

A medieval manuscript illumination depicting a scholar with a halo, wearing a purple and green robe, seated at a wooden desk and reading a large, open book. The book's pages are filled with handwritten text. The background features a red and gold patterned wall and a wooden chair with a circular inset on its seat.

# *Text Criticism of the Hebrew Bible:*

## **A Manuscript-Based Overview**

Joseph Cross

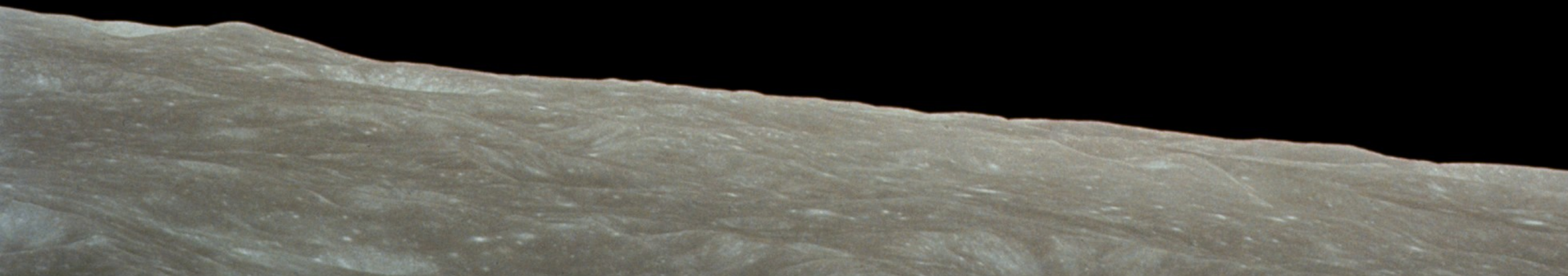
CEDAR Workshop - University of Chicago

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018



“In the beginning, God created heaven and earth. The earth was without form and void, darkness was over the abyss, and the spirit of God hovered over the waters. God said, ‘Let there be light.’ And there was light.”

Genesis 1:1-3



# *Complications of Biblical Text Criticism*

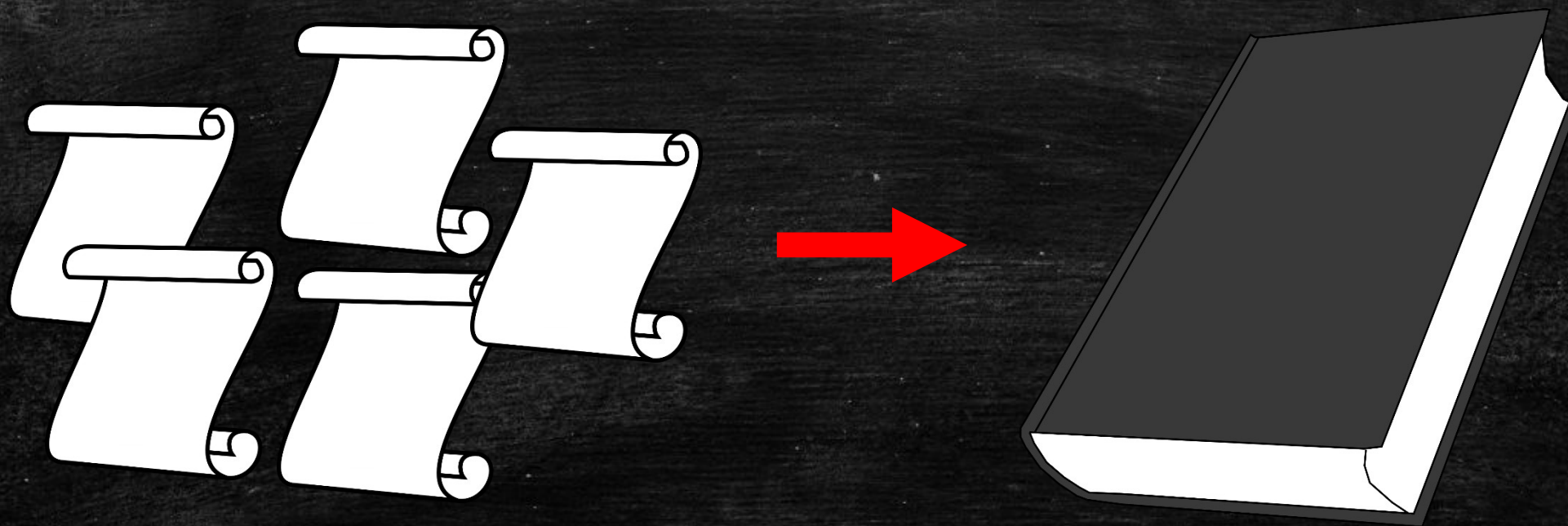
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3. The importance of early Greek translations of the Hebrew biblical books

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- The importance of Greek translations:
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  2. The Hebrew *antigraphs* are the oldest reconstructable witnesses to the biblical books
  3. These antigraphs can reflect *different editions of the Hebrew books* than we have elsewhere

# *Implications for practicing text criticism*

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- Scholars must work on a book-by-book basis
- The more immediate goal of reconstructing archetypes of each attested version, *not* a supposed original edition



# *Categories of Hebrew manuscripts*

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1. Masoretic Text
2. Hebrew antigraphs of the Greek translations
3. Samaritan Bible

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- Corresponding texts among the Dead Sea Scrolls
- 
- The diagram consists of a list of four categories on the left and a central text on the right. Four blue arrows originate from the right side of each category and point towards the central text, indicating that each category has corresponding texts among the Dead Sea Scrolls.



# ***The Masoretic Text***

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בְּנוֹתַי הַחַצְרוֹת עֵינָהּ  
בְּנוֹתַי הַחַצְרוֹת שְׂדֵנָהּ  
מִצְרוֹת וְחַיִּים הַגְּבוּל וְגְבוּל  
וּבְחֹר שֶׁמֶד וְחֹר  
וְשׁוֹבְהֵי יוֹרֵה נָה וְקָדוֹתָם עֵינָהּ  
הוּא הַלֵּב וְעֵנָב

הגדול  
קדי  
מלא

בנותיה וזצרוה עזה  
בנותיה וזצרוה שדנחל  
מצרום וזרום הגבול וגבול  
ובחר שמור וזתור  
ושוכח וזנה וקדוה וזסנה  
הוא הבר וענב

הגדול  
קדי  
מל

בנותיה וזצרוה עזה  
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הוא הבר וענב

הגבול

קדי

גל

והיה ביום  
למקום וליעקב לתת להם  
ונכל בשם לוי את כל  
חומר לא אכל שר לישא  
שר ליוך הוא ושר  
באשר ויהו ויעי  
והיה ויהו לבע  
והיה

ביום את  
ביום ויהו אלחוע ואת  
ביום בארץ בערים ואת אשר  
ואת גלילותם עין וארץ כסר וחב  
והיה שם חומר בשם יהוה אלחוע  
והיה אשר ליעה ויהו בשם את ויהו  
את לבו אלך ליע  
והיה  
והיה

