

The Old English Bede

Set Text:

The Old English Version of Bede's Historia Ecclesiastica...

Miller: Translation available at http://www.yorku.ca/inpar/Bede_Miller.pdf

Selections From:

Book 3, Chapters 9/11; 14/16-19

Book 5, Chapter 2

Supplementary Reading:

Biggam, C. P. "Grund to Hrof: Aspects of the Old English Semantics of Building and Architecture".

Architectural History 45 (2002), 49-65.

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0066-622X%282002%2945%3C49%3AGTHAOT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-O>

A discussion of the vocabulary and semiotics of architecture and space, with special reference to the Anglo-Saxon material culture expressed in three miracle stories of the Old English *Bede*.

The following text is taken from the *Dictionary of Old English Corpus in Electronic Form*. Parentheses at the start of each sentence contain the chapter, page, and line number of the sentence in Miller's EETS edition of the text. The translation component of this text can be found at the above link.

Please note: This Old English text is provided for those who wish to use it, but working from Miller's translation should be quite sufficient where there is a language barrier (or a lack of time!).

Book 3, Chapter 9/11

[020100 (9.182.9)] Betweoh ðas ðing nis to forswigienne, hwelc heofonlic wundor & mægen æteawed wæs, þa his ban funden & gemeted wæron & to þære cirican gelædde, þær heo nu gehealden syndon.

[020200 (9.182.11)] Wæs þis geworden þurh Osþryðe geornnesse Mercna cwene, seo wæs oswiges dohtor his broðor, se æfter him feng to norðanhymbra riice.

[020300 (9.182.15)] Is æðele mynster in Lindesse; is nemned Beardan ea.

[020400 (9.182.15)] Ðæt mynster seo ilce cwen mid hire were æþelrede swiðe lufade & arweorðade & beeode.

[020500 (9.182.17)] In þam heo wilnade gehealdan þa arwyrðan ban hire fædran.

[020600 (9.182.18)] Mid þy se wægn þa cwom, þe þa baan in leded wæron, in þæt foresprecene mynster, þa ne woldon þa hiwan him, þe in þæm mynstre wæron, lustlice onfoon.

[020700 (9.182.20)] Forþon þeah þe heo hine haligne wisten, hwæðre forðon þe he of <oferre> mægþe wæs & ofer heo rice onfeng, ealdum feoungum hine eac swylce deadne ehton.

[020800 (9.182.23)] Ða wæs geworden, þætte þære seolfan neahte þa brohton ban ute awunedon, nemne mon geteld ofer abrædde.

[020900 (9.182.24)] Ac seo æteawnis heofonlices wundres geopenade, hu arwyrðlice heo wæron to underfonne eallum geleafsumum.

[021000 (9.182.26)] Forðon ealle þa niht stod swylce beorht sunbeam from þæm wægne up oð heofon heah, þone mon meahte lytesne of ealre lindesse stowum sweetole geseon.

[021100 (9.182.28)] Þa hit þa wæs on marne dæg geworden, þa ongunnon þa broðor þæs mynstres, þa ðe ær wiðsocon, geornlice biddan, þætte mid him þa halgan reliquias & Gode þa leofan gehealdne beon moston.

[021200 (9.182.31)] Ond heo þa ða baan onþwogon & in cyste gedydon & in cirican æfter gerisenre aare gesetton.

[021300 (9.182.33)] Ond þætte se cynelica had þæs halgan weres ece gemynd hæfde, his segen, se wæs mid golde & mid godwebbe gefrætwað, & ofer his byrgenne geseted.

[021400 (9.184.2)] Ond þæt seolfæ wæter, þæt heo þa baan mid þwogon, guton in ænne ende þære cirican.

[021500 (9.184.4)] Of þære tide wæs geworden, þætte seo seolf eorðe, þe þæt arwyrðe bæð onfeng, meahste to hælo feondseocra monna & oðerra untrymnessa.

[021600 (9.184.7)] Gelomp þæt æfterfylgendre tide, mid þy seo foresprecene cwen wæs wuniende in þæm ylcan mynstre, þa cwom sum arwyrðe abbudesse to hire, seo wæs haten æþelhild; wæs sweostor þara haligra wera æðelwines & Aldwines.

[021700 (9.184.10)] Þara wæs oðer biscop in Lindesse, oðer wæs abbud in þæm mynstre þe hatte Peortanea, from þæm mynstre unfeor wæs þære abbudessan mynster.

