

ヘブル人への手紙 9 章 26 節 a の小辞 ἐπεὶ の訳

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ABSTRACT Yutaka WADA, “The Translation of the Particle ἐπεὶ in Hebrews 9:26a”. There is a subtle difference of translation as to the particle ἐπεὶ in Hebrew 9:26a. For example, ESV has translated it in the resultative sense, “for then”. But NASB do it in the contradictory sense opting to use the conjunction, “otherwise”. From a detailed examination on the use of the particle ἐπεὶ in the New Testament, it is possible to think that the particle ἐπεὶ functions as follows: the author denies his proposition rhetorically in order to show that its consequence is not true. In conclusion, the author restates firmly that his proposition is true.

In this sense, the difference of the translation depends on whether the author intends to assert, “A is B” or “A is not B”. If he intends to assert the positive proposition “A is B”, the meaning of the particle ἐπεὶ will be “otherwise”. On the other hand, if he insists on the negative proposition “A is not B”, the meaning of the said particle will be “for then”. As the author intends to state that Christ doesn’t have to suffer many times since the creation of the world, namely, “A is not B”, the particle ἐπεὶ therefore should be translated as “for then” in Hebrews 9:26a.