BIBLIA  
HEBRAICA  
STUTTGARTENSIA

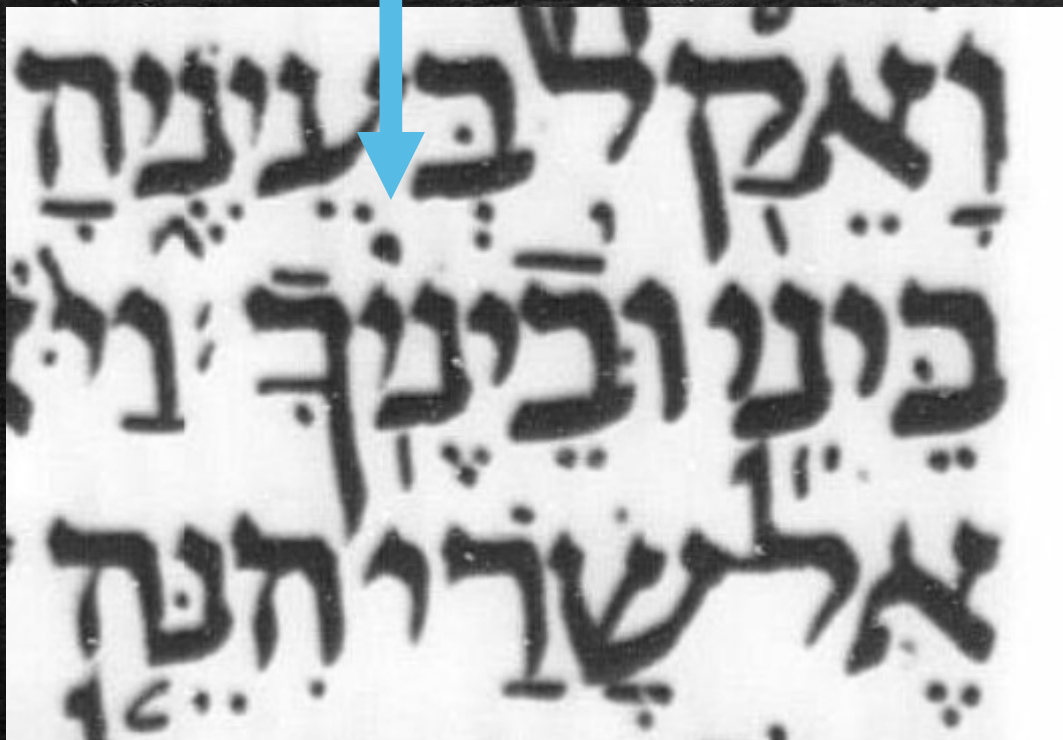
בראשית GENESIS

1 1 [א] בְּרֵאשִׁית<sup>a</sup> בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ: <sup>2</sup> וְהָאָרֶץ  
הָיְתָה תֵהוֹ וְנָהוּ וְחֹשֶׁךְ עַל־פְּנֵי תְהוֹם וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל־פְּנֵי  
<sup>3</sup> הַמַּיִם: <sup>4</sup> וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי אוֹר וַיְהִי־אוֹר: <sup>5</sup> וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־  
הָאוֹר כִּי־טוֹב וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאוֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשֶׁךְ: <sup>6</sup> וַיִּקְרָא  
אֱלֹהִים לְאוֹר יוֹם וְלַחֹשֶׁךְ לַיְלָה וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם  
<sup>7</sup> אֶחָד: <sup>8</sup> וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים יְהִי רִקִיעַ בְּתוֹךְ הַמַּיִם וַיְהִי מִבְּדִיל  
בֵּין מַיִם לְמַיִם: <sup>9</sup> וַיַּעַשׂ אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הַרְקִיעַ וַיִּבְרָא בֵּין הַמַּיִם אֶשֶׁל  
מִתַּחַת לַרְקִיעַ וּבֵין הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר מֵעַל לַרְקִיעַ וַיְהִי־כֵן: <sup>10</sup> וַיִּקְרָא  
אֱלֹהִים לַרְקִיעַ שָׁמַיִם וַיְהִי־עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם שֵׁנִי: <sup>11</sup>  
וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים יְקוּוּ הַמַּיִם מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם אֶל־מְקוֹם<sup>a</sup> אֶחָד וַתֵּרָא  
תִּבְשָׁה וַיְהִי־כֵן: <sup>12</sup> וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לַיִבֶּשֶׁת אֶרֶץ וּלְמִקְוֵה הַמַּיִם  
קָרָא יַמִּים וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים כִּי־טוֹב: <sup>13</sup> וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים תְּדֹשָׂא הָאָרֶץ  
אֲדָשָׂא עֵשֶׂב<sup>a</sup> מִזְרִיעַ זָרַע עֵץ<sup>b</sup> פְּרִי עֵשָׂה פְּרִי לְמִינוֹ<sup>c</sup> אֲשֶׁר זָרַע־בוֹ  
עַל־הָאָרֶץ וַיְהִי־כֵן: <sup>14</sup> וַתִּצְאָה הָאָרֶץ דָּשָׂא עֵשֶׂב מִזְרִיעַ זָרַע לְמִינֵהוּ  
וַעֵץ עֵשָׂה פְּרִי אֲשֶׁר זָרַע־בוֹ לְמִינֵהוּ וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים כִּי־טוֹב: <sup>15</sup> וַיְהִי־  
עֶרֶב וַיְהִי־בֹקֶר יוֹם שְׁלִישִׁי: <sup>16</sup> וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים יְהִי מְאֹרֶת  
בְּרִקִיעַ הַשָּׁמַיִם לְהַבְדִּיל בֵּין הַיּוֹם וּבֵין הַלַּיְלָה וְהָיוּ לְאֹתוֹת וּלְמוֹעֲדִים  
וּלְיָמִים וּשְׁנָיִם: <sup>17</sup> וַיְהִי לְמֵאוֹרֶת בְּרִקִיעַ הַשָּׁמַיִם לְהַאֲרִי עַל־הָאָרֶץ  
וַיְהִי־כֵן: <sup>18</sup> וַיַּעַשׂ אֱלֹהִים אֶת־שְׁנֵי הַמְּאֹרֶת הַגְּדֹלִים אֶת־הַמְּאֹרֶת

Cp 1 1 Mm 1. 2 Mm 2. 3 Mm 3. 4 Mm 3139. 5 Mp sub loco. 6 Mm 4. 7 Jer 4,23, cf Mp sub loco. 8 Hi 38,19. 9 2 Ch 24,20. 10 Mm 5. 11 Mm 6. 12 Mm 3105. 13 Mm לחשך Hi 28,3. 14 Mm 200. 15 Mm 7. 16 Mm 1431. 17 Mm 2773. 18 Mm 3700. 19 Mm 736. 20 Ps 66,6 ומד לַבְּשָׁה. 21 Mm 722. 22 Mm 2645. 23 Qoh 6,3.

Cp 1,1 Orig Βρησιθ vel Βαρησηθ (-σεθ), Samar bārāsīt || 6<sup>a</sup> huc tr 7<sup>a-a</sup> cf 9 et 9.11.15.20. 24.30 || 7<sup>a-a</sup> cf 6<sup>a</sup>; ins וירא אלהים כִּי־טוֹב cf 4.10.12.18.21.31 et 8 (8) || 9<sup>a</sup> 9 συναγωγῆν = מקוה cf 10 מקוה המים || 10<sup>b</sup> 10 + και συνήχθη τὸ ὕδωρ τὸ ὑποκάτω τοῦ οὐρανοῦ εἰς τὰς συναγωγὰς αὐτῶν και ὥφθη ἡ ξηρά = וַתֵּרָא הַיִּבְשָׁה || 11<sup>a-a</sup> 11 אט cj עשב c דשא || 1 c pc Mss מוטטט עץ cf 12 || 12<sup>c</sup> prb dl cf 12.

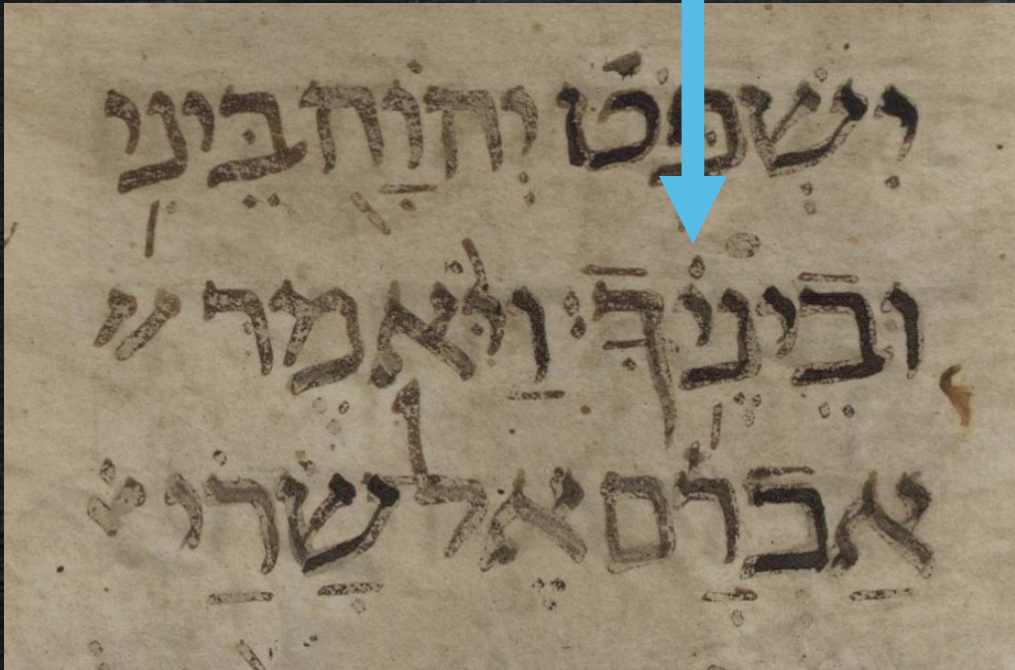
ה' ג' ר"פ וב' מ"פ.  
ג בתור"ג. י"ג ול' בליש.  
ח ר"פ.  
ג' . ב' . ב' . ח . ב' מנה  
בליש וכל שמואל דכות  
ב מה רוח יי.  
כה' 10 . ל  
11  
12 . 13 . 14 ב' מנה  
ס"פ בתור"ג  
כה' 10 . 15 ג' מנה בטע בעינ.  
ל . 16 . 17 ג'  
ב' 1 . 17 בעינ  
ל  
כה' 10 . 18 ג' . 19 ל  
1 בעינ . 20 ל  
כה' 10 . ל  
ג' . ב' . ב' 21  
1 בעינ . 22 ג' ב' מל וחד חס  
14 . 15 ג' . ר"פ  
כה' 10 . ב חס  
ב חד מל וחד חס  
23 ב'  
1 בעינ . 24 ג' . י"ח פסוק  
את את ואת ואת .  
ב חס . ל



Leningrad Codex  
Genesis 16:5  
Punctum extraordinarium







## Damascus Pentateuch Codex

Genesis 16:5

Punctum extraordinarium

ca. 1000 CE

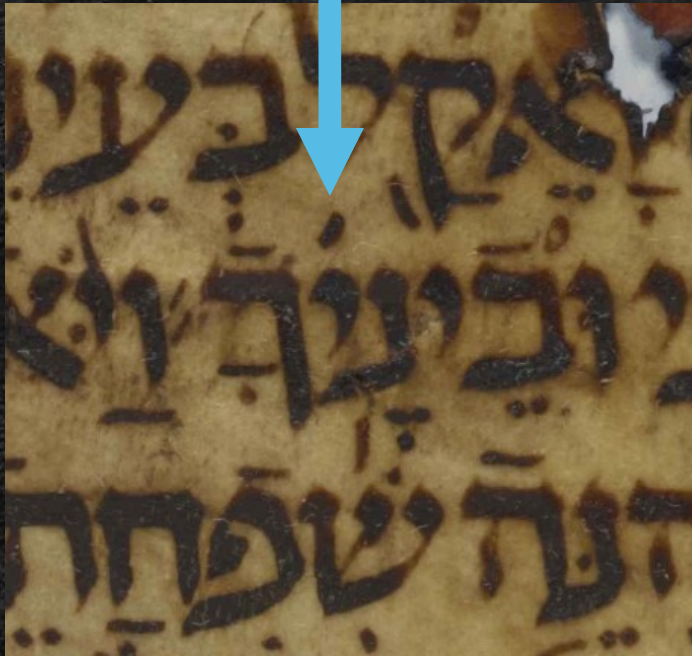
Jerusalem MS 5702 = Sassoon 507



וְתָתַן אֶתְּךָ לְאִבְרָם  
 אִשָּׁה לּוֹ לְאִשָּׁה  
 וּדְבַרְתָּ שְׂרָי אִימְתָּ  
 אִבְרָם יִתְּהֶנּוּ מֵעֵרְתָּ  
 אִמְתָּה מִסּוּף עֵשֶׂר  
 שָׁנָן לְמִיתַב אִבְרָם  
 בְּאֲרַעַת דְּכַעֲנוּתְהֶבֶת  
 יָתָה לְאִבְרָם בְּעַלְהָ  
 לֵיהּ לְאִימְתוֹ וַיִּבְאֵר  
 הָעָר וְתָהָר וְתָרָא כִּי  
 הִרְתָּהּ וְתִקַּל גְּבֻרְתָּהּ  
 בְּעֵינֶיהָ וְעַל לֹתְהָר  
 וְעַד יָאֵת וְחֹזֶת אֲרִי  
 עַד יָאֵת וְקִלְתָּ רֵיבֻעָהּ  
 בְּעֵינֶיהָ וְתֹאמַר שְׂרָי  
 אֵל אִבְרָם חֲמִסֵּי עֵלְיָךְ  
 אֲנִי נִתְּתִי שְׂפָחָתְךָ  
 בְּחִיקְךָ וְתָרָא כִּי הִרְתָּ  
 וְאֶקַּל בְּעֵינֶיהָ יִשְׁפֹט  
 יְהוָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶיךָ  
 וְאִמְרַת שְׂרָי לְאִבְרָם  
 דִּין לִי עַלְךָ אֲנִי יְהִיבִית

