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The following study will appear in a Conference Volume in Berlin, Germany, during this summer. This is the beginning of this 18 A4 page study

The Use of Interrogative, Confirmatory, and Asseverative Particles (εἰ - ἦ, ἦ - ἦ, ἦ μήν [ἡμήν] ἦ μὲν, εἰ μήν) in the Septuagint

by
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The LXX uses a number of small words that may be understood variously as particles, adverbs, or conjunctions. With regard to the use of these words in the LXX we may observe: (a) Sometimes these words seem to be an attempt to reflect a Hebrew original, but sometimes that they are used only in order to make Greek sense irrespective of the Hebrew text they translate. Thus, the question of correspondence between these Hebrew and Greek particles, etc. is rather confusing. (b) Moreover, the above particles appear to be used in the LXX in a way that skews from their use in the earlier, classical literature. Finally (c) The MS tradition, by its alternative readings, shows that the orthographic form of these words is not secure, and at any rate, it reveals that different copyists have understood these words differently. When, in addition to these problems, we recall that some of these texts are quoted in the New Testament, where the particular words take one form or another, the importance of examining more closely the form and meaning of these words in the LXX, i.e. identifying which classical word is intended, becomes an obvious desideratum. The above observations highlight the three areas of the present investigation: (a) the classical usage, (b) the LXX usage, and (c) the later changes vis á vis the classical usage.

I begin with a brief account of the use of these words in classical literature in order to set the stage for the discussion of their use in the LXX.¹ In this way we will become more readily aware of the changes that came over the use of these words in later times, especially in connection with the LXX.²

¹ Parenthetically, it should be said that the discussion by Conybeare and Stock is most inadequate, see F. C. Conybeare – St. G. Stock, *Grammar of Septuagint Greek. With Selected Readings, Vocabularies, and Updated Indexes*, rp. Hendrickson, 1995, pp. 88-91.

² The use of these words in the New Testament has been discussed in my *The Development of Greek and the New Testament. Morphology, Syntax, Phonology, and Textual Transmission* (WUNT 167), Tübingen: Mohr 2004, pp. 208-16; paperback corrected edition, Baker Academic, Jan. 2007.