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Miscellanea

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Miscellanea.

3.

Maria hat den Auferstandenen erkannt, V. 16. Sie will vor ihm niederfallen, ihn anrühren. Doch wehrt er ihr das, V. 17. Bei den andern Weibern, Matth. 28, 9, und bei Thomas erkaubte er es, Joh. 20, 27. Er muß seinen Grund gehabt haben, warum er es hier berdot. Wir gehen gewiß nicht fehl, wenn wir sagen, daß ein Grund der gewesen sein wird, daß sie meinte, der alte, vertraute, sichtbare Verstehr würde nun wieder aufgenommen werden. Er hält ihr vor, daß es nun anders werden soll. Maria läßt sich belehren und läßt sich in ihrer Osterfreude nicht dadurch stören, daß sie Jesum nicht anrühren darf.

Bir lassen uns oft badurch baran hindern, uns der rechten Ostersfreude hinzugeben, daß wir ihn auch gerne sehen und fühlen möchten. (Aussühren!) Wir vergessen, daß eben in diesem Leben uns das nicht vergönnt ist, daß erst droben die selige Zeit kommen wird, da wir ihn schauen werden, 1 Petr. 1, 8. Lassen wir uns dadurch nicht von unserer Ostersreude abhalten, sondern glauben wir gewiß, Matth. 28, 20; Ps. 91, 15. Gehen wir in dieser Freude hin und verkündigen auch andern, was er an uns getan hat. Dann wird je länger, je mehr Trauer und Niedergeschlagenheit schwinden und selige Ostersreude unser Herz erfüllen.

Miscellanea.

"Ilm ber Engel willen."

Die Stelle 1 Ror. 11, 10 gehört bekanntlich gu ben intereffanteften cruces interpretum im Neuen Testament, und man hat sonderlich darüber viel spekuliert, ob es sich hier um gute oder um boje Engel handelt. Ob je eine allseitig befriedigende Löfung ber Schwierigkeit gefunden werben wird, ift schwer zu fagen; aber in Beft 2 ber "Beitschrift für bie neutestaments liche Biffenfchaft", 1931, bietet Lie. 28. Förfter = Münfter eine intereffante Parallele aus dem babylonischen Talmud, deren exegetische Möglichkeiten er aber nicht weiter bistutiert. Die betreffende Stelle lautet fo: "Und auch aus [einem Ereignis mit] R. Nahman b. Jichaq ist zu entnehmen, bag Jisrael bem Glüdsftern nicht unterliege. Die Chalbaer fprachen nämlich zur Mutter des R. Nahman b. Jichaq: Dein Sohn wird ein Dieb fein. Da ließ fie ihn nicht barhaupt geben, indem fie zu ihm fprach: Bedede dein Haupt, damit du Gottesfurcht habest, und flehe um Erbarmen. Er wußte aber nicht, weshalb fie ihm bies fage. Ginft fag er unter einer Dattels palme und studierte, und als ihm das Tuch vom Haupte glitt, erhob er die Augen und bemerkte die Balme; ba bemächtigte fich seiner ber bose Trieb, und er Metterte hinauf und big eine Traube mit den Zähnen ab." Förster erklärt dann weiter: "Man muß sich, um die vorliegende Parals lelität gang zu begreifen, bor Augen halten, daß der "bose Triebe unter manden andern Gebankengangen auch verselbständigt wird und mit Cams mael (= Satan) gleichgesett wird. Lia robs appellous würde bann auf bie Berfuchlichfeit burch "Mächte" im allgemeinen anspielen, nicht auf Ber-

führung durch lüfterne Damonen." Beim Nachlesen über biesen Buntt fiel und aud ein Artifel im American Journal of Archeology (1931, Nr. 4) in die Sande, der unter bem Titel "Veiled Ladies" die gange Frage ber Berfchleierung ber Frauen nicht nur im fernen Orient, sondern auch gerade in Griechenland behandelt. Die Behauptung des Berfassers ift: "When married women appeared in public, their faces were veiled up to their eyes." Er ftütt seine Behauptung nicht nur auf Aussprachen in berschies benen griechischen Schriftstellern, sonbern hauptsächlich auf archäologische Funde, die in Statuen und fonftigen Darftellungen die gewöhnliche Frauentracht prafentieren. Burde fein besonderer Schleier ober fein besonderes Ropftuch getragen, so brauchte die ehrbare Matrone den obersten Teil ihres Mantels. Aber es galt in Griechenland wie im Orient: ber öffentliche Unftand berlangte bei allen ehrbaren berheirateten Frauen Bededung bes Hauptes und bes (unteren) Gesichtes, wogegen die öffentlichen Dirnen ohne folde Bededung erideinen mußten. "The hierodule who is married to a man is to be veiled in the street; the one who is not married to a man is to have her head uncovered in the street and is not to veil herself. The harlot is not to veil herself; her head is to be uncovered."