[021800 (9.184.12)] Mid þy heo þa to þære cwene cwom, & heo gesprecen hæfdon, & betweoh oðer spræcon heo be Oswalde, cwæð heo seo abbudesse, þæt heo gesawe þære nihte þæt leoht ofer his banum up oð heofon heah.

[021900 (9.184.15)] Cwæð heo seo cwen, þætte of þære moldan þæs flores, in þæm þæt wæter his bana þweales goten wæs, monige untrume gehælede wæron.

[022000 (9.184.17)] Ond heo þa bæd, þæt hire mon sumne dæl þære halwendan moldan sealde; & hire mon swa dyde; & heo þa in claðe bebond & in cyste dyde & hire ham ferde.

[022100 (9.184.20)] Þa æfterfylgendre tide, seopþon heo in hire mynstre wæs, þætte þider cwom sum cuma, se wæs neahlicum tidum semninga from unclænum gaste hefiglice swenced.

[022200 (9.184.22)] Þa wæs he fremsumlice onfongen; & æfter his æfengereorde hine gerestan wolde.

[022300 (9.184.24)] Þa wæs he semninga from deofle gerisen, & ongon cleopian & hlydan & mid his toðum gristbitian, & þa faam of his muðe ut eode, & he missenlecum styrenessum ongon his leomu þræstan.

[022400 (9.184.27)] Mid þy hine þa nænig mon ne gehabban ne gebindan meahste, þa orn sum þegn & sloh tacen æt geate, & sægde þære abbudessan.

[022500 (9.184.29)] Ond heo sona þæt geat þæs mynstres ontynde, & eode mid ane hire þinenna to þære wæpnedmonna stowe, & gehet þone mæssepreost to hire, þæt he sceolde mid heo gan to þam untruman men.

[022600 (9.184.32)] Þa heo þa ðider cwomon, þa gesawon heo þær monige men æt him beon, þa ðe georne ongunnon, þæt heo his wedenheortnisse gestilden; ac heo ne meahston.

[022700 (9.184.34)] Song he se mæssepreost & rædde orationem, þa ðe wið þære aðle awritene wæron, & þa þing dyde, þe he selust wið þon cuðe; & he hwæðre noht on þon fremede.

[022800 (9.186.1)] Mid þy heora þa nænig ænige helpe him findan meahste, þa cwom semninga þære abbudessan in gemynd seo foresprecene molde.

[022900 (9.186.3)] Ða het heo sona hira þinenne gaan & þa cyste hire to gefetigan, þe seo molde in wæs.

[023000 (9.186.5)] Ða heo þa mid þa cyste in þone cafertun eode þæs huses, þe se feondseoca mon in þræsted wæs, þa geswigade he semninga & his heafod onhylde, swa swa he slapan wolde, & his leomu in stilnesse gesette.

[023100 (9.186.8)] Ða swigodon heo eac ealle & stille wæron; & sorgiende bidon to hwon his þing weorðan scolde.

[023200 (9.186.9)] Ða wæs efter medmicelre tide fæce ðæt he upp asæt & hefiglice asworette & cwæð: Nu ic wat teala, & ic onfeng gewit mines modes.

[023300 (9.186.12)] Ond heo þa geornlice hine ahsodon, hu þæt gelumpe.

[023400 (9.186.13)] Cwæð he: Sona mid þy þe seo fæmne mid þære cyste, þe heo bær, geneolecte þæm cafertune þæs huses, þa gewiton ealle þa wergan gastas onweg, þa ðe mec swencton & þrycton, & mec forleton & nower seoðþan æteawdon.

[023500 (9.186.16)] Ða sealde seo abbudisse him sumne dæl þære moldan; & seo mæssepreost orationem rædde, & heo for hine gebædon: & he ða niht ealle hal & gesund hine reste.

[023600 (9.186.18)] Ond siðþan of þære tide þa wrygedan gastas hine mid nænige ege ne mid geswencnisse gretan dorston.

Book 3, Chapter 14/16-19 (selection)

[033200 (14.200.27)] Ðonne secgeað monige, þa þe hit gearuwe cuðon, oðer gemyndelic wundor þæs ilcan fæder.

[033300 (14.200.28)] Ðæt gelomp in þa tid his biscophada, þætte Penda Mercna cyning gelædde here on Norðanhymbra lond, & hit feor & wide mid arlease wæle hyðde & hergode.

[033400 (14.200.31)] Ða becwom he æt nyhstan to þære cynelecan byrig, seo is nemned Bebbanburg.

