

## Textual Criticism October 2015

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1. Ancient texts of the Hebrew Bible (MT medieval texts, Dead Sea Scrolls, LXX, Peshitta, Targumim, Vulgate). Modern editions of these texts.
2. Ancient versions need to be retroverted to Hebrew. MT is complete, and usually is a good text, often the best text. In the Torah it is the best text.
3. Evaluation of readings: task of scholars when faced with differences between ancient witnesses. This is an ongoing task reflected in modern commentaries and editions.
4. Subjectivity of textual evaluation, and difficulties faced. Scholars will never agree in their textual evaluations.
5. Task of modern translators. Follow guidelines, critical editions or follow MT?
6. Some examples of differences between the textual witnesses of Hebrew and translated Scripture.

1 Sam 17:4

MT (A champion of the Philistine forces stepped forward; his name was Goliath of Gath), and he was **six** cubits and a span tall. גְּבוּהוֹ שֵׁשׁ אַמּוֹת וְחֵטָא

4QSam<sup>a</sup> = LXX (NETS): (And a mighty man came out from the ranks of the allophytes; Goliath was his name, from Geth;) his height was **four** cubits and a span.

Gen 2:2      וַיְכַל אֱלֹהִים בְּיוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי (מִלְאֲכָתוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה)

(= ㄥ<sup>O</sup> Ps-J N ㄩ) <preferable>

On *the seventh* day God completed (the work that He had been doing) = most translations

וַיְכַל אֱלֹהִים בְּיוֹם הַשְּׁשִׁי (מִלְאֲכָתוֹ אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה)

= ㄥ καὶ συνετέλεσεν ὁ θεὸς ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ ἕκτῃ = S

On *the sixth* day God completed (the work that He had been doing) = REB

1 Sam 1:23      וַיִּזְכֹּר יְהוָה אֶת דְּבָרֹוֹ (= ㄥ ㄩ)

May the LORD fulfill *His word*.

4QSam<sup>a</sup>      [אֲךָ יִקָּם יְהוָה הַיּוֹצֵא מִפִּיךָ] (= ㄥ)

[May the Lo]RD [fulfill] *that which comes out of your mouth*

