

**TRANSFERENCE OF THE
HEBREW & GREEK
TEXTS OF SCRIPTURE**

Introductory Studies

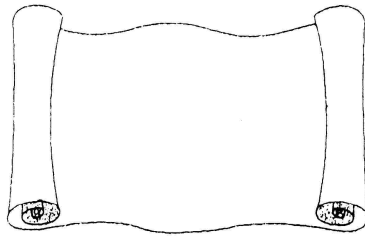
Teacher: Ron Merryman

Saturday, July 20, 2013 O.T. Text (3 Sessions)

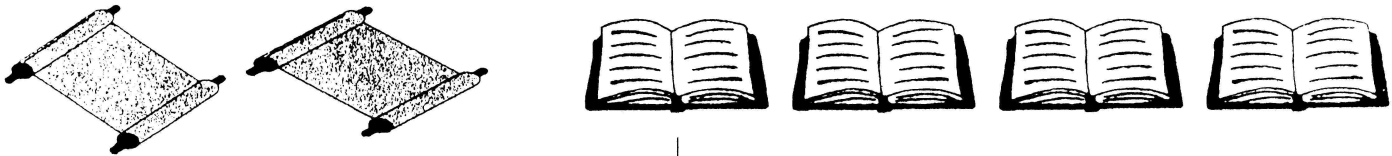
Saturday, July 27, 2013 N.T. Text (3 Sessions)