[033500 (14.200.32)] Ða he þa geseah, þæt seo burg wæs to þon fæst, þæt he ne meahste ne mid gefeohte ne mid ymbsete heo abreccan ne gegan, þa wolde he mid fyre forbærnan.

[033600 (14.202.2)] Aslat þa þa tunas ealle ymb þa burg onwæg, <ðe> he þær on neaweste gemette, & to þære byrig gewæg, & micelne ad gesomnade on beamum & on ræftrum & on wagum & on watum & on ðeacon; & mid þissum þa burg mid micelre heannisse ymbsealde from þæm dæle, þe heo londe geþeoded is.

[033700 (14.202.7)] Þa hit þa wæs wel gewinde in þa burg, þa onbærnde he þone aad & þa burg forbærnan wolde.

[033800 (14.202.9)] Ða in þa seolfan tid wæs se arwyrða biscop & se halga Aidan in Farne þæm ealonde, þæt is on twæm milum from þære byrig ut on sæ.

[033900 (14.202.11)] Wæs his gewuna þæt he ða stowe gelomlice sohte for intingan stilnesse & his deagolra gebeda, ond mon mæg gen to dæge þa stowe his seðles on þæm ilcan ealonde sceawian.

[034000 (14.202.13)] Þa he þa se biscop geseah swapendum windum þone leg þæs fyres & þone rec up ofer þære burge wallas ahefenne, is sægd, þæt he his eagan mid his hondum to heofonum hofe & mid tearum þus cwæde: þu ðrihten, geseoh hu micel yfel Penda wyrceð.

[034100 (14.202.17)] Ond þa sona instæpe oncerde se wind from þære byrig, & se leg & seo hætu rædde on þa seolfan, þe þæt fyr ældon & bærndon, & monig monn swiðe gewyrdledon.

[034200 (14.202.20)] & heo ealle afyrhte onweg flugon & blunnon þa burg afehton, þa heo ongeton þæt heo godcundlice gescilded wæs.

[034300 (14.202.23)] Ða ðæt ða gen wæs, þæt þa ger gefylled wæron his biscophada, þæt he þis deaðlice lif forlætan sceolde, & he untrum wæs, þa wæs he in þæm cynelecan tune noht feorr from þære byrig, þe we ær foresprecende wæron, in þæm he hæfde cirican & cytan.

[034400 (14.202.26)] & his gewuna wæs, þæt he gelomlice þider cerde & þær wunade, & þonon eode gehwyder ymb, & þær godcunde lare bodade & lærde.

[034500 (14.202.29)] Ðæt eac swilce his þeaw wæs on oðrum cyninges tune to donne, swa swa hit eaðe beon mihte, forðon þe he nowiht agnes hæfde, butan his cyricean & þær to feower æceras.

[034600 (14.202.31)] Þa aslogon his geferan teld, þa he untrum wæs, on westan þære cirican fæst.

[034700 (14.204.1)] Þa gelomp, þa he forðferan scolde, þæt he genom þa studu, þe seo cirice mid awreðed wæs, & on þære styðe stondende forðferde ymb feowertyno ger, þæs þe he biscop wæs, ærran dæge *Kalendarum Septembrium*.

[034800 (14.204.5)] Lædde mon his lichoman to Lindesfarena ea, & in broðra lictune wæs bebyrged.

[034900 (14.204.6)] Ða wæs æfterfylgendre tide, mid þy þær mare cirice getimbred wæs & in Sancte Petres noman þæs aldorapostoles wæs gehalgod, þæt heo his ban upp adydon & in þa cirican in suphealfe þæs wigbedes asetton æfter arwyrðnesse swa micles biscopes.

[035000 (14.204.10)] Æfter him fylgde in þone biscophad Fiinan, se wæs eac from Hii Scotta mynstre & ealonde sended, & londe tiid biscop wæs.

[035100 (14.204.13)] Ða gelomp æfter unmonegum gearum, þætte Penda Mercnacyning cwom mid Mercna here in þa stowe, & all þa ðæ he meahte, mid iserne & fyres lege fornom & forleas, & swylce eac þone tun, þe se biscop in forðferde, ætgædre mid þa gemyndgedan cirican fyre forbærnde.

[035200 (14.204.17)] Ac wundorlice gemete þa studu ane, þe se biscop onhleoniende forðferde, þæt fyr gretan ne meahte.

[035300 (14.204.18)] Ða þis wundor þus gecyðed wæs, timbrede mon hraðe eft þa cirican & þa ilcan studu utan togesette to trymnesse þæs wages, swa swa heo ær wæs.

