

Daniel B. Hales  
711 Oak Street, Unit 102  
Winnetka, IL 60093  
847 446 6474  
dbhales@gmail.com

March 19, 1919

Dr. James Charlesworth  
Director and Editor, Princeton Dead Sea Scrolls Project  
George L. Collord Professor of New Testament Language and Literature  
64 Mercer Street  
Princeton, N.J. 08542

Dear Jim,

With sadness and joy I respond to the Seminary's invitation for letters of tribute and comment upon your "retirement" from PTS as a most distinguished faculty member and leader in your field, well known and highly respected throughout the world.

Yes, sadness that accompanies the completion of a lifelong career as a faculty member and scholar at PTS, jam-packed with excellence of scholarship, teaching, research, public appearances, television documentaries and remarkable discoveries of artifacts and contributions of outstanding significance and groundbreaking import to the collective knowledge of mankind in fields of theology, religion and archeology since man first took the written word in hand. This immense feeling of accomplishment can only be accompanied by melancholy as is the destination of any trip of significant merit, knowing that the train has pulled into the station after a marvelous journey.

But, WAIT, the journey is far from over!

Joy is just around the corner as you board the next train, continuing your work at home and hearth and around the world in familiar venues with old friends. The *John Henry* will have to wait so I can join you on another captivating project. I'll never forget each day with you in the summer of 2000 in Jerusalem. I learned so much, and it was clearly the trailhead in my life in coming closer to an understanding, appreciation and love of God and Jesus. And, to boot, what fun we had.

To all of us whose lives you have touched, the joy elates stronger every day as you have helped us to think again and to think differently about God, Jesus and mankind's journey. Few people have affected my life as much as you have in helping me to a deeper and so much more grateful appreciation of the Lord and his Son. So for your teaching, I thank you without limit. For your enduring and close friendship, I thank the Lord for giving me a best friend and fellow sojourner on the road of life.

What immediately attracted me to you when we first met in the late 1990s was both your mind and your heart. Uncle Homer knew I would be hooked. (What a wonderful uncle he was. Truly.) You invited me to sit in on your seminars and classroom proceedings from time to time. I was stunned. Why? Because, as I have said, you do not act or pursue studies as most professors do. You have a mind and style of a great, truly great, trial lawyer or master detective. Deception has no shelf life with you! You take nothing for granted and accept no doctrine of common belief unless proven to your satisfaction, based on scientific research and not accepted dogma. What you believe you have studied, taken apart, put back together again in forms heretofore unknown or you have discarded doctrine to arrive at a truthful answer, or the best that comes closest to that mark as you can make it. What a breath of fresh air. What a disciple of Jesus you are without a taint of deception or disappointment that some or most of them had at times.

There are others of your mindset, a few of whom have passed through Princeton throughout the years. But, as I have said earlier, your heart has given balance to your mind for a perfect teeter totter in the making of your personality and integrity. And, you are a serious basketball player as well. Once, when you entered your seminar chambers, you entered casted leg first, elevated above your wheel chair. You just couldn't resist a block on the hoops court the night before. Wondering around with you over historical sites, in Qumran or on Princeton's campus or the famous boardwalk in a nearby town is unlimited fun. And, so are the many meals and night caps that follow.

Your work, of course, is not over by a long shot. Your official position at Princeton is not over but administratively changed. You will be back as a distinguished lecturer, guest and scholar. And, to the extent Princeton will benefit by your future work, the University will take on added shine.

God Bless you Jim, my brother  
in arms.

Love you, Man!

