

### (b) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### (c) Fund Accounting

Canadian Society of Biblical Studies follows the restricted fund method of accounting.

The General Fund accounts for the operation and maintenance of the Society. This fund reports unrestricted resources.

Various restricted funds account for endowment resources that have been donated for specific purposes. These donations are invested and the income earned thereon is used for grants, prizes and other awards in accordance with donors' wishes.

The ESCJ Fund (Etudes/Studies in Christianity and Judaism) is a publication subsidy program managed through the Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion ("CCSR") -- see Note 6.

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL STUDIES NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS August 31, 2010 (Unaudited)

### SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

### (d) Financial Instruments

Effective September 1, 2006, the Society adopted, on a prospective basis, the recommendations of CICA Handbook Section 3251 "Equity", Section 3855 "Financial Instruments - Recognition and Measurement", Section 3861 "Financial Instruments - Disclosure and Presentation" and Section 3865 "Hedges". These new standards apply on a prospective basis and, accordingly, prior period amounts have not been restated.

Section 3855 prescribes when a financial asset, financial liability or non-financial derivative is to be recognized on the balance sheet and at what amount, requiring fair value or cost-based measures under different circumstances. Under Section 3855, financial instruments must be classified into one of five categories: held-for-trading, held-to-maturity, loans and receivables, available-for-sale financial assets, or other financial liabilities. All financial instruments, including derivatives, are measured in the balance sheet at fair value except for loans and receivables, held to maturity investments, and other financial liabilities which are measured at amortized cost. Subsequent measurement and changes in fair value will depend on their initial classification, as follows: held-for-trading financial assets are measured at fair value and changes in fair value are recognized in net earnings; available-for-sale financial instruments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recorded in other comprehensive income until the investment is derecognized or impaired at which time the amounts would be recorded in net earnings.

Section 3861 establishes standards for presentation of financial instruments and non-financial derivatives, and identifies the information that should be disclosed about them. Under the new standards, policies followed for periods prior to the effective date generally are not reversed and therefore, comparative figures are not restated except for the requirement to restate currency translation adjustments as part of other comprehensive income.

Section 3865 describes when and how hedge accounting can be applied as well as the disclosure requirements. Hedge accounting enables the recording of gains, losses, revenues and expenses from derivative financial instruments in the same period as for those related to the hedged item.

Effective September 1, 2007, the Society adopted the recommendations of CICA Handbook Section 3862 "Financial Instruments – Disclosures", and Section 3863 "Financial Instruments – Presentation". Sections 3862 and 3863 replace Handbook Section 3861 "Financial Instruments – Disclosure and Presentation", revising and enhancing its disclosure requirements, and carrying forward unchanged its presentation requirements. These new handbook sections place increased emphasis on disclosures about the nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments and how the entity manages those risks.

### (e) Capital Assets

No value is accorded to capital assets for reporting purposes. Capital asset purchases are charged as an expenditure in the year of acquisition.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS August 31, 2010 (Unaudited)

### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, continued

### (f) Revenue Recognition

Contributions related to general operations are recognized as revenue in the General Fund in the year services are performed or related expenses are incurred. The Society's share of Congress net revenues is recorded in the General Fund in the year of receipt. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund. Investment income earned by the restricted funds is recognized as income of the designated fund.

### (g) Donated Materials and Services

Donated materials and services are recognized only when their fair value can be reasonably estimated and the materials and services would be paid for by the Society if not donated.

During the year ended August 31, 2010 the value of donated materials and services recorded in the accounts was \$nil (2009 - \$nil).

### 3. CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Recent Accounting Pronouncement -- Not-For-Profit Organizations

Effective September 1, 2012, the Society will adopt the recommendations of CICA Handbook Part III "Accounting Standards for Not-For-Profit Organizations". This Part establishes accounting and financial statement presentation and disclosure standards for not-for-profit organizations. The effect of this new Part on the Society's financial statements has yet to be determined.

### 4. DEFERRED REVENUE

As at August 31, 2010, the Society was owed \$658 by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences ("CFHSS") in connection with Congress 2010 (2009 - \$827). These amounts are shown in the financial statements as deferred revenue.

11	VESTMENT INCOME	Aller to	2010	2009
R	ealized investment income (loss)	\$	(4,215) \$	6,874
U	Inrealized change in market value of investments		21,490	2,074
In	nvestment income	\$	17,275 \$	8,948

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL STUDIES NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS August 31, 2010

### FUNDS HELD BY CCSR

As at August 31, 2010, the amount of \$11,753 was held on behalf of the Society by the Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion. Of this amount, \$3,141 was designated for the ESCJ program and \$8,612 was designated for the UM Book Series.

### CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

The Society's objectives when managing its capital are to safeguard its ability to continue as a going concern in order to pursue its stated purposes.

The Society manages its capital structure and makes adjustments to it in light of changes in economic conditions, the risk characteristics of underlying assets, and the availability of financial resources. The Society is dependent upon external revenue sources in order to fund its activities.

The Society is not subject to any externally imposed working capital requirements or debt covenants.

### FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

### (a) Classification of Financial Instruments

The Society's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, investments in marketable securities, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The Society does not have any hedging instruments.

The Society classifies its cash and cash equivalents, and investments in marketable securities as held-fortrading, which are measured at fair value. Accounts receivable are classified as loans and receivables, which are measured at amortized cost. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities are classified as financial liabilities, which are measured at amortized cost.

### (b) Fair Values

The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities each approximate their fair values due to the short-term maturities of these instruments. The fair value of investments in marketable securities is based on quoted market prices.

### (c) Credit Risk

The Society's accounts receivable do not expose the Society to significant credit risk. The Society has no history of bad debts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS August 31, 2010 (Unaudited)

### 8. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, continued

### (d) Foreign Exchange and Interest Rate Risk

Because the Society's functional currency is the Canadian dollar and all current operations occur within Canada, the Society is not exposed to significant foreign exchange risk. The Society has no debt and so is not exposed to significant interest rate risk.

### (e) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Society will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The ability of the Society to settle its financial obligations with cash depends upon the level of income it derives from its investments and the continued support of its members through dues and donations.

### CANADIAN SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

For the Year Ended August 31, 2010

Jnaudited)

	E	General Endowment		Student Research		RBY Scott Award	č.	N Wagner Award		Publication Fund
APITAL										
Balance, opening	\$	19,277	\$	1.283	\$	16,843	\$	10,321	\$	. 3,481
onations .		3,193		-		1,000	-	1.634	÷.	and in-
Spenditures				-		-		-		
interfund transfers	11.12	-					1	1.00124		-
Balance, closing		22,470		1,283		17,843		10,321		3,481
INCOME ON HAND										
alance, opening		891		235		534		1,357		371
evestment income		3,607		222		2,997		1,784		602
expenditures		-		-		(500)		(500)		-
terfund transfers		(1,331)		(135)	1	(897)	1	(782)		(288)
alance, closing		3,167		322		2,134	-	1,859		685
JND BALANCE, CLOSING	\$	25,637	\$	1,605	\$	19,977	\$	12,180	\$	4,166
					-		-		-	
	04.	Beare Award		Craigie ectureship		Founders' Prize		Jeremias Prize		Total
CAPITAL	04.			•						Total
	\$		Le	ectureship		Prize	\$	Prize	s	t uport
CAPITAL plance, opening ponations	\$	Award	Le	•			\$		\$	97,269
ulance, opening Conations	\$	Award	Le	ectureship		Prize 8,168	\$	Prize 8,967	\$	t uprat
	\$	Award	Le	ectureship		Prize 8,168	\$	Prize 8,967	\$	97,269
plance, opening Ponations Zxpenditures	\$	Award	Le	ectureship		Prize 8,168	\$	Prize 8,967	s	97,269
plance, opening Ponations Xpenditures Perfund transfers	\$	Award 12,097 -	Le	16,832 - -		Prize 8,168 597 -	\$	Prize 8,967 597 -	\$	97,269 5,387 - -
Ulance, opening Conations Expenditures Ferfund transfers Flance, closing COME ON HAND	\$	Award 12,097 -	Le	16,832 - -		Prize 8,168 597 -	\$	Prize 8,967 597 -	\$	97,269 5,387 - - 102,656
plance, opening onations xpenditures erfund transfers lance, closing	\$	Award 12,097 - 12,097 1,157	Le	16,832 - - 16,832 1,167		Prize 8,168 597 - 8,765 324	\$	Prize 8,967 597 - 9,564 469	\$	97,269 5,387 - - 102,656 6,505
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. "Preface." Canada's Big Biblical Bargain: How McGill University Bought the Dead Sea Scrolls, ed. Jason Kalman and Jacqueline du Toit. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2010.

Scott, Mark. "Religious Studies and Popular Fiction: What Does Dan Brown Have to do with the Ivory Tower?" co-authored, *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* 23.1 (Spring 2011)

. "Guarding the Mysteries of Salvation: The Pastoral Pedagogy of Origen's Universalism." *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 18.3 (2010) 347-368.

. "Suffering and Soul-Making: Rethinking John Hick's Theodicy." *Journal of Religion* 90.3 (2010) 313-334.

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Sheinfeld, Shayna and Ann W. Duncan "Recognizing the Whole Student: Balancing Family & Academia." *AAR Religious Studies News* (March 2010).