[035400 (14.204.20)] Eft gelomp æfter tida fæce <þurh> ungemænne synne, þætte se ilca tun forborn & seo ilce cirice ætgædre wæs mid fyre fornumen.

[035500 (14.204.22)] Ac hwæðre se leg þa ilcan studu gehrinan ne meahte, & mid micle wundre, þætte se leg <þurhæt> þa næglas in þæm þyrelum, þe heo mid þæm to þæm timbre gefæstnad wæs, & hwæðre þa stuðo sceðþan ne meahte.

[035600 (14.204.25)] Ða timbrode mon þridan siðe þa cirican þær; & þa ilcan studu nales swa swa ær uton togesetton to trymnesse þæs huses, ac in gemynd þæs wundres in þa ciricon setton, þætte þa ingongendan þær heora cneo begean scolden & him <heofonlicre> mildheortnesse wilnian & secan.

[035700 (14.204.30)] Ond þæt cuð is, þætte monige of þære tiide in þære ilcan stowe hælo gife onfengon.

[035800 (14.204.31)] Ge eac swylce of þære ilcan styðe sponas þweoton & sceaþþan nomon, & in wæter sendon & untrumum drincan sealdon, & monigra untrymnessa læcedomas onfengon.

Book 5, Chapter 2 (selection)

[001400 (2.386.27)] In ðæs cyninges rice forewordum forðferde Eata biscop, ond ða Iohannes se halga wer onfoeng biscophad ðære ciricean æt Heagostealdes eae.

[001500 (2.386.29)] Bi ðæm biscope gewuniað secgean monig wundor gæstlicra mæгна, ða ðe hine hioweslice cuðon, & eallra swiþust se arwyrða wer & se soðfæsta Berhthun, se wæs his diacon, & eft wæs abbud ðæs mynstres, ðæt is geceged In Dera Wuda.

[001600 (2.388.1)] Ðuhte us gerisne, ðæt we ða wundur sumu in ðysse baec gemyndgode.

[001700 (2.388.3)] Sindon sumu deagol wiic mid walle & mid barwe ymbsealde, noht feorr from ðære ciricean Heagostealdes eae, ðæt is, huhuego in oðerre halfre mile faece; floweð Tiine seo ea betwihn.

[001800 (2.388.5)] Habbað ða wiic gebaedhus & ciricean Sancte Michaeles ðæs heahengles, in ðæm se Godes wer oft mid feaum broðrum his gefeum stille wunude to biganne his leornunge & halig gebedu, ond swiðust in ða tiid ðæs feowertiglican fæstenes ær Eastrum.

[001900 (2.388.9)] Mid ðy he ða sumre tiide in foreword Eastorfæsten ðider cuom to wunienne, ða heht he his gefeferan, ðæt hio sohton sumne earmne ðearfan, se ðe wære micelre untrumnisse & woedelnisse hefigad, ðæt hie meahton in ðæm dagum mid him habban & mid him ælmesse doan.

[002000 (2.388.13)] Forðon his gewuna wæs, ðæt he symle swæ dyde.

[002100 (2.388.14)] Ða wæs in sumum tune noht feorr sum ging ðearfa, se wæs ge dumb ge hreof, se wæs ðæm biscope cuð, forðon he oft ær for hine cuom & his ælmessan feng.

[002200 (2.388.17)] Se næfre ænig word gecweðan meahte: ah swæ micle hreofle & scyrf in his heafde hæfde, ðæt him næfre nænig feax in ðæm uferan dæle ðæs heafdes acenned beon meahte, ah in ymbhwyrfte stodon ongrislico her.

[002300 (2.388.20)] Ða bebead se biscop ðeosne to him lædan, & in his cafortune heht him medmicel hus gewyrca, ðæt he inwunian meahte & his dæghwæmlice onleofne onfoan.

[002400 (2.388.22)] Mid ðy hit ða an wiice ðæs fæstnes gefylled wæs, ða wæs ðy æfterran Dryhtenlican dæge, ðæt he heht ðone ðearfan ingongan.

[002500 (2.388.24)] Ða he ða inne wæs ða heht he his tungan forð doon of his muðe & him heawan: genom hine ða bi his cinne & mid tacne ðære halgan rode hio gesegnade.

[002600 (2.388.27)] Ða he ða hio gesegnad hæfde, ða heht he tion eft in muð, & heht hine spreocan; & ðus cwæð: Cweð hwelc hwugu word; cweð nu gee.

[002700 (2.388.29)] Ða sona instæpe was se bend onlesed his tungan, & he cwæð ðæt he haten wæs.