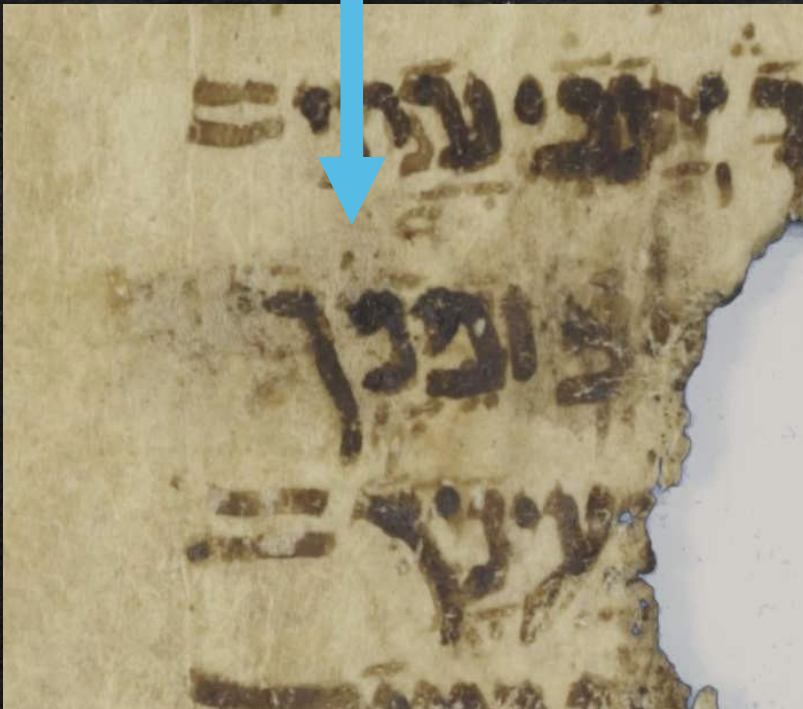
Vatican ebr. 448  
 Genesis 16:5  
 Punctum extraordinarium  
 Late 11<sup>th</sup>/Early 12<sup>th</sup> century CE

12  
 וְתָתַן אֶתְּךָ לְאִבְרָם  
 אִשָּׁה לּוֹ לְאִשָּׁה  
 וּדְבַרְתָּ שְׂרָי אִימְתָּ  
 אִבְרָם יִתְּהֶנּוּ מֵעֵרְתָּ  
 אִמְתָּה מִסּוּף עֵשֶׂר  
 שָׁנָן לְמִיתַב אִבְרָם  
 בְּאֲרַעַת דְּכַעֲנוּתְהֶבֶת  
 יָתָה לְאִבְרָם בְּעַלְהָ  
 לֵיהּ לְאִימְתוֹ וַיִּבְאֵר  
 הָעָר וְתָהָר וְתָרָא כִּי  
 הִרְתָּהּ וְתִקַּל גְּבֻרְתָּהּ  
 בְּעֵינֶיהָ וְעַל לֹתְהָר  
 וְעַד יָאֵת וְחֹזֶת אֲרִי  
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 בְּחִיקְךָ וְתָרָא כִּי הִרְתָּ  
 וְאֶקַּל בְּעֵינֶיהָ יִשְׁפֹט  
 יְהוָה בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶיךָ  
 וְאִמְרַת שְׂרָי לְאִבְרָם  
 דִּין לִי עַלְךָ אֲנִי יְהִיבִית



Cambridge, T-S A1.46  
Genesis 16:5  
Punctum extraordinarium  
Cairo Geniza

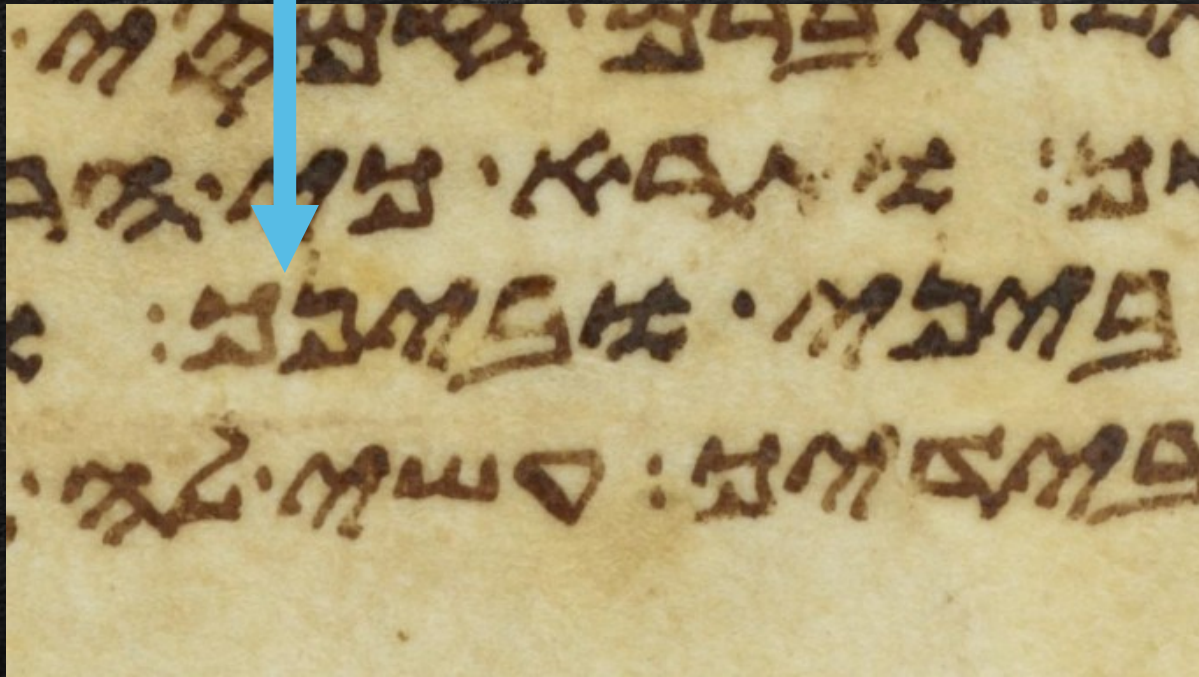




Cambridge, T-S NS 50.18  
Genesis 16:5  
Punctum extraordinarium  
Cairo Geniza

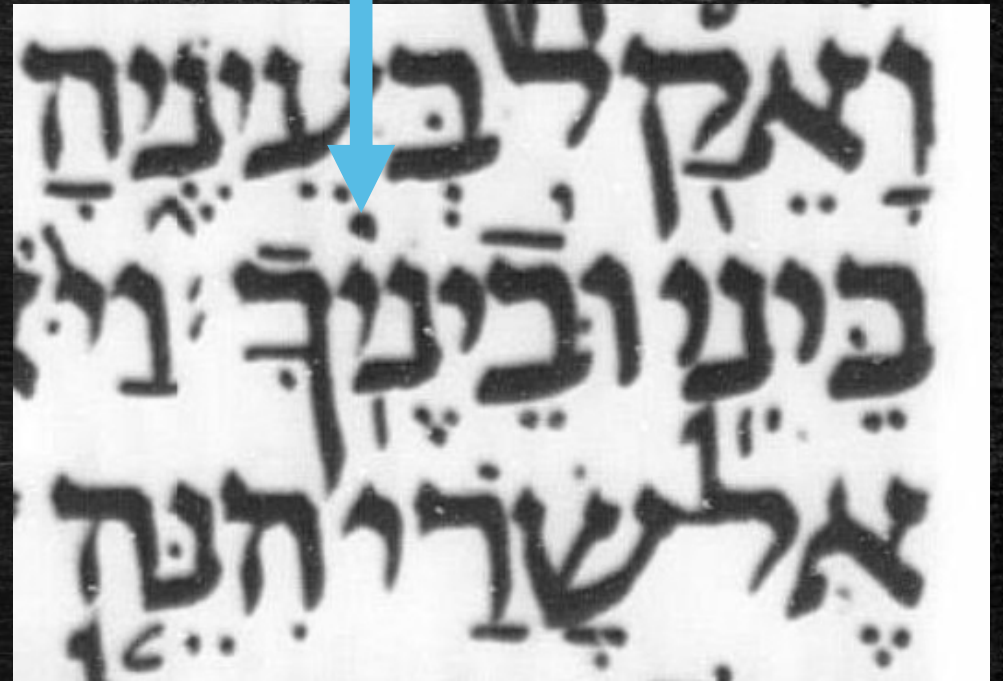






**Codex Zurbil**  
Samaritan Pentateuch  
Genesis 16:5

Early 12<sup>th</sup> century CE



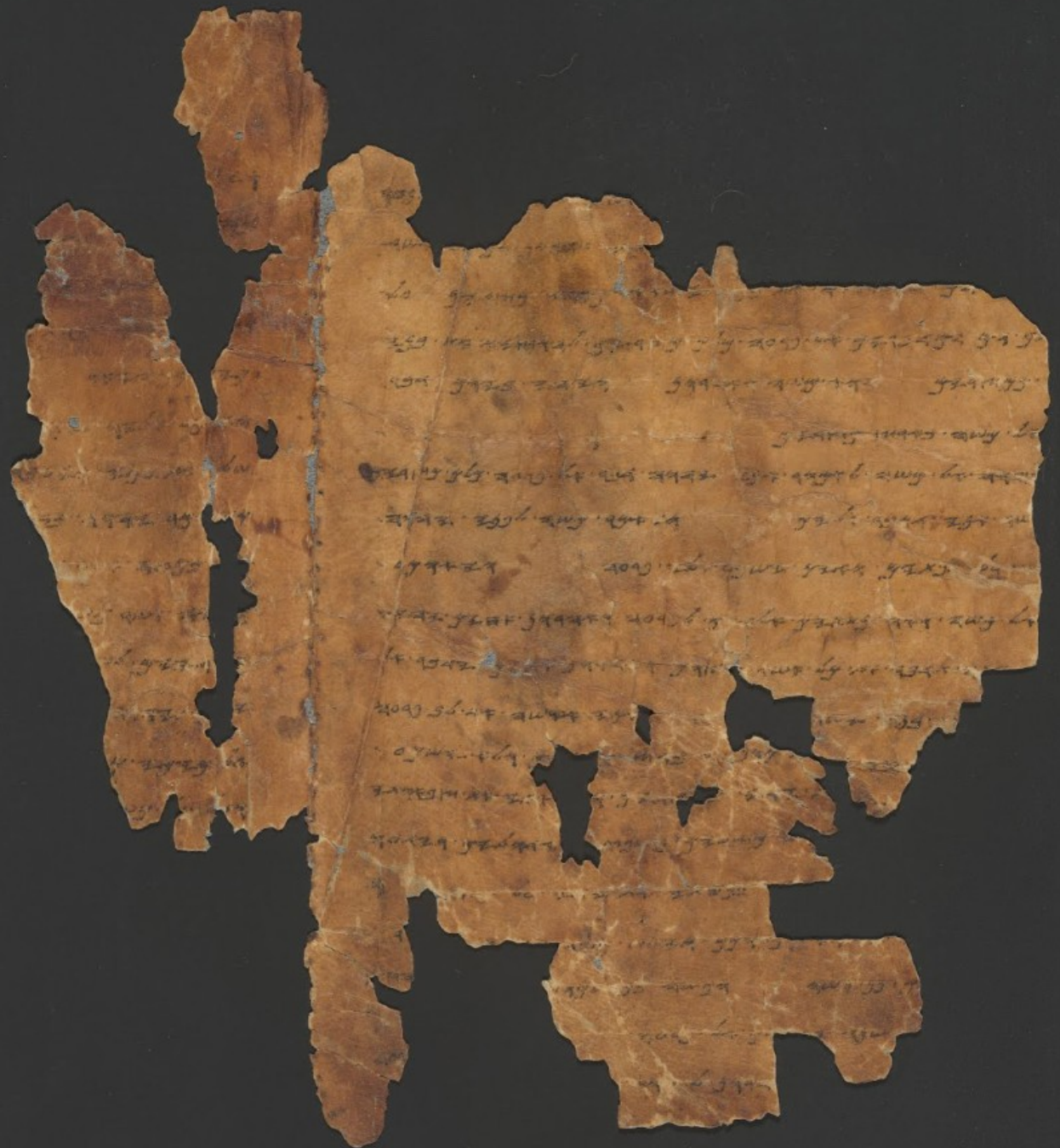
**Leningrad Codex**  
Masoretic Text  
Genesis 16:5

1008-1009 CE



4QpaleoExod<sup>m</sup>  
DATE

Pre-Samaritan text type





# Abisha Scroll

Handwritten text in an ancient script, likely Hebrew or Aramaic, arranged in approximately 25 horizontal lines. The script is dense and consistent across the page.

