

## 御使いの歌の並行法について

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**ABSTRACT** Hikaru KUMON, “Parallelism in the Angels’ Song (Luke 2:14).” The meaning of the Angel’s song (Luke 2:14) has been debated for some time among commentators, but a consensus on its meaning is yet to arise. A particular problem in analysis of this song is that there has been very little insight from Old Testament studies given to help shine light on the meaning of the song. In this article, I show how studies in Hebrew lexicography, as well as Hebrew parallelism can help to illuminate the meaning of the song. First, contrary to recent studies on the meaning of ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκίας, I show that the term should not be understood in terms of election. Rather the term is to be understood in terms of Hebrew *rāṣōn* with the meaning “to be accepted.” In their multilingual context, it is realistic that Greek speaking Jews of Judea would have been familiar enough with their Hebrew literature to intuitively recognize this concept. The fact that the concept fits naturally into the song supports this assumption. Second, I show that the song should be understood as a tricolon, with the structure, introduction-development-closure. The first line introduces the song by depicting God in his place of authority (ὕψιστοις). God deserves to be recognized for his glorious rule, although at this point, it is not yet clear why. The second line develops the first line by explaining how God’s rule affects the earth. God’s rule leads to peace, or *šālōm*, a state whereby one has nothing more to worry about, since all problems have been solved. This state of affairs has been given to people through the birth of Christ. The third line provides closure to the first two lines, by designating the people to whom the first two lines apply. Peace is not given to all, but only to those who have been accepted by God. Also, the glory of God in the heavens is not recognized by all on earth, but only by those who have been accepted by Him. This situation is exhibited by the shepherds, who glorified God after they had seen Christ (Luke 2:20). A true appreciation of the Angel’s song

requires one to recognize the graveness of the human situation after the fall, and the surprising willingness of God to provide a way for peace between Him and rebellious humans, actualized in the salvation of a portion of accepted people through the propitiation in Christ.