

c. Explanation for the Form of the Psalm Titles in the Psalter of the Masoretic Text.

-Thirtle said that the Psalm titles in the Psalter of the Masoretic text originally had both superscriptions and subscriptions, but that in the process of copying the Psalter by hand, the distinction between the subscription of a given Psalm of the Psalm immediately following it was lost. When the Psalms were later separated from one another, as in printed editions, the subscriptions and superscriptions were all set forth as superscriptions, and as a result, the subscription of a given Psalm became either the superscription or part of the superscription of the Psalm immediately following it. Therefore, Thirtle said that the Psalm titles in the Psalter of the Masoretic text have only superscription and no subscriptions.

-Copists left no clear spaces between Psalms to conserve space (this is seen in the DSS). This made separation later difficult.

d. Application of the Theory.

1) Psalm 56. The dove problem.

"The one superintending" goes with Psa. 55.

"A dove of silence" is incorrectly pointed.

|| $\text{דָּוִד} \rightarrow \text{דָּוִד} \text{ from } \text{לָרֵיַךְ} = \text{terebinth (tree)}.$

// -This fits better with the attributive adjective "distant" giving less serious grammatical problems than "silence".

Is then "concerning the dove of the distant terebinths", which goes back to Psa. 55 also.

"By David, etc." stays with Psa. 56.

2) Psalm 88 is discussed above.

e. Evaluation of the Theory.

-There are some Psalms where the titles do not seem to fit the content.

-"Dove" does not fit Psa. 56, but in 55:7 "wings like a dove" occurs.

-Thirtle's examples do seem to make a better connection, but this is only true if the subject matter of the Psalm title has to fit every Psalm.