Handwritten text in an ancient script, likely Hebrew or Aramaic, arranged in approximately 25 horizontal lines. The script is dense and consistent across the page.

Handwritten text in an ancient script, likely Hebrew or Aramaic, arranged in approximately 25 horizontal lines. The right edge of the scroll is heavily damaged and ragged, with some text obscured by the tear.

# Abisha Scroll

## Closeup of Genesis 1

Handwritten text in an ancient script, likely Hebrew, arranged in approximately 15 horizontal lines. The script is dense and appears to be a transcription of the opening chapters of the Bible, specifically Genesis 1. The text is written in a cursive style with some characters that are difficult to decipher due to the image quality and the angle of the scroll. The lines are roughly parallel to each other, following the curve of the scroll.

Jacob ben Aaron, Samaritan high priest, with the Abisha Scroll

(1907)





# *The Greek Translations*

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ο' λει κοράσια ἄφθορα καλὰ τῷ εἶδει· <sup>3</sup>καὶ καταστήσει ὁ βασιλεὺς 3  
 κωμάρχας ἐν πάσαις ταῖς χώραις τῆς βασιλείας αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐπιλεξάτω-  
 σαν κοράσια παρθενικὰ καλὰ τῷ εἶδει εἰς Σουσαν τὴν πόλιν εἰς τὸν  
 γυναικῶνα, καὶ παραδοθήτωσαν τῷ ἐκνούχῳ τοῦ βασιλέως τῷ φύλακι  
 τῶν γυναικῶν, καὶ δοθήτω σμῆγμα καὶ ἡ λοιπὴ ἐπιμέλεια· <sup>4</sup>καὶ ἡ 4  
 γυνή, ἣ ἂν ἀρέσῃ τῷ βασιλεῖ, βασιλεύσει ἀντὶ Ασιν. καὶ ἤρρεσαν τῷ  
 βασιλεῖ τὸ πρᾶγμα, καὶ ἐποίησεν οὕτως. <sup>5</sup>καὶ ἄνθρωπος ἦν Ἰουδαῖος 5  
 ἐν Σούσοις τῇ πόλει, καὶ ὄνομα αὐτῷ Μαρδοχαῖος ὁ τοῦ Ἰαίρου τοῦ  
 Σεμεῖου τοῦ Κισαίου ἐκ φυλῆς Βενιαμιν, <sup>6</sup>ὅς ἦν αἰχμάλωτος ἐξ Ἰερου- 6

B S A V 967 O a b min verss

La<sup>JK</sup> | ἄφθορα καλὰ] tr A | ἄφθορα] αφωρα S\*: cf praef p 100; αφθαρτα 967 |  
 εἶδει] ειδιν S\*

3 om καὶ 1<sup>o</sup> 248 | om ταῖς S\* 967: cf M | om αὐτοῦ A' La<sup>LJM</sup> Sa |  
 ἐπιλεξασθωσαν 311; ἐπιλεξάτωσαν A | κοράσια] pr παντα (+ τα 58') O-S<sup>c</sup>  
 = M; > 249 | παρθενια S\* 967 55 249 | καλὰ] pr και 58; > 46 La<sup>J</sup> |  
 om τῷ εἶδει 71 La<sup>J</sup> Arm: cf 1<sub>11</sub> | σουσα 76: cf 1<sub>2</sub> | τὴν πόλιν] t(h)ebari La<sup>JKM</sup>:  
 cf 1<sub>2</sub> | καὶ 3<sup>o</sup> 4<sup>o</sup> 93 La<sup>J</sup> (3<sup>MSS</sup>) | om τῷ 3<sup>o</sup> 46-64-381-728: cf M et 15 |  
 καὶ 4<sup>o</sup> 5<sup>o</sup> 542 | δοθήτω] + αυταις a La<sup>LJK</sup> Sa Aeth | σμῆγμα AV 58 71'  
 46-248; σμῆμα 967 (ζμῆμα) 98-243-731\*: cf s 12 et praef p 121; σμῆματα 93  
 La<sup>LJKM</sup> (nitores) = M | ἡ λοιπὴ] οι λοιποι 93\*

4 om ἡ S\* 967 a | ἂν] εαν 967 93 = L: cf 1<sub>20</sub>; δἂν 542; > 98 | αρεσει  
 106-314 98 108 311 | om βασιλεῖ 1<sup>o</sup> 314: homoiar | βασιλευση V\* 728;  
 -λευει 392; -λευσατω 249 | αστινης Vc; οαστιν 311 392 = L; οασθη (-σθει 93)  
 O: cf M; vast(h)i (et sim) La: cf 1<sub>9</sub> | καὶ 2<sup>o</sup> 3<sup>o</sup> 71 | τῷ βασ./τὸ πρᾶγμα]  
 tr O = M | τὸ πρᾶγμα 967] το προσταγμα B\*: cf B<sub>5</sub> 7 315 43 D<sub>10</sub> E<sub>5</sub>; verbum  
 La<sup>LJKM</sup> Aeth = M: cf s et praef p 46 s | om οὕτως 967

5 ἄνθρωπος] pr o 583 55 | ἦν Ἰουδαῖος] tr O-A = M | τῇ πόλει] t(h)ebari  
 La<sup>JKM</sup>: cf A<sub>2</sub> 1<sub>2</sub> | αυτου Sixt | om ὁ τοῦ — fin La<sup>K</sup> | ὁ τοῦ — Κισαίου]  
 filius cesyr fili semey La<sup>X</sup>: cf A<sub>1</sub>; > 71' La<sup>LM</sup>; om ὁ τοῦ — Σεμεῖου La<sup>J</sup> |  
 ὁ τοῦ] ουτος 93; om ὁ 392 | ιαιριον B S V 967 O (93<sup>c</sup>) 76-130-236-314-762  
 46-731<sup>c</sup> 55 108 311 392; εαιριον 93\*; ιαιρον 248; αιριον 249: cf A<sub>1</sub>; αιρον Ald;  
 ιαιρου A | τοῦ Σεμεῖου] pr o A | σεμειον B S 967 249 311; σεμει O-<sup>93</sup> 248  
 Sa; σεμει Compl: cf M et A<sub>1</sub>; σεμιον 542; σαιμειον 318 | κισαιου B S O-<sup>583</sup>.  
 A' 55; κισαιου 46 392: cf A<sub>1</sub>; κισιου 967 | βενιαμιν BSV O-<sup>583</sup>. A' 392 542;  
 βενιαμιν 381 108: cf A<sub>1</sub>; βενιαμιν 967

6 om init — Ἰερουσαλημ Sa | init — αἰχμάλωτος] ex captivitate (captivus)

L μεν παρθένους καλὰς τῷ εἶδει, <sup>(3)</sup>καὶ δοθήτωσαν προστατεῖσθαι ὑπὸ (3)  
 χειρᾶ Γωγαίου τοῦ ἐκνούχου τοῦ φύλακος τῶν γυναικῶν· <sup>4</sup>καὶ ἡ παῖς, 4  
 ἣ ἂν ἀρέσῃ τῷ βασιλεῖ, κατασταθήσεται ἀντὶ Ουαστιν. καὶ ἐποίησαν  
 ἐτόμως κατὰ ταῦτα. <sup>5</sup>καὶ ἦν ἀνὴρ Ἰουδαῖος ἐν Σούσοις τῇ πόλει, ὃ 5  
 ὄνομα Μαρδοχαῖος υἱὸς Ἰαίρου τοῦ Σεμεῖου τοῦ Κισαίου τῆς φυλῆς  
 19' 93'

2 om προστατεῖσθαι 93: cf ο' | γωγιου 19' 4 οαστειν 93': cf 1<sub>9</sub>  
 5 om ἦν 19 | σουσις 108 | ιαιρον 108; ιηρον 19; ειαριον 319 | σεμειον 108

ο' λει κοράσια ἀφθορα καλὰ τῷ εἶδει· <sup>3</sup>καὶ καταστήσει ὁ βασιλεὺς 3  
 κωμάρχας ἐν πάσαις ταῖς χώραις τῆς βασιλείας αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐπιλεξάτω-  
 σαν κοράσια παρθενικὰ καλὰ τῷ εἶδει εἰς Σουσαν τὴν πόλιν εἰς τὸν  
 γυναικῶνα, καὶ παραδοθήτωσαν τῷ ἐκνούχῳ τοῦ βασιλέως τῷ φύλακι  
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B S A V 967 O a b min verss

