

サムエル記における『主からの悪い霊』

津村俊夫

ABSTRACT D. T. TSUMURA, “‘An Evil Spirit from the Lord’ in the First Book of Samuel.” The expression, “An Evil Spirit from the Lord” (1 Sam 16:14; also 16:15, 16, 18:10; 19:9), gives the impression that God’s spirit can sometimes be evil. Various suggestions have been made in order to solve this theological problem. Keil & Delitzsch distinguish between “an evil spirit from Jehovah”, which is a “demon” sent by the Lord, and “the Spirit of Jehovah”, who is the spirit of the holy God. According to Vriezen, the fact that not only the good but also the evil comes from Yahweh indicates that he holds the absolute authority over the evil too. Eichrodt also suggests that “the evil spirit from the Lord” is a spiritual power under God’s sovereignty and hence it is not same as an “evil spirit” in contrast to a good spirit in a pagan dualism. McCarter accepts that the evil spirit is “from Yahweh” and he explains it as the one who plays “its part in the working out of the divine plan.”

However, this is not so much a theological as a linguistic problem. The translation “an evil spirit from the Lord” is not adequate for the Hebrew original. We would like to suggest that the phrase רֹחַ הָרָעָה, which is usually translated as “an evil spirit”, should be taken as a construct chain: “a spirit of evilness (or disaster)”, since if רָעָה were an adjective, רֹחַ הָרָעָה (1 Sam 16:23) and רֹחַ יְהוָה הַרָעָה (19:9) would be ungrammatical. This might be supported by the fact that the noun רֹחַ is followed by another noun 128 times (according to acCordance), in comparison with about 20 times when it is modified by an adjective. So רֹחַ הָרָעָה and רֹחַ יְהוָה הַרָעָה had better be translated as “the spirit which brings forth disaster” and “the spirit of Yahweh which brings forth disaster”, taking רָעָה as “objective genitive” (or “genitive of effect”) as in the cases of אֲנָשֵׁי רָעָה (Prov 24:1), which means “men of evil” (i.e. ‘men who do evil to others’), not “evil men”,

and אִשָּׁת זְנוּנִים (Hos 1:2), which means “a wife of whoredom” (NRSV), i.e. “a wife who will, as a result, commit adultery”, not “an adulterous wife” (NIV).