Timmer, Daniel. "Variegated Nomism Indeed: Multiphase Eschatology and Soteriology in the Qumranite Community Rule (1QS) and the New Perspective on Paul." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 52 (2009) 341-56.

. "The Intertextual Jonah face à l'empire: The Postcolonial Significance of the Book's Cotexts and Purported Neo-Assyrian Context." *Journal of Hebrew Scriptures* 9 (2009) 1-22 (article no. 9). Republished in E. Ben Zvi (ed.), *Perspectives on Hebrew Scriptures* VI (Piscataway: Gorgias, 2010).

. "Character Formed in the Crucible: The Ethical Significance of 'Reverence for YHWH' in Job." *Journal of Theological Interpretation* 3.1 (2009) 1-16.

. "God's Speeches, Job's Responses, and the Problem of Coherence in the Book of Job: Sapiential Pedagogy Revisited." *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 71 (2009) 286-305.

. "Ugaritic Ritual in Epic, Cult, and the Everyday: Paradigms for the Interpenetration of History and Religion in Second-millennium Canaanite Culture." *Revue d'Etudes des Civilisations Anciennes du Proche-Orient* 14 (2008-2009) 17-26.

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. "The Relevance of Paul's Eschatological Ecclesiology for Ecumenical Relations." In *New Perspectives in Believers Church Ecclesiology*, ed. A. Dueck, H. Harder, K. Koop, 30-47. Winnipeg: CMU Press, 2010.

. "On the Exigency of a Messianic Ecclesiology: An Engagement with Philosophical Readers of Paul." In Paul,

*Philosophy, and the Theopolitical,* ed. Doug Harink, 254-281. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2010.

### **Dissertations/Theses Completed**

- Choi, Agnes. Urban-Rural Interaction and the Economy of Lower Galilee. Ph.D., University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, 2010.
- Kobel, Esther. Dining with John. Communal Meals and Identity Formation in the Fourth Gospel and its Historical and Cultural Context?, Ph.D., University of Basel, 2010.
- LaFosse, Mona Tokarek. Age Matters: Age, Aging and Intergenerational Relationships in Early Christian Communities, with a Focus on 1 Timothy 5." Ph.D. Centre for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, 2010.
- Scott, Steven. Raising the Dead: Finding History in Jesus's Raising-of-the-Dead Miracles in the Synoptic Tradition, Ph.D., Department of Religious Studies, University of Ottawa, 2010.
- Thiessen, Matthew. Genealogy, Circumcision, and Conversion in Early Judaism and Christianity, Ph.D., Duke University, 2010.

### Appointments, Promotions, Awards, Honours

- Choi, Agnes. Assistant Professor of New Testament, Pacific Lutheran University.
- Cotter, Wendy. Graduate Program Director for the Department of Theology, Loyola University, Chicago, Fall 2010.
- Ehrlich, Carl S. Schalom-Ben-Chorin-Gastprofessor, University of Munich and University of Regensburg, Germany, Summer Semester 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_. Visiting Professor in Literature and Judaic Studies, University of California – San Diego, Fall Quarter 2010.

### LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES ÉTUDES BIBLIQUES 59

- Holmstedt, Robert D. Promotion to Associate Professor, Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto, July 2010.
- Jonker, Louis C. Promotion to Full Professor, University of Stellenbosch, July 1, 2010.
- Kalimi, Isaac. Fulbright University of Salzburg Distinguished Chair in Intercultural Theology, Zentrum Theologie Interkulturell und Studium der Religionen, Universität Salzburg, Austria (2010-2011).

\_\_\_\_\_. Associate of the Department of New Testament Studies, Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria, Republic of South Africa.

Knoppers, Gerald N. President, Biblical Colloquium (2009-2010).

\_\_\_\_\_. Institute for the Arts and Humanities Residency Fellowship, Fall 2010.

- Levinson, Bernard M. Selected to be Henry Luce Senior Fellow in Religious Studies, National Humanities Center (academic year 2010).
  - \_\_\_\_\_. Elected Fellow of the American Academy for Jewish Research (2010).
  - \_\_\_\_\_. Scholar of the College Award, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota, 2010–2013 academic years.

. Internal Research Award: Imagine Fund for the Arts & Humanities, "When Moses Began to Expound This Torah': Interpreting the Book of Deuteronomy" (2010).

\_\_\_\_\_. Internal Research Award: CLA Faculty Development Leave (2010).

. Internal Research Award: Office of International Programs Refereed Travel Grant, travel to University of Stellenbosch, South Africa (2010).

\_\_\_\_\_. Internal Research Award: CLA Student Technology Fee Grant, "Images of God, Gods, and Heroes in the Bible and Ancient Near East" (2010).