La<sup>JK</sup> | ἀφθορα καλὰ] tr A | ἀφθορα] αφωρα S\*: cf praef p 100; αφθαρτα 967 |  
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3 om καὶ 1<sup>o</sup> 248 | om ταῖς S\* 967: cf M | om αὐτοῦ A' La<sup>LJM</sup> Sa |  
 ἐπιλεξασθωσαν 311; ἐπιλεξάτωσαν A | κοράσια] pr παντα (+ τα 58') O-S<sup>c</sup>  
 = M; > 249 | παρθενια S\* 967 55 249 | καλὰ] pr και 58; > 46 La<sup>J</sup> |  
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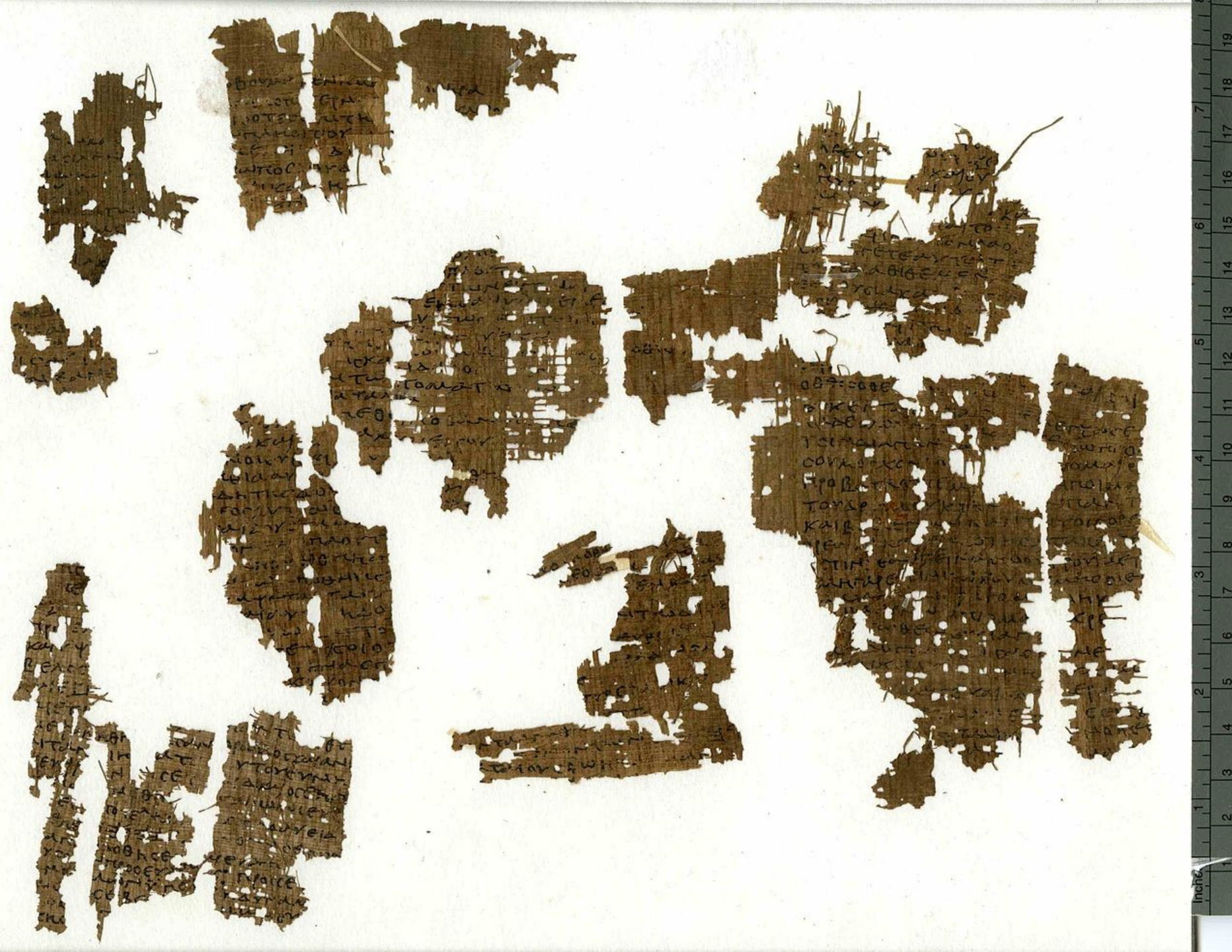
5 ἄνθρωπος] pr o 583 55 | ἦν Ἰουδαῖος] tr O-A = M | τῇ πόλει] t(h)ebari  
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 A' 55; κισαιου 46 392: cf A<sub>1</sub>; κισιου 967 | βενιαμιν BSV O-<sup>583</sup>. A' 392 542;  
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Greek Psalms  
manuscript from  
Oxyrhynchus



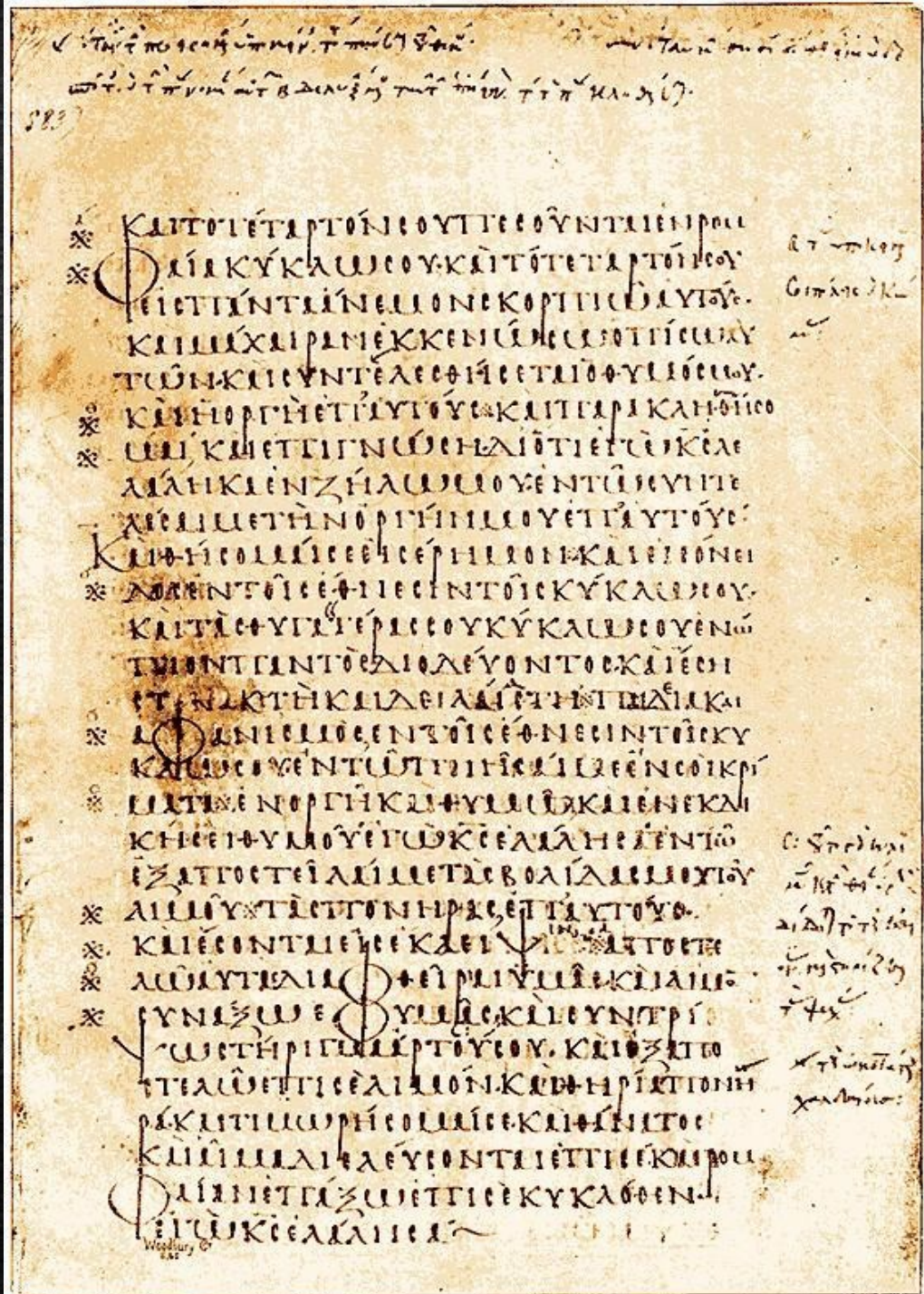


An example of an uncial:

Codex Marcilianus

(showing Ezekiel 5:12ff.)

6<sup>th</sup> century CE



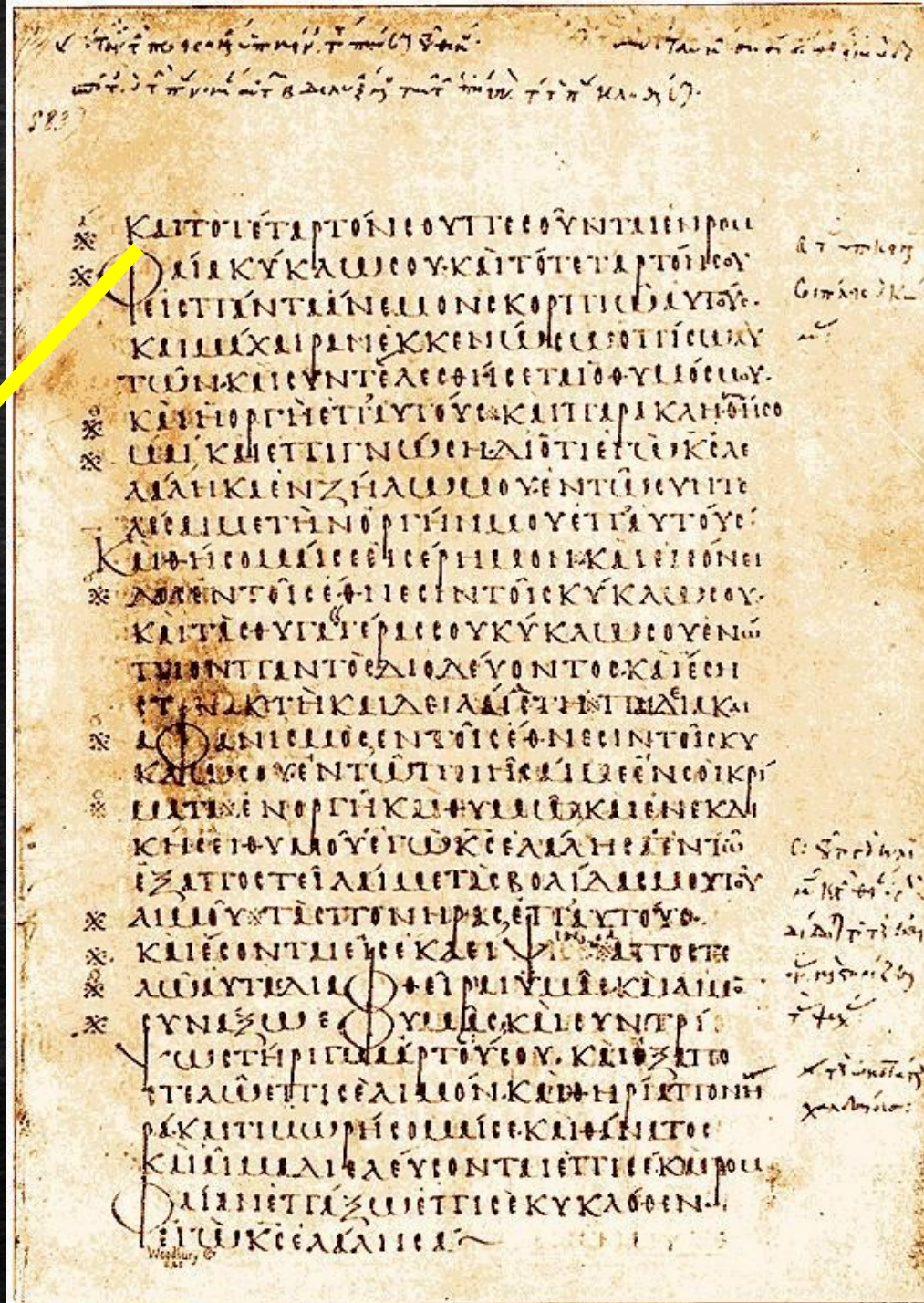
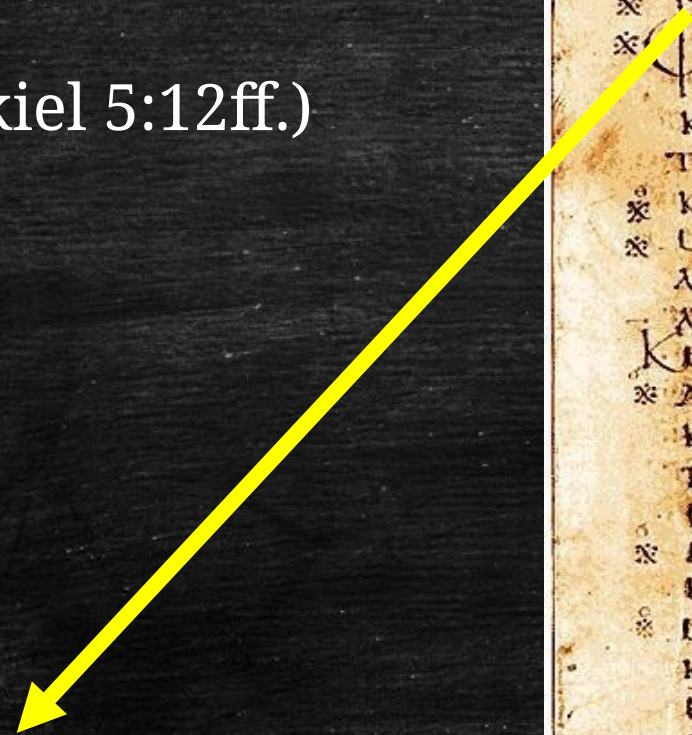
An example of an uncial:

