

The Samaritan Pentateuch

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The Samaritan Pentateuch, an Adaptation of the Massoretic Text
A Sketch of Samaritan History, Dogma, and Literature
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Readers: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers *James D. Purvis William E. Barton William Eleazar Barton William Eleazar Barton ayyim Heller John William Nutt William E. Barton John William Nutt J. Iverach Munro W. Nutt Thomas Hartwell Horne Henry Martyn Harman Patrick Fairbairn John McClintock William Smith Charles John Ellicott John Kitto Charles John Ellicott*

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

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lately been turned to the discovery of an old samaritan pentateuch in damascus which is said to have been written in 735 a d this manuscript is reported to be now in cairo i have recently learned that one of the 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

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