\_\_\_\_\_. Internal Research Award: CLA Student Technology Fee Grant, "Enhancing Academic Integrity" (2010).

### 60 CANADIAN SOCIETY OF BIBLCIAL STUDIES

MacDonald, Margaret Y. Invitation to participate in Colloquium Paulinum, International Paul Colloquium which meets every two years in Rome (paper presentation in September 2010).

\_. President, CSBS, May 2010-May 2011.

- Miller, Daniel. Chair, Religion Department, Bishops University (as of July 2010).
- Miller, David M. Promoted to Associate Professor, Briercrest College and Seminary.
- Reinhartz, Adele. Mentoring Award, Society of Biblical Literature Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession, 2010.
- Schuller, Eileen. Honorary Doctorate, Regis University College, June 2010.
- Scott, Mark. Visiting Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity, Department of Religious Studies University of Missouri-Columbia
- Sheinfeld, Shayna. Religious Studies Graduate Society President 2010-2011, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University.
- Thiessen, Matthew. Two-year appointment as Senior Lecturer in New Testament at the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad (Saskatoon), August 2010.
- Timmer, Daniel. Promotion to Associate Professor of Old Testament, Reformed Theological Seminary (Jackson, MS), 2009.
- Webster, Jane S. Promoted to Professor of Religious Studies, Barton College, 2010.

. Awarded Jefferson-Pilot Faculty Member of the Year, 2010.

### **Research in Progress**

- Ascough, Richard S. 1 & 2 Thessalonians; Greco-Roman associations.
- Batten, Alicia. Dress in Antiquity and in early Christian Literature; Letter of James.

- Ben Zvi, Ehud. Social Memory in Ancient Israel; Chronicles; memories of prophets.
- Boda, Mark. Zechariah (NICOT); Book of the Twelve; Lament volume (edited, LHOBTS); Daughter Zion volume (edited, SBL-OT).
- Duhaime, Jean. "Textes prophétiques et sapientiaux de Qumrân. Contribution à la collection "La Bibliothèque de Qumrân" une nouvelle édition bilingue (langue originale et traduction française) de textes de Qumrân.

- Holmstedt, Robert D. The Holmstedt-Abegg Syntax Database of Ancient Hebrew. A SSHRC-funded project to tag syntactically all ancient Hebrew texts up through the 1st c. C.E. The database is availably publicly through the Accordance Bible software from Oaktree Software; Phoenician and Punic Texts; a volume in production for the SBL Writings from the Ancient World series (with Philip C. Schmitz).
- Humphrey, Edith. "Tradition" in the NT, and in English Translations of the Bible; Embodied Transformation in Paul's Letters and their History of Reception; Mediation and the Immediacy of God; Genre and Significance in Hagiographical Tradition.
- Idestrom, Rebecca G. S. Monograph on The Glory of the Lord in the Old Testament.
- Jeal, Roy R. Commentaries on Colossians and Philemon for the Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity Series.
- Jonker, Louis C. Commentary on Chronicles (NIBCOT); Second Temple Historiography and Jewish Identity (FAT II; Mohr-Siebeck)
- Kloppenborg, John S. Associations in the Graeco-Roman World; Papyrologische Kommentar zum Neuen Testament (Parables); Letter of James.
- Korner, Ralph J. The Corporate Identification of Early Christ-Followers as Ekklēsia and the Expansion of the Jesus Movement in the Greco-Roman World: A Socio-Theological Study.

- Langille, Timothy. Traumatic Memory and Identity Formation in the Ancient Mediterranean.
- MacDonald, Margaret Y. Ongoing work on SSHRC-funded project on children and house churches with collaborators, Adele Reinhartz, Cecilia Wassen, and Carolyn Osiek; Essay on the Disputed Pauline Epistles for Oxford Handbook of Pauline Studies; Essay on the Disputed Pauline Epistles for Oxford Handbook of Pauline Studies.
- Miceli, Calogero A. "Jesus Undressed: Exposing and Analyzing the Literary Symbolism of Clothing, Garments, and Nudity for his Character in the Gospel of Mark"
- Miller, Daniel. Incantations in Ancient Israel: Theory and Practice.
- Reinhartz, Adele. The Bible Goes to the Movies (Routledge Press); Bible and Cinema: Fifty Key Films (Routledge Press).
- Sheinfeld, Shayna. The "Euphrates" as temporal boundary marker for the lost tribes of Israel in pseudepigraphic texts; Questions of Jewish identity in the post-destruction apocalypses, with special emphasis on 2 Baruch and 4 Ezra.

Timmer, Daniel. Thematic study of the non-Israelite nations in the Minor Prophets from a conceptual-coherence perspective.

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