

## Identifying Bible Interpolations: The Lying Pen of the Scribes

Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man IF IT BE LAWFUL TO CALL HIM A MAN, for he was a doer of wonders, A TEACHER OF SUCH MEN AS RECEIVE THE TRUTH WITH PLEASURE. He drew many after him BOTH OF THE JEWS AND THE GENTILES. HE WAS THE CHRIST. When Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, FOR HE APPEARED TO THEM ALIVE AGAIN THE THIRD DAY, AS THE DIVINE PROPHETS HAD FORETOLD THESE AND TEN THOUSAND OTHER WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT HIM, and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day (Josephus, *Antiquities* 18:63-64).

John Meier, *A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus* (Doubleday, 1991), Vol I, pp. 57-88

**Jeremiah 8:8** “How can you say, ‘We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us? But, behold, *the false [lying] pen of the scribes has made it into a lie.* RSV

“Assuredly, for naught has the pen labored, for naught the scribes,” JPS

**Psalms 51:16** For thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, thou wouldst not be pleased. <sup>17</sup> The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. <sup>18</sup> ~~Do good to Zion in thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem;~~ <sup>19</sup> ~~then wilt thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on thy altar.~~

**Isaiah 56:6** “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the sabbath, and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant — <sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; ~~their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar;~~ for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.