



*The Beth Säprä  
Peshittä Project*

*Volume 25*

*The Third Epistle of Saint John*

*Edited, Inscribed, and Illuminated  
by John Marucci*

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# Introduction

Sometimes, when we leaf through the pages of the ancient and medieval scribes, we find unbelievable treasures. For me, one such treasure is the Peshittä, the version of the Bible preserved by Middle Eastern and Indian Christianity in Aramaic, the language Jesus Christ spoke. A treasure which I have pursued for many years.

As many besides myself have found, the pursuit of the Peshittä's treasures, and a working knowledge of the Aramaic language, are not easily obtained. Unless you are one of the blessed few who belong to a Church community which uses Aramaic, or have access to one of the very few universities that teach Syriac-Aramaic, your quest is fraught with difficulty. Out of print books, outrageously expensive books, poorly printed illegible books, and books written in obtuse shcolareeze are but the first of many obstacles to be encountered.

I have undertaken the *Beth Säprä Peshittä Project* to help offset some of these difficulties. My first goal is to create a Peshittä text which is accurate, legible, and attractive. This electronic edition is the first public step towards that goal.

The reader is advised to treat this preliminary electronic edition as a rough draft which may contain both textual and orthographic errors. God willing, I will be able to edit the text against a critical edition of the Peshittä, add proper punctuation, and fix a few minor but annoying issues with the orthography and illumination

# *Acknowledgments*

A heartfelt thank you to Paul Younan, the owner of peshitta.org, for generously providing a home for Beth Säprä on the world wide web. Many thanks also to the participants at the peshitta.org forum for helping provide the motivation to continue with this project. Another big thank you to my wife, Laurie, for her long years of support in what often seemed a fruitless venture. Finally, I would like to acknowledge my debt as a Christian to all those who have gone before me in faith. Christian Tradition, in its simplest sense, is the passing on of faith from one generation to the next, from Abraham to the present. We have received the Peshittä as part of this faith tradition, and none of this work would be possible without the countless generations which have preceded us in faith. To each and everyone, thank you.



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