**PLEROMA BIBLE CHURCH
R. Clay Ward, Pastor
Tullahoma, TN**

**Inspired Original
(Autograph)**

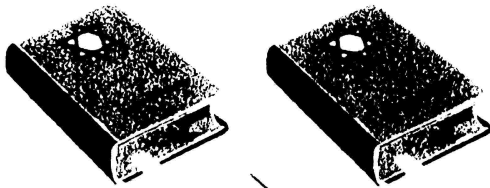


**Imperfect Copies
(Apographs)**



Textual Criticism

O.T. Hebrew Editions

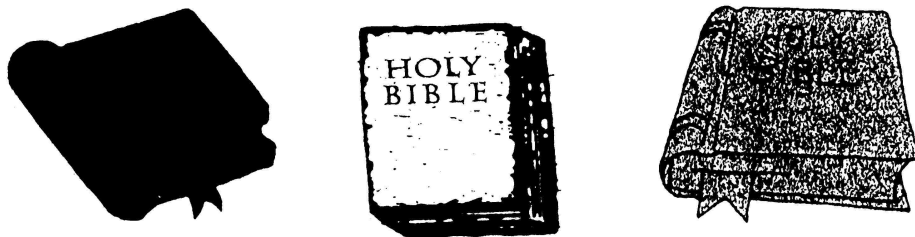


N.T. Greek Editions



Translation

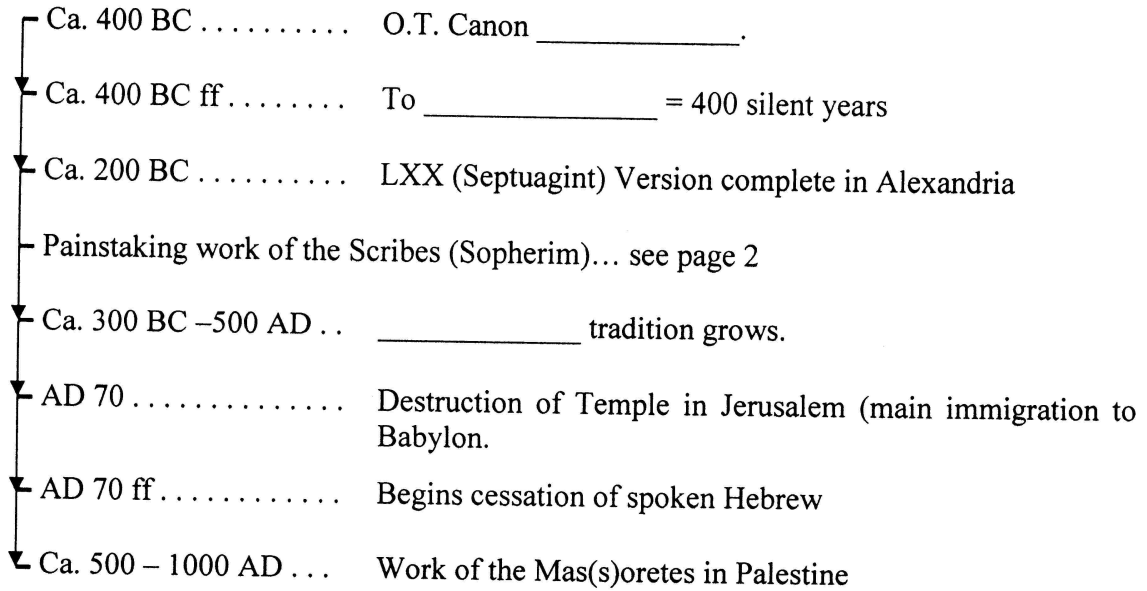
Language Versions



THE TRANSMISSION OF THE HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT

THE MAS(S)ORETIC TEXT & THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Intro: Key Dates Relative to the Hebrew Old Testament



I. The Work of the Mas(s)orettes, ca. 500-1000 AD (in Palestine)

- A. _____ the traditional Hebrew Text.
- B. _____ and standardized the Consonantal Text.
- C. Insured exact transmission of the text.
- D. Passed on the Ben Asher Text, ca. 900-950 AD.
 - _____ Text, ca. 915 AD, oldest complete Old Testament.
 - _____ Codex, ca. 1005 AD, next oldest.
 - Basis of Ben Chayyim Text of 1517 AD [4 volumes and basis of Textus Receptus Old Testament]
 - Kittel's Text, our present Hebrew Old Testament (see diagram, p.3)

SUMMARY: The Mas(s)oretic Text is a very accurate consistent Old Testament with few variants dating from about 1000 AD.

HEBREW SCRIBAL GUIDELINES

Here are the guidelines given in the Jewish *Talmud* for the copying of biblical manuscripts.

- Source: *Messianic Jew*, San Antonio, TX

1. The parchment had to be made from the skin of a clean animal (a kosher animal), prepared by a Jew only, and must be fastened by strings made from the skins of clean animals.
2. Each column must have no less than 48 or more than 60 lines.
3. The ink must be of no other color than black, and had to be prepared according to a special recipe.
4. No word or letter could be written from memory; the scribe must have an authentic copy before him, and he had to read and pronounce aloud each word before writing it.
5. The scribe had to reverently wipe his pen each time before writing the word for God, and had to wash his whole body in the *mikvah* (that's the ceremonial bath, or baptistery) before writing the sacred name Jehovah.
6. One mistake on a sheet condemned the sheet; if three mistakes were found on any page, the entire manuscript was condemned.
7. Every word and every letter was counted, and if a letter was omitted, an extra letter inserted, or if one letter touched another, the manuscript was condemned and destroyed at once.

A Jewish scribe was also told that while he was writing if even a king would enter the room and speak with him, the scribe was to ignore him until he finished the page he was working on, lest he make a mistake.

