

ABSTRACT

It Is Written:

An Investigation into the Significance of the *γράφεται* Readings in Manuscript 747 of Greek 4 Maccabees

By

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The preparation of the forthcoming edition of 4 Maccabees in the Göttingen Septuaginta series has involved the careful analysis of the more than seventy extant Greek manuscripts of this first century C.E. work. This investigation has yielded a good understanding of the textual history of 4 Maccabees and of the different groups of manuscripts that frequently agree on variant readings to the original text.

The tenth or eleventh century manuscript 747 contains evidence of a great deal of later scribal activity, most of which is attributable to a single scribal hand. The more than 190 variant readings to the original text recorded by this scribe on the margins or between the lines of the original text have been associated in previous research with different textual traditions. Forty-five of these readings are introduced by the letters *γρ*, an abbreviation of *γράφεται*, which means “it is written.” While the collators in Göttingen have acknowledged the presence of these readings, they have not been the subject of much research. This study focuses on these forty-five variants in order to elucidate their nature and significance, both with respect to the textual history of Greek 4 Maccabees and the transmission of the traditions about the Jewish martyrs who died during the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes.

There are two components to this investigation of the *γράφεται* readings in manuscript 747. First, newly developed web-based technology is employed to examine the *γράφεται* readings in order to identify the manuscripts and manuscript groups with which they are most closely aligned. Second, the distinctive aspects of the *γράφεται* readings, in comparison to the relevant portions of the original text of 4 Maccabees, are analyzed.

The present study confirms that both the *γράφεται* readings and the other variants recorded by the same scribe in manuscript 747 exhibit similar patterns of textual affiliation with the other manuscripts and manuscript groups. Furthermore, the *γράφεται* readings are shown to attest to a textual tradition that is characterized most often by stylistic or recessional alterations to the original text. These readings as compared to those of the original text, tend to reinforce or make explicit specific themes that are most prevalent in 4 Maccabees – particularly in the exaggerated descriptions of the protagonists’ piety and in the intensification of their responses to human passions or emotions of various kinds.