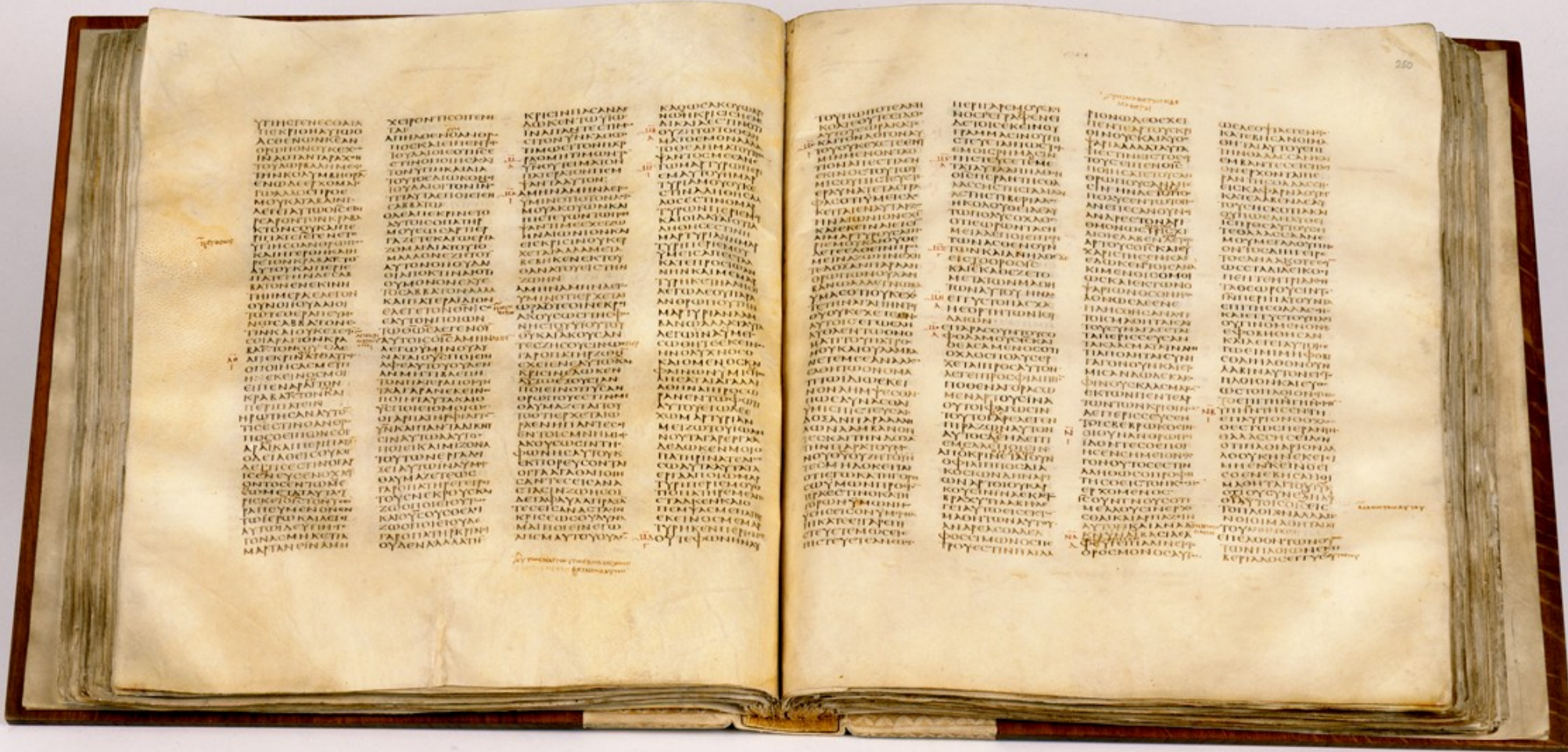
Codex Marcilianus

(showing Ezekiel 5:12ff.)

6<sup>th</sup> century CE

“KAI TO  
TETARTON...”





8  
δ υ ρ ι ζ ε χ ρ ι · υ ι ο υ α σ α φ · α ρ χ η γ ο σ τ ο υ α ι ν ο υ  
τ ο υ ι ο υ δ α δ ε ι σ π ρ ο σ ε υ χ η η κ β α κ β α κ ι α σ ·  
δ ε υ τ ε ρ ο σ ε κ τ ω ν α δ ε λ φ ω ν ε α ν τ ο υ κ β α δ α σ  
υ ι ο σ σ α μ μ ο υ ε · υ ι ο υ γ α λ λ ε λ · υ ι ο υ ι δ ι θ ο υ ν ·  
π α ν τ ε σ ο ι λ ε υ ι τ α ι ε ν τ η π ο λ ε ι τ η α γ ι α

α  
υ ι ο σ α σ α β ι ο υ · υ ι ο υ β ο ν ν α ι κ  
σ ο β β α θ α ι ο σ κ ι ω ζ α β α δ ε π ι  
τ ο υ ε ρ γ ο υ τ ο υ ε ζ ω τ α τ ο υ ο ι κ ο υ  
τ ο υ θ υ · α π ο τ ω ν α ρ χ η γ ω ν τ ω  
λ ε υ ι τ ω ν

5  
υ ι ο σ δ α δ ι α σ · γ ε ν η θ ο υ ι · α β ι α σ ·  
μ ε ι μ ι ν · μ α ρ δ ι α σ · β α λ γ α σ ·  
σ ε μ ε ι α σ · ι ω ι α ρ ι β · ι δ ε ι α σ ·  
σ α λ ο υ α ι · α μ ο υ κ · χ ε λ κ ι α σ ·  
ι δ ε ι α σ

υ ι ο σ ε ρ ι κ α ν κ λ ι μ α θ  
θ α λ η ι α σ  
υ ι ο σ μ α χ α κ λ ι ω β η β  
υ ι ο σ σ α μ μ ο υ ε ι δ ι α  
κ ο σ ι ο ι ο τ λ ο η κ ο  
τ α τ ε σ σ α ρ ε σ ·  
κ α ι ο ι π γ λ ω ρ ο ι α κ τ β  
τ ε λ α μ ε ι ν κ α ι ο ι α  
δ ε λ φ ο ι α υ τ ω ν ε  
κ α τ ο ν ε β δ ο μ η κ  
τ α δ υ ο τ ο δ ε λ ο ι π ο ν τ ο ν υ ι ο σ ο ι ε ρ ε ι ο υ  
κ α ι ε π ι σ κ ο π ο σ κ η  
ι τ ω ν ε ν ι λ η μ · α ζ α  
υ ι ο σ κ α ν ε ι ο ζ ε ι

ε σ δ ρ α  
μ α ρ ε ι α  
μ α λ ο υ χ α τ τ ο υ σ ·  
ε ε ν ι α ρ ε ο υ μ η η ρ ι μ ω θ  
ο υ τ ο ι α ρ χ ο ν τ ε σ  
τ ω ν ι ε ρ ε ω ν κ λ ι α  
δ ε λ φ ο ι α υ τ ω ν ε  
ν η μ ε ρ α ι σ τ η σ ο υ  
κ α ι ο ι λ ε υ ι τ α ι ι η σ υ  
β α ν ο υ ι  
κ λ α μ ι η λ  
σ α ρ α β ι α  
ι ω δ α ε  
μ α χ α ν ι α

οι φυλας  
συντες εν  
ταυσι φυλας

οι αδελφοι αυτου  
κβ ακβδ ια κβδ ια ι

Miniscule 2444  
(Gospel of Luke)



“Επειδη περ  
πολλοι ”

# *The Greek Translations*

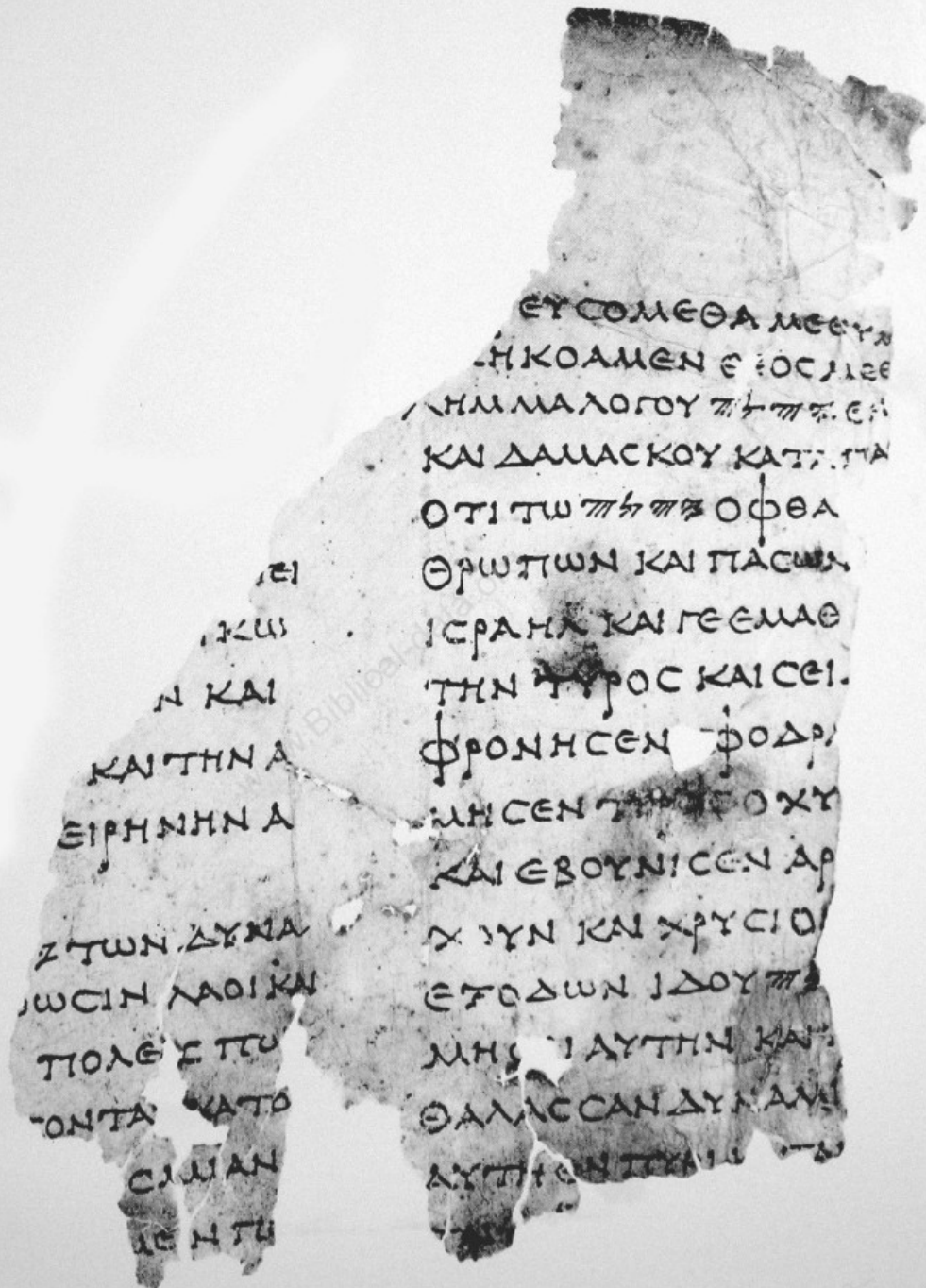
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- Greek translations were often *revised* against the Hebrew

