

## The Samaritan Pentateuch

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based on the author's thesis harvard 1962 bibliography p 130 142

from the introductory for several years prior to my tour of palestine in 1902 i had noted with interest the accounts in books on biblical antiquities of the holy scroll at nablus this manuscript containing the pentateuch is believed to be the oldest manuscript in existence of any portion of the bible as the priests show it with great reluctance and are supposed to exhibit it even to their own people only once a year on the day of atonement i was anxious that they should not substitute for it at the time of my visit the more recent parchment which on ordinary occasions they display my friend mr e k warren chairman of the world s sunday school convention committee of arrangements had visited palestine the year before and had seen the ancient scroll he gave me a letter of introduction to the high priest written on his business letter head which rather formidable looking document i found of service on my arrival in nablus

this new translation into english seeks to introduce the reader to the character of the samaritan version of the pentateuch while emphasising the fundamental differences between it and the masoretic version the translation is based on a grammatical analysis of each and every word in the text according to its oral pronunciation informed by examination of the samaritan translations into aramaic and arabic as well as other samaritan and non samaritan sources one of the most ancient and important samaritan manuscripts of the pentateuch ms nablus 6 copied in 1204 ce serves to represent the samaritan version the english translation is placed in the left hand column of each page while the samaritan original is displayed in the right hand column for the reader s convenience differences between the samaritan and masoretic versions are marked in red in addition to translating the hebrew text and highlighting the differences between it and the masoretic text each difference is explained in a brief note in an apparatus at the bottom of the page where expansion is appropriate the reader is referred to extended notes at the end of the edition

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younger priests of the samaritan synagogue was imprisoned by the high priest some months ago on the suspicion of having stolen and sold an ancient manuscript from the synagogue there some people in syria believe this newly discovered pentateuch to be the missing codex this manuscript if genuine in its date would be several hundred years earlier than the oldest old testament manuscript in the british museum but it is still quite modern as compared with the holy scroll of nablus which the samaritans declare was written by the grandson of aaron and modern scholars believe must be nearly as old as the christian era

the samaritan pentateuch sp is the sacred scripture of the samaritans a tenacious religious community made famous by jesus good samaritan story that persists to this day not so widely known is the impact of the sp outside the samaritan community recently there has been a resurgence of interest in this scripture as evidenced by several translations of the sp as well as reference in qumran scroll studies to the sp or an sp like tradition in an effort to describe some of the textual evidence present in the scrolls this volume presents a general introduction to and overview of the sp suitable for a course text and as a reference tool for the professional scholar

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seventy years after their discovery the dead sea scrolls continue to shed light on the samaritan pentateuch the textual features orthography script variant readings and even theology of the samaritan pentateuch have parallels in various manuscripts found in the judaeen desert and copied during the second temple period the fertile encounter of samaritan and dead sea scrolls studies has yielded this exceptional volume featuring twelve contributions by some of the most respected scholars gathered at the university of strasbourg on may 26 27 2016 they cover such issues as scribal and editorial practices political and religious history textual editions and versions palaeography and linguistics with provocative studies challenging classical theories on the origin of the gerizim tenth commandment or the date of the earliest dead sea scrolls

excerpt from the samaritan pentateuch the story of a survival among the sects holy scroll of nablus which the samaritans declare was written by the grandson of aaron and modern scholars believe must be nearly as old as the christian era about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at forgottenbooks com this book is a reproduction of an important

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this landmark volume presents the first ever english translation of the ancient israelite samaritan version of the pentateuch or torah a text of growing interest and importance in the field of biblical studies the samaritan pentateuch preserves a version of the hebrew text distinct from the traditional masoretic text that underlies modern bible translations benyamim tsedaka s expert english translation of the samaritan pentateuch is here laid out parallel to the more familiar masoretic text highlighting the more than 6 000 differences between the two versions in addition to extensive explanatory notes in the margins throughout the book s detailed appendices show affinities between the samaritan and septuagint versions and between the samaritan and dead sea scroll texts concluding the volume is a categorical name index containing a wealth of comparative information

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