

「弱った手と衰えた膝」  
— ヘブル人への手紙 12 章 12 節 —

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**ABSTRACT** Yuzuru MIURA, “The Meaning of ‘Lift your *drooping hands* and strengthen your *weak knees*’ in Hebrews 12:12.” In the NT, these expressions “drooping hands” and “weak knees” are seen only in Hebrews 12:12. However, in the OT these expressions appear several times. Concerning cases where the meaning “drooping hands” is expressed as  $\text{הפך}$  (“to grow slack”) +  $\text{יד}$  (“hand”) in the MT, *HALOT* explains, in its entry for  $\text{הפך}$ , that “with  $\text{יד}$  the hands grow slack, meaning courage fails.” So, in the OT, the expression “drooping hands” can have the meaning “his courage failed/he is discouraged” (e.g., 2 Sam 4:1; 17:2). The expression “weak knees,” expressed as  $\text{כשל}$  (“to stumble”) +  $\text{ברך}$  (“knee”) in the MT, appears mostly together with “drooping hands” in the OT (Isa 35:3; Job 4:3–4). So the meaning of “weak knees” may be considered strongly related to the meaning of “drooping hands.” The phrase “drooping hands” expressed as  $\text{παρήμι}$  (“to be weak”) +  $\text{χείρ}$  (“hand”) in Hebrews 12:12, has as its equivalent the phrase  $\text{παρήμι}/\text{ἐκλύω}/\text{παραλύω}/\text{ἀνίημι}/\text{ἀσθενής}$  +  $\text{χείρ}$  in the LXX. And the phrase “weak knees” expressed as  $\text{παραλύω}$  (“to cause to be feeble”) +  $\text{γόνυ}$  (“knee”) in Hebrews 12:12, has as its equivalent the phrase  $\text{παραλύω}/\text{ἀδυνατέω}/\text{ἀσθενής}$  +  $\text{γόνυ}$  in the LXX. It may be considered that Hebrews 12:12 alluded to Isaiah 35:3. In Isaiah 35, the meaning of “strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees” in v. 3 seems to be rephrased as “be strong; fear not” in v. 4. Likewise, in Hebrews 12, the meaning of “lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees” in v. 12 is complemented by the phrase “you may not grow weary or fainthearted ( $\text{ἐκλυόμενοι}$ )” in v. 3 and “nor be weary ( $\text{ἐκλύου}$ )” in v. 5. Thus, Hebrews 12:12 is a repetition of the exhortations of vv. 3 and 5.