## 8Hev II gr

Greek translation of the  
Twelve Prophets from  
Nahal Hever (near Dead  
Sea)

Showing a definable  
type of revision of the  
original Greek  
translation







# *The Greek Translations*

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1. Septuagint: the Greek Bible as a whole
2. Old Greek: the pre-revision Greek translations



# *The Latin Translations*

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1. Old Latin (translated from Greek)
2. Vulgate Latin (translated from Hebrew)

# “Old Latin”

P.Oxy VIII 1073

“Old Latin” text of Genesis  
5



# “Old Latin”

**M** principio fact' est  
 celum et terram  
 terra h' erat inuisibilis et  
 et tenebrae erant sup' ab  
 et sp' d' sup'q' ferebatur

P.Oxy VIII 1073

“Old Latin” text of Genesis

<p>           και χριπτε. cete            οσι κοςχαρια εκ δεσμο            ανειμενα            και θρατα mate cete ano            και εcontai σποδος σπο            κατατον ποδων υμων            εν ενερα ετο ποισο            λεγει κ̅ παντοκρατορ            λεγει κ̅ παντοκρατορ            και ιδος ετο αποστερο            ηελεαντον θεσβιτην            πινειν θειν ενερα κ̅            την κεραιεν και επι φανε            ος απο κατασ τεσει καρδια            πατρος προς υιον            και καρδια αντροπος            προς τον πλεσιον αυτογ            ..... Inscrite latio prima  <b>M</b> principio fact' est            celum et terram            terra h' erat inuisibilis            et tenebrae erant sup' ab            et sp' d' sup'q' ferebatur            sup'q' aquar            et d' d' fiat lux            et facta est lux            et vidit d' lucem quia bona est            et diuisit d' in t'p            lucem et tenebras         </p>	<p>           &amp; lux opammm            quasi unclij de unclij            laxat            &amp; conuocabat' in quoy            qm sunt unclij            subat' p' d' uclij            In die quo d' factu            dicit d' omnipot' d' y            dicit d' omnipot' d' y            &amp; d' d' m' d' d' uclij            heliar d' d' b' d' h            p' p' u' q' u' u' d' n' a' t' d' d' d' i            magnus &amp; in l' d' d' d' y            p' d' d' d' h' a' b' i' t' c' o' p' r' i            p' a' t' r' i' s' a' d' s' i' l' i' u' m            &amp; c' o' p' r' i' h' o' m' i' n' i' s            ad p' r' o' x' i' m' u' m' s' u' y            ..... Inscrite latio prima  <b>Q</b>UAE die sp' d' d' i' o' d' d' i' s            ton unanon et t' d' d' i' n            Id est in a' o' p' a' t' o' r' e' t' a' c' i' a' t' e' t' u' a' t' e' r' o' r' u' m            et i' d' o' r' u' m' i' n' s' p' a' n' o' t' u' m' a' b' y' s' s' i' u' m            et p' h' u' e' u' m' a' t' h' e' u' i' s' p' h' e' t' o            s' p' a' n' o' t' u' m' y' d' a' t' o' r' u' m            et i' p' s' i' o' d' d' i' s' t' h' e' t' u' t' o' r' o' r' u' m            et e' s' t' e' t' o' r' o' r' u' m            et i' d' o' r' u' m' o' d' d' i' s' t' o' r' o' r' u' m' o' d' d' i' s' t' o' r' o' r' u' m            et d' e' h' e' t' o' r' u' m' o' d' d' i' s' t' o' r' o' r' u' m' a' n' a' m' i' s' t' o' n' t' u' m            t' u' f' o' r' o' r' u' m' et a' n' a' m' i' s' t' o' n' t' u' m' i' n' s' p' o' r' o' r' u' m'         </p>
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# “Vulgate Latin”

**I**N PRINCIPIO CREAVIT Deus  
Caelum ET Terram  
Terra autem erat inanis et uacua  
ET Tenebrae erant super  
faciem abissi

Codex Amiatinus

Early 8<sup>th</sup> century  
The oldest Vulgate Bible

11

IN PRINCIPIO CREAVIT Deus  
Caelum ET Terram  
Terra autem erat inanis et uacua  
ET Tenebrae erant super  
faciem abissi  
Spiritus domini ferebatur super aquas  
Dixitque deus fiat lux ET FACTA EST LUX  
ET Dixit deus luceat quod esset firmamentum  
ET Dixit deus luceat diei  
ET Tenebrae noctei  
FACTAQUE EST AESTAS PER  
ET Tercia dies unius  
Dixitque deus fiat firmamentum in medio aquarum  
ET Dixit deus aquas ab aquis  
ET FACTA EST FIRMAMENTUM  
Dixitque deus aquae quae erant sub  
firmamento abis quae erant  
super firmamentum  
ET FACTA EST ITA  
aocavitque deus firmamentum  
caelum  
ET FACTA EST AESTAS PER  
ET Tercia dies unius  
Dixitque deus  
concreverunt aquae quae sub caelo  
sunt in locum unum  
ET APPARET ARIDUS  
FACTAQUE EST ITA  
ET AOCAVIT Deus ARIDUS TERRAM  
CONCREXTIONESQUE AQUARUM  
APPELLAVIT MARIAS  
ET Dixit deus quod esset bonum ET VIT  
GERMINET TERRA HERBAS VIRENTES  
ET FACIANT SEMEN  
ET LIGNUM PROFRUTUOSUM FACIENS  
FRUCTUM IUXTA GENUS SUUM  
CUIUS SEMEN IN SEMINE IPSO SIT SUPER  
TERRAM ET FACTA EST ITA  
ET PROTULIT TERRA HERBAS VIREN  
TES ET ADPERENT SEMEN  
IUXTA GENUS SUUM  
LIGNUMQUE FACIENS FRUCTUM  
ET HABENS UNUM QUODQUE SEMEN  
SECUNDUM SPECIEM SUAM  
ET Dixit deus quod esset bonum  
FACTAQUE EST AESTAS PER  
ET Tercia dies unius  
Dixit autem deus  
FIANT LUMINARIA IN FIRMAMENTO CAELI  
AD ILLUMINANDUM DIEM AC NOCTEM  
ET SINT IN SIGNA ET TEMPORA  
ET Dies ET ANNI  
AD ILLUMINANDUM TERRAM  
ET FACTA EST ITA  
FACTAQUE EST AESTAS PER  
ET Tercia dies unius  
Dixitque deus duo luminaria  
luminare diem ut praeesset diei  
ET LUMINARE nocti ut praeesset  
nocti ET STELLAS  
ET POSUIT eas IN FIRMAMENTO CAELI  
AD ILLUMINANDUM TERRAM  
ET PRAECESSENT DIEI AC NOCTI  
ET Dixit deus quod esset bonum  
ET FACTA EST AESTAS PER  
ET Tercia dies unius  
Dixit autem deus  
PRODUCANT AQUAE REPTILE  
ANIMAE VIVENTIS  
ET VOLATILE SUPER TERRAM  
SUB FIRMAMENTO CAELI  
CREAVITQUE Deus COETA GRANDIA  
ET OMNES ANIMAS VIVENTIS  
ATQUE AVIBILEM  
QUAM PRODUXERANT AQUAE  
IN SPECIES SUAS  
ET Tercia dies unius  
Dixit autem deus quod esset bonum  
Benedixitque eis deus  
CRESCITE ET MULTIPLICAMINI  
ET REPLETE AQUAS MARIAS  
Aquaeque multiplicentur  
SUPER TERRAM  
ET FACTA EST AESTAS PER  
ET Tercia dies unius



