

This root סגד is an Aram. formation. Even in O. Aram. it meant "prostration of reverence", as is evident from the סגידא of Sachau's Edessa inscription No. 3 (*ZDMG*, xxxvi, 158; cf. Dan. iii, 6). In later Aram. סגד is to bow down, סגודא is worship, adoration, and בית סגידא an idol temple. Similarly Syr. سجد, from a primitive meaning of "to salute reverentially" (cf. 2 Šam. ix, 6), comes to mean to adore, translating both σέβω and προσκυνέω, and giving ܣܝܕܐ and ܣܝܕܐܐ adoration, and ܣܝܕܐܐ a worshipper, etc.

It is from the Aram. that we get the Heb. סגד (Nöldeke, *ZDMG*, xli, 719) and the Eth ሰገደ (Nöldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 36), and it was from Aram. that the word passed into Arabic,¹ probably at an early period, as we see from the *Mu'allaga* of 'Amr b. Kulthūm, l. 112.

سجل (Sijill).

xxi, 104.

The meaning of Sigill in this eschatological passage was unknown to the early interpreters of the Qur'ān. Some took it to be the name of an Angel, or of the Prophet's amanuensis, but the majority are in favour of its meaning some kind of writing or writing material. (Tab. and Bagh. on the passage, and Rāghib, *Mufradāt*, 223.)

There was also some difference of opinion as to its origin, some like Bagh. taking it as an Arabic word derived from مسجلة, and others admitting that it was a foreign word, of Abyssinian or Persian origin.² It is, however, neither Persian³ nor Abyssinian, but the Gk. σιγίλλον = Lat. *sigillum*, used in Byzantine Greek for an Imperial edict.⁴ The word came into very general use in the eastern part of the Empire, so that we find Syr. ܣܝܕܐܐ (*PSm*, 2607)⁵ meaning

¹ Nöldeke, op. cit.; Hirschfeld, *Beiträge*, 41; Schwally, *ZDMG*, lii, 134; Von Kremer, *Streifzüge*, p. ix, n.

² al-Jawālīqī, *Mu'arrab*, 87; al-Khafājī, 104; as-Suyūṭī, *Itq*, 321; *Mutaw*, 41. W. Y. Bell in his translation of the *Mutaw*. is quite wrong in taking the word رجل to mean part, portion, blank paper. It means man as is clear from *LA*, xiii, 347.

³ Pers. سجل, meaning *syngrapha iudicis*, is a borrowing from the Arabic, Vullers, *Lex*, ii, 231.

⁴ Vullers, *ZDMG*, l, 611; li, 314; Bell, *Origin*, 74; Vacca, *EI*, sub voc.; Fraenkel, *Vocab*, 17; *Fremdw*, 251.

⁵ Nöldeke, *Neue Beiträge*, 27.