**THE MAS(S)ORETIC TEXT:
BASIS OF OUR OLD TESTAMENT**

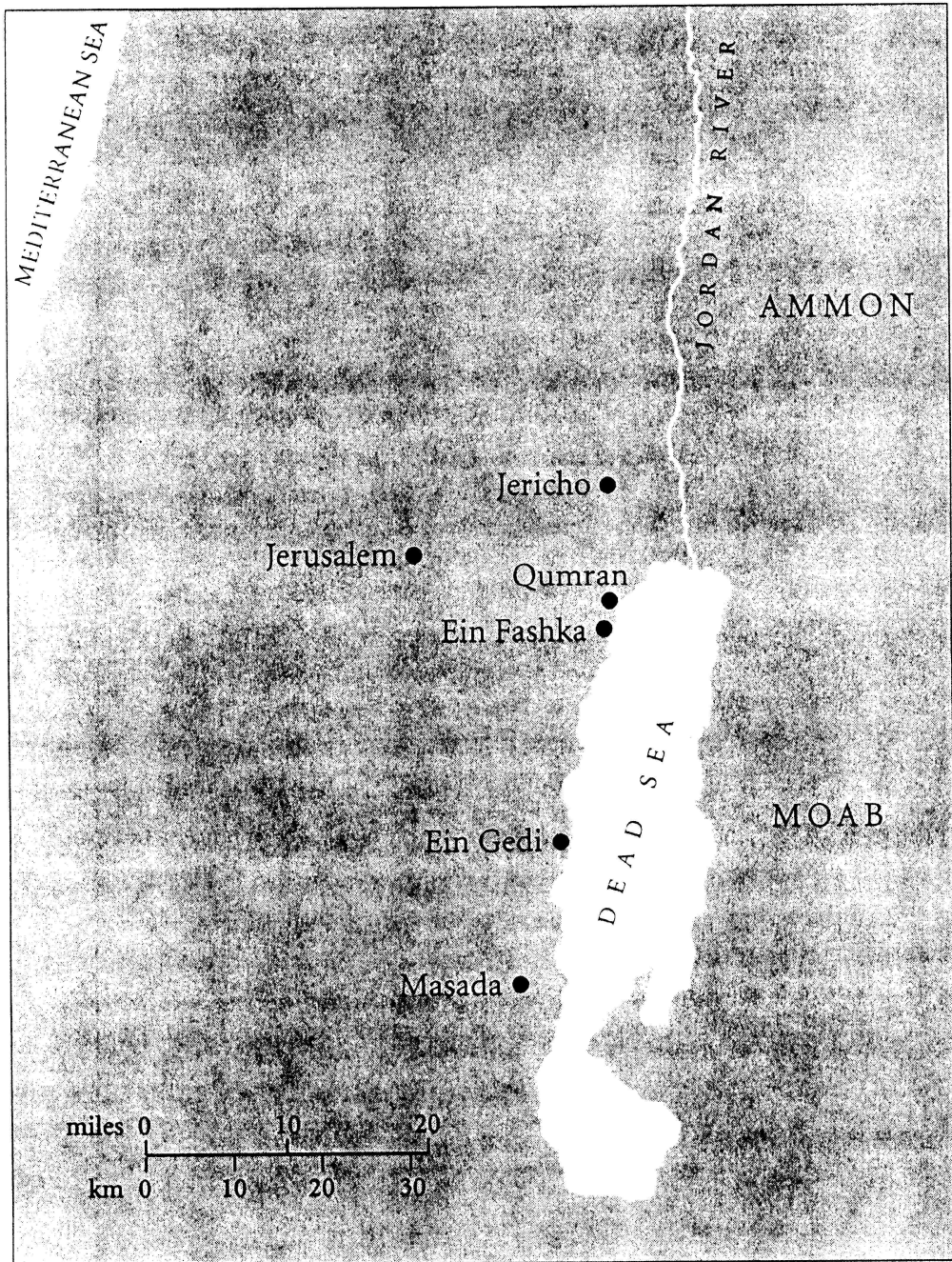
BEN ASHER TEXT, ca. 900 – 950 AD

(ALLEPPO TEXT, ca 915 AD, oldest complete OT)

