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0521817234 - An Aramaic Approach to Q: Sources for the Gospels of Matthew and Luke

Maurice Casey

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## AN ARAMAIC APPROACH TO Q

This is the first book to examine the Aramaic dimension of Q since the Aramaic Dead Sea scrolls made such work more feasible. Maurice Casey gives a detailed examination of Matthew 23.23–36 and Luke 11.39–51 and demonstrates that the evangelists used two different Greek translations of an Aramaic source, which can be reconstructed. He overturns the conventional model of Q as a single Greek document, and shows that Jesus said everything in the original Aramaic source. His further analysis of Matthew 11.2–19 and Luke 7.18–35 shows the evangelists editing one Greek translation of an Aramaic source. The same is true of Matthew 12.22–32//Luke 11.14–23, for which Mark (3.20–31) utilised a different Aramaic source. A complex model of Q is thus proposed. Casey offers a compelling argument that Aramaic sources behind part of Q are of extremely early date, and should make a significant contribution to the quest of the historical Jesus.

MAURICE CASEY is Professor of New Testament Languages and Literature at the Department of Theology of the University of Nottingham. He is a member of the *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas* and the author of *Aramaic Sources of Mark's Gospel* (Cambridge University Press, 1998).

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**MAURICE CASEY**

*University of Nottingham*



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## PREFACE

This book was written in 1994–99. In 1994–96, I held a British Academy Research Readership awarded for me to write *Aramaic Sources of Mark's Gospel* (SNTS.MS 102. Cambridge, 1998), as well as this book. The publication of the rest of the Aramaic Dead Sea scrolls in 1994 enabled more fruitful work to be done than I had planned, but at the same time it ruined the proposed timetable for completing the two books. I am extremely grateful to the Academy for this award, which enabled me to complete a major piece of research, including all the Aramaic for this book as well as the previous one. Other duties and engagements have contributed to the subsequent delay.

I am also grateful to all those who have discussed with me the problems of method and of detail which this work has entailed. I effectively began this research while reading for a doctorate at Durham University under Professor C. K. Barrett, whose extraordinary combination of learning and helpfulness with lack of bureaucracy or interference remains a model to which one can only aspire. I would particularly like to thank also the late Professor M. Black, Professor G. J. Brooke, Professor B. D. Chilton, Professor J. A. Fitzmyer, Professor M. D. Goulder, Professor R. Kearns, the late Professor B. Lindars, Professor M. Müller, Professor C. M. Tuckett and Professor M. Wilcox. I would also like to thank members of the Aramaic Background and Historical Jesus seminars at SNTS, the Jesus seminar at meetings of British New Testament scholars, and an annual seminar on the Use of the Old Testament in the New now generally held at Hawarden, for what I have learnt from them. I alone am responsible for what I have said.

I would also like to thank Professor A. C. Thiselton, Head of the Department of Theology at the University of Nottingham 1992–2000, for his impartial and unfailing support of work; my Nottingham colleagues Dr R. H. Bell and Rabbi Dr S. D. Kunin for many hours spent sorting out problems with the word processors on which these books were written; and the libraries of Durham University, St Andrews University, SOAS and the British Library for the facilities necessary for advanced scholarly work.

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Most abbreviations are standard. Those for biblical books follow the recommendations of CUP; those for periodicals and series of monographs follow S. Schwertner, *International Glossary of Abbreviations for Theology and Related Subjects* (Berlin and New York, 1974); most others follow the recommendations for contributors to the *Journal of Biblical Literature* 117 (1998). Others are as follows:

ABRL	Anchor Bible Reference Library
ANRW	H. Temporini and W. Haase (eds. ), <i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i> (many vols., Berlin, 1972–).
cur	Curetonian
DSD	<i>Dead Sea Discoveries</i>
ET	English Translation
hark	Harklean
JSP	<i>Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha</i>
JSP.S	Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha Supplement Series
MPIL	Monographs of the Peshitta Institute, Leiden
palsyrlec	Palestinian Syriac Lectionary
sin	Sinaitic Syriac