# Syriac

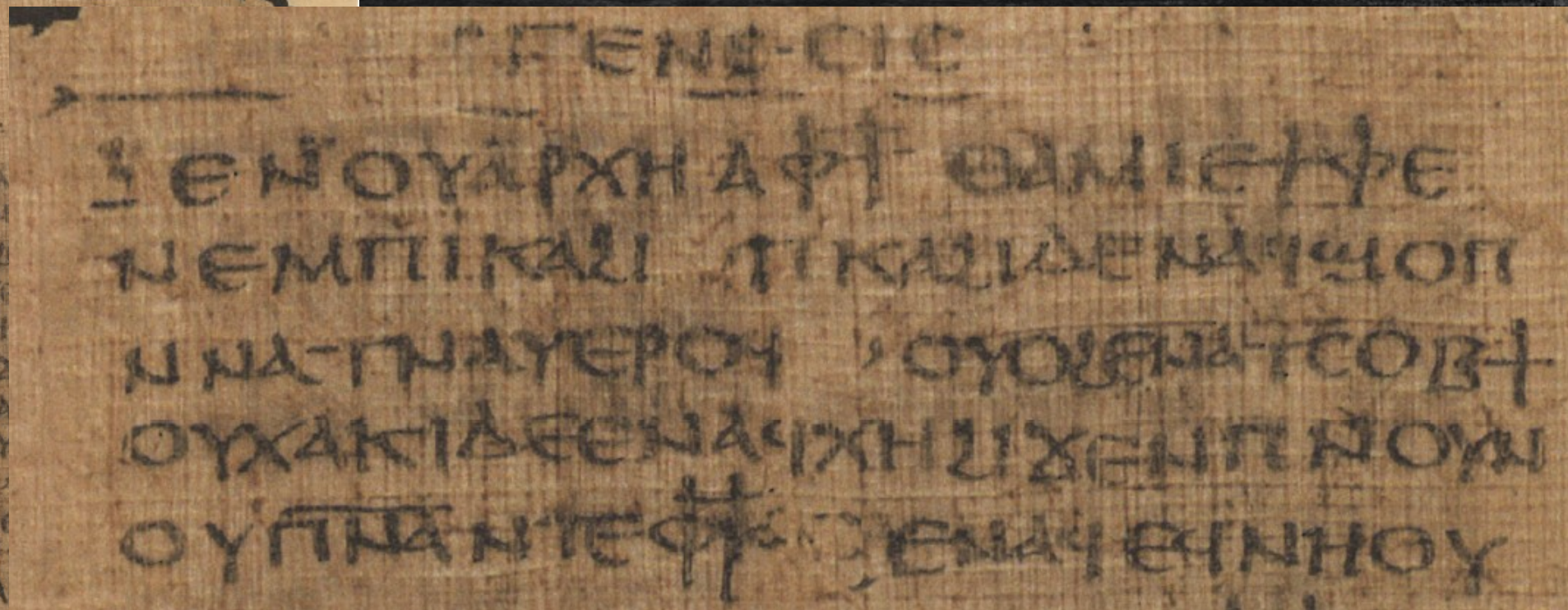
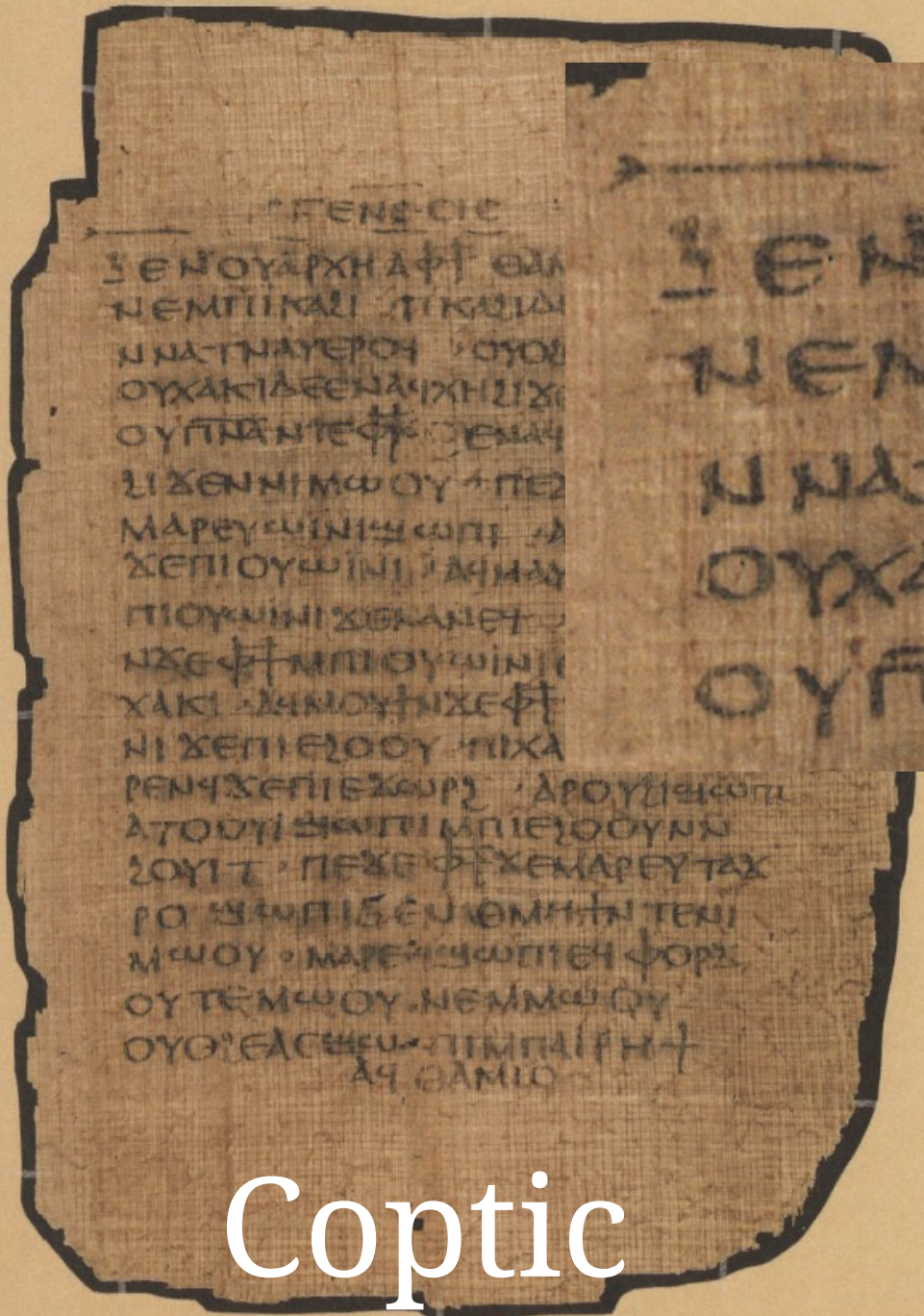
Fragment of a Syriac manuscript showing dense, handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a translation of the Hebrew Bible (Peshitta).

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Paris, Bibliotheque Nationale, Syr. 341

7th-8th century  
Peshitta (Syriac translation of Hebrew Bible)





Coptic

## Papyrus Bodmer III

4<sup>th</sup> century CE

Coptic translation of Greek Genesis

Photos from Daniel B. Sharp. *Papyrus Bodmer III: An Early Coptic Version of the Gospel of John and Genesis*. Berlin: DeGruyter, 2016.

# *The Process of Text Criticism of the Bible*

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1. Hebrew manuscripts must be compared

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1. Hebrew manuscripts must be compared
2. Hebrew antigraphs of Greek translations must be generated and compared with the Hebrew
3. How many archetypes to reconstruct?

# *Genesis 1 Variants*

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- The Greek translation in general evidences harmonizing activity:
  - In Gen 1:6, 12, 16, 20, 25, the Greek always has “And it was so,” which does not always correspond to the Hebrew.

# Genesis 1 Variants

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- The Greek translation sometimes suggests a different Hebrew text:
  - Gen 11:9, Greek has “gathering,” while Hebrew reads “place.”
  - The Greek implies Hebrew מְקוּהָה, while the Hebrew has מְקוֹם.

# *Genesis 1 Variants*

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- A Dead Sea Scroll fragment reads מקוה, agreeing with the Greek!

# *Genesis 1 Variants*

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- Greek translations which show a different understanding of the Hebrew original, but do not imply a different text:
  - Gen 1:20, Hebrew: the ocean “teems” with serpents and birds
  - Gen 1:20, Greek: the water “produced” serpents and birds



# *Genesis 1 Variants*

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- Do we reconstruct a Hebrew antigraph that differs from the received Hebrew text?

# *A Text Critical, Digital Edition of Genesis*

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- Important Hebrew manuscripts
  - Oldest Dead Sea Scrolls
  - Oldest Masoretic codices (with Geniza if possible)
  - Best Samaritan manuscripts

# *A Text Critical, Digital Edition of Genesis*

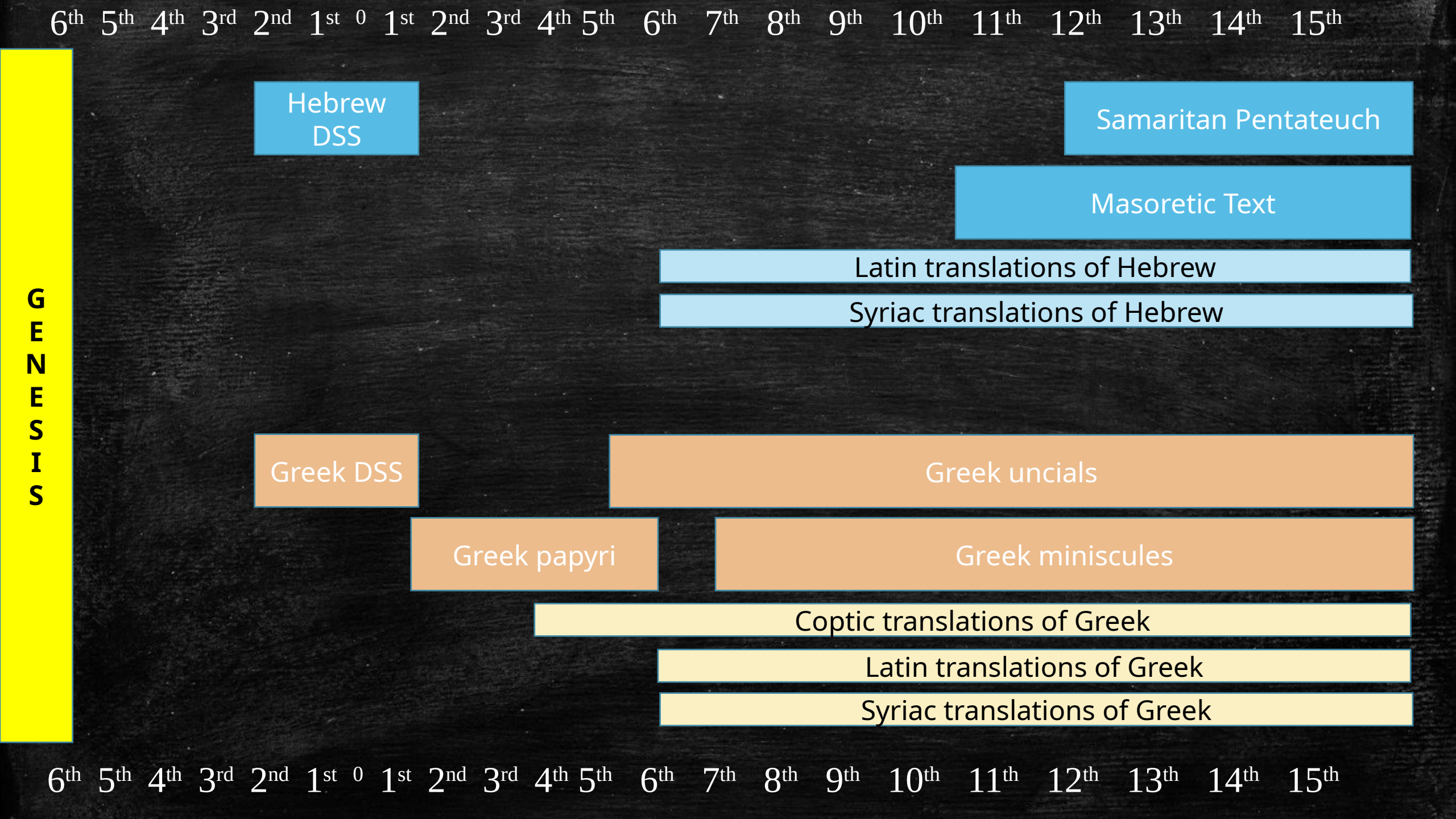
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- Important Hebrew manuscripts
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  - Best Samaritan manuscripts
- Aligned with important Greek manuscripts
  - To allow research into differences and reconstruction of Hebrew antigraphs

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- Important Hebrew manuscripts
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  - Best Samaritan manuscripts
- Aligned with important Greek manuscripts
  - To allow research into differences and reconstruction of Hebrew antigraphs
- Both should be aligned with Aramaic, Latin, Syriac, and Coptic translations



6<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 0 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup>

Hebrew  
DSS

Samaritan Pentateuch

Masoretic Text

Latin translations of Hebrew

Syriac translations of Hebrew

Greek DSS

Greek uncials

Greek papyri

Greek miniscules

Coptic translations of Greek

Latin translations of Greek

Syriac translations of Greek

**G  
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6<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 0 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup>