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THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE



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HAROLD WILSON

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most accessible complete manuscripts for Deuteronomy chosen were those of Codex Bezae Cantabrigiae (B), also known as the Bezae Cantabrigiae (M<sup>B</sup>), and BHP. BHP. 118.17 in the Russian National Library, St. Petersburg (M<sup>R</sup>). Because of the poor condition of these are included in the apparatus. A small number of folios in M<sup>R</sup> are not legible, while those of M<sup>B</sup> are in better condition generally speaking. From the final word of 28:17 onwards, the Aleppo Codex (M<sup>A</sup>) has also been included. In addition to a small number of graphic errors, there are some few other notable differences between these Tiberian manuscripts and that of M<sup>B</sup>, where the text of one or other of the Tiberian manuscripts seems preferable to that of M<sup>B</sup>. These are noted in the apparatus. Occasional references are made to the Ms. and Ms. of the Madrid Codex, M2 (M<sup>M</sup>) for illustrative purposes, particularly where the Masorah of M<sup>B</sup> is incomplete or unclear.

The Masoretic text of Deuteronomy in M<sup>B</sup> has been well preserved, apart from sections of the Song of Moses (Deuteronomy 32) and the Blessing of Moses (Deuteronomy 33), where considerable variation in the readings of both G and Q are due to a complex textual history. Recognising the impossibility of representing diplomatically the extensive arrangement of the Song of Moses as attested in M<sup>B</sup>, the presentation incorporated into this edition follows the majority tradition for the copying of the Song of Moses in a seventy-line tabular format, preceded and followed by a prose introduction and epilogue, as formulated in the *Masseket Soferim* (see McCarthy, "Diplomatic Dilemma," 21-32).

There are some interesting variations in the placement of the *parashot* and *petuchot* in the three major Tiberian manuscripts (and in 28:17ff. of M<sup>B</sup>). These variations in the division of the text into sections are presented in tabular form in an appendix to this introduction, and a small number of them are also included in the apparatus for text-critical reasons.

In M<sup>B</sup> the book of Deuteronomy is made up of thirty-two *parashot* located at 1:1; 2:2-31; 3:23; 4:25-41; 6:4; 7:12; 9:1; 10:1; 11:10; 12:28; 13:2; 14:1; 15:7; 16:18; 17:14; 18:14; 20:1; 21:10; 21:16; 23:10; 24:19; 26:1; 28:1; 29:9; 30:11; 31:14; 32:1; and 33:1 respectively. Weil has inserted numbers for thirty-one of these in BHS, omitting one for 20:1, marking it with a *sub loco non* instead (the *parashot* are not numbered in M<sup>B</sup> or in B/K<sup>C</sup>). By contrast M<sup>A</sup> contains only twenty-seven (the evidence for M<sup>A</sup> and M<sup>M</sup> is incomplete). Weil's non-numbering of 20:1 in BHS may be his attempt to manage the discrepancy between the actual total of 32 *parashot* in M<sup>B</sup>, and the MC at the end of Deuteronomy in M<sup>A</sup> which lists 167. The