

QUMRAN

of words he believes to be a long insertion at line 12 of the previous column which reads

[... אשר אמר ע] לִי מוֹשֶׁה כִּי אֵיבֹל הוּא [יבֹל הוּא] הִ קֹדֶשׁ [תהיה לכמה]

I have not believed it necessary to enter into detailed discussion of Milik's reconstructions since that would lead me far astray from my subject. My interest is in the Melchizedek material of the document, and most of the reconstructions of Milik do not affect that material. Also I have not seen fit to fill out the lacunae of the text as completely as Milik has because again such an attempt would of necessity lead me far from my main subject. It is inevitable that except for Biblical quotations the extensive filling of lacunae involves one in a process of conjecture which renders the likelihood of the entire text being correct as very small. In short, I have been content with more holes and more certainty. My own conjectured readings have been, I hope, restrained. In any case I have tried to base nothing of central importance upon my reconstructions. Following my translation I have made a few notes on the text which justify in part some of my readings.

I present below a translation of the 11Q Melchizedek.

11Q MELCHIZEDEK

1. [saying to Zion] 'your *Elohim* reigns.' ... [
2. [] ... and where it says, 'In [this] year of jubilee you shall return, each man to his possession.'
3. [and where it says, 'Let] every holder of a debt [let drop] what he loans [to his neighbor. Let him not exact payment from his neighbor nor from his brother, for there is proclaimed a] remission
4. [of *El*.] Its interpretation concerns the e]nd of days as regards 'those taken captive' who [] where] it says (?)
5. ... MH ... Y H ... and from the possession of Melchizedek p[riest of *El* (?)] their B ... [Melchized]ek who
6. will bring them back to them and will 'proclaim release' to them [to atone (?)] for their iniquities, and [] ... []
7. In the year (?) of the last jubilee he has sai[d t]ha[t...] Beli[al], and he will [] RYM h[e] . [] the [t]enth [ju]bilee