Baptize - Wash.

Among the supposedly strongest arguments of the various immersionists is the assertion that the verb βαπτίζειν invariably and under all circumstances means "to immerse" and that for this reason alone, if for no other, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism must be administered by immersion. It is evident from the outset that the reference of the sectarians to the various baptismal commands and to passages relating to the Sacrament in which either the verb or the noun is an argumentum in circulo. To find out the meaning of the verb βαπτίζειν, we must consult passages in which there is some explanation of the act in its customary usage. Such a passage is Mark 7, 2 ff., where not only the entire context (of the washing of the sofas and larger utensils) militates against the full submersion of such pieces of furniture before each meal, but the use of synonyms, real or implied, indicates that immersing, or submerging, is not meant. V. 4 has βαπτίσωνται, but the previous verse has νίψωνται, and while baptismoi is used of the washing of the various utensils, etc., the word for "defiled" hands is given in a synonym as aniptoi, showing that baptizein and niptein are used indiscriminately. Further evidence against the immersionists is furnished in Matt. 15, 2 ff., where the same custom is referred to as in Mark 7, but the verb niptein only is used, also in v. 20. On the other hand, Luke 11, 38, speaking of the same ceremony, uses the verb baptizein. The fact that baptizein is a synonym for "washing" is further substantiated by the use of the verb in the papyri. Moulton and Milligan (Vocabulary of the Greek Testament, II, 102) quote two of these, one in which baptizein is used of the washing of feet and one in which it is synonymous with louein. The compilers therefore suggest for Luke 11, 38: "its use to express ceremonial ablution." If one adds to these linguistic considerations the fact that even the Didache, at the beginning of the second century, speaks of the administration of Holy Baptism by pouring, the principal argument of the immersionists is found inadequate.

K.

Miscellanea.

Nabonidus - Belshazzar

For decades after Higher Criticism in its worst form had undertaken to pluck the Old Testament to pieces, the attacks of many of its chief proponents centered with special eagerness on the Book of Daniel. The chapter which seemed to provoke criticism more than any other was chapter 5, especially vv. 16 and 29, concerning Daniel's being made the third in the kingdom. It was denied that Belshazzar was king or had the power of king, that he was the son or grandson of Nebuchadrezzar, that he was in charge of Babylon at the time of its capture by the troops of Gobryas under King Cyrus, etc. In answer to these criticisms Dr. Robert Dick Wilson, in 1917, published his Studies in the Book of Daniel, in which he offers evidence: 1. that there was a Bel-shar-usur: 2. that he was the son of Nabunaid; 3. that he was "the first-born son" of Nabunaid, the "son of the king" par excellence. Nabunaid expressly calls Belshazzar his first-born son, just as Nebuchadnezzar calls himself the maru reshtu of Nabopolassar: 4. that he commanded the armies of the king of Babylon in the province of Accad (Akkad), certainly from the seventh to the twelfth year of Nabunaid and, for all that we know to the contrary, during the whole reign of Nabunaid; and that in certain kingly functions he is associated with his father as early as the twelfth year of the reign of Nabunaid; 5. that between the sixteenth day of the fourth month of the seventeenth year of Nabunaid and the eleventh day of the eighth month the son of the king was in command of the Babylonians in the citadel of Babylon and was the de-facto king of Babylon, inasmuch as Nabunaid had been captured; 6. that, if we accept the most probable rendering of the signs in the Nebunaid-Cyrus Chronicle, II, 23, this son of the king was killed in the night when the citadel of Babylon was taken by the troops of Cyrus under Gobryas. Dr. Wilson's study was made from an avowedly sympathetic standpoint, although strictly objective in character throughout. It is all the more remarkable therefore that in a very recent study covering a part of the same field, Nabonidus and Belshazzar, by Raymond Philip Dougherty of Yale University, the same objective conclusions are arrived at from an independent study of the original documents and apparently without any reference to the work of Wilson. The author offers evidence to show that, while Amel-Marduk (Evil-Merodach) was the son of Nebuchadrezzar, Neriglissar as well as Nabonidus were sons-in-law of the second king of the dynasty and that Belshazzar was the son of Nabonidus. It is further shown that Nabonidus spent the greater part of his reign outside of Babylon, mainly at Tema, a city in an oasis of Arabia, which he had captured. During this absence from Babylon he entrusted the kingship to his son Belshazzar, and the latter acted as a coregent until the end of the Neo-Babylonian empire. The author, who clearly holds no brief for the a-priori truth of the inspiration, nevertheless states: "The fifth chapter of Daniel is in remarkable harmony with such a state of affairs. It describes a situation in which a man meriting royal favor could be rewarded by being made the third ruler in the kingdom." (P. 196.) Every step in the further study of contemporaneous evidence brings further corroboration of the truth of Scriptures.