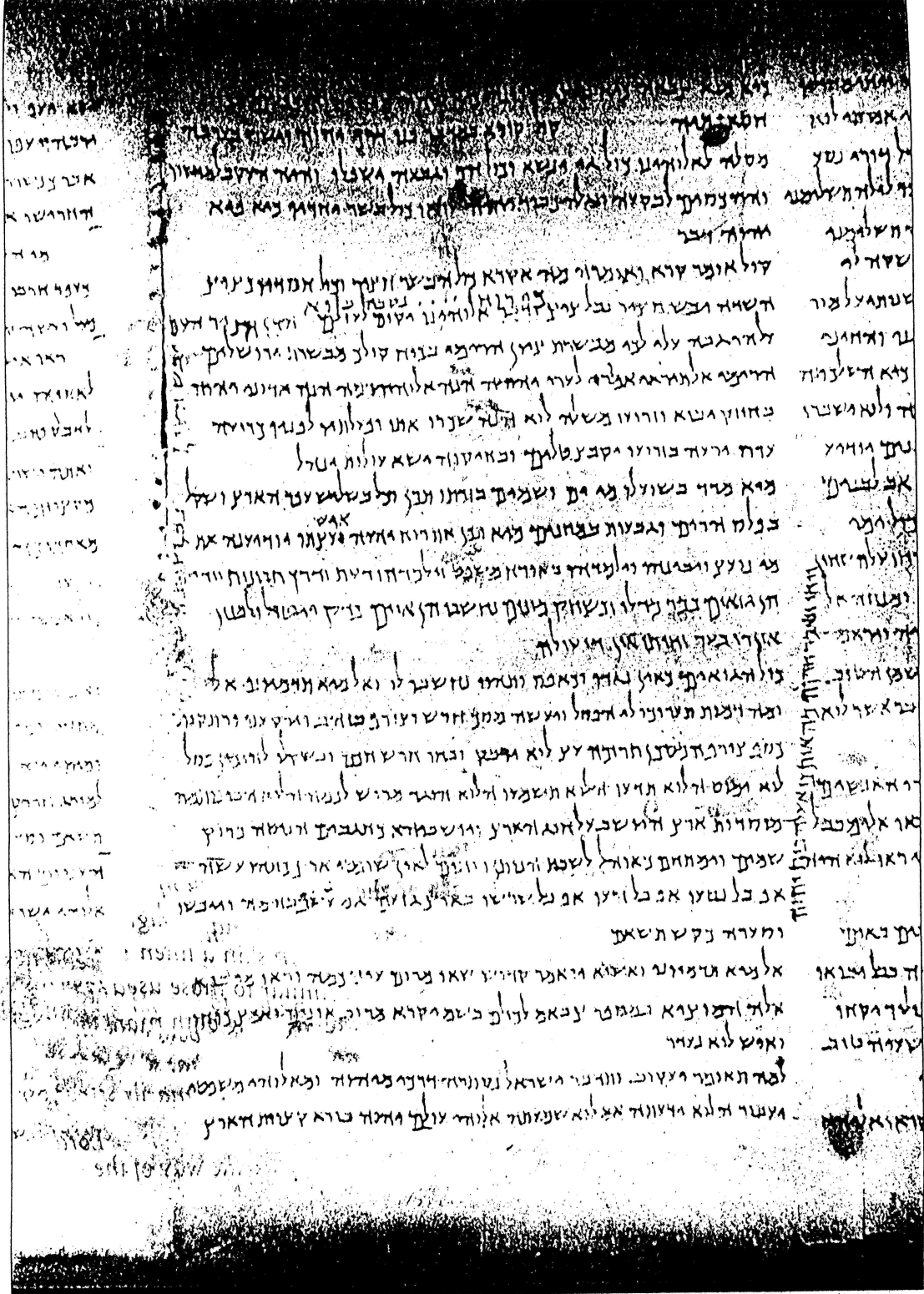
(LENINGRAD CODEX, ca. 1005, next oldest)

BASIS OF BEN CHAYYIM TEXT OF 1517 AD
- 4 Volumes & basis of Textus Receptus OT

KITTEL'S TEXT (3rd Edition), our present Hebrew OT



QUMRAN'S AREA OF DEAD SEA SCROLLS



COLOR PLATE IV

The scroll of Isaiah. Although many of the Qumran scrolls were found in fragments, some, like this Isaiah scroll, were largely intact. On the left side of the leather skin a linen thread ties two pieces together. Written in square, Aramaic Hebrew letters, similar to those used today, the scroll contains some scribal corrections and additions to the text along both margins and above the seventh line of text. In the insertion above line seven are four dots that serve as a substitute for the four-letter Hebrew name of Israel's God, yod heh vav heh, customarily spelled Yahweh in modern texts. This column of text (Isaiah 40:2-28) surely resonated for the religious sect that had retreated to the Judean wilderness: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord" (Isaiah 40:3). Biblical Archaeology Society/photo by John Trever