

4. How was the Hebrew text preserved?

a. A note on the giving and keeping of the law, the works of the prophets, the records and writings of the courtly scribes. There is a lot we don't know and assumptions must be made..so we will make 'em at this point.

b. Literary age development

(1) periods and workers

Sopherim...5-3 centuries BC
 Zugoth...2-1 BC into the AD economy
 Taanites...to 200 AD
 Masorettes...500-1000 AD

These are not exact dates and please don't try to memorize them..but you should be familiar with the general run of things.

(2) products:

Midrash:
 Tosephta
 Talmud:

Mishna
 Gamara

I will discuss these with great brevity and probably exhaust my fund of knowledge in the process. The overall care given to the text is amazing no matter how you look at it.

c. A brief note on some of the protective devices

- (1) text demonstrating devices
 (2) Qere and Kethib

5. What are some of the special contributions of the Masorettes?

- a. Who were they, first of all. What was their task, goal, method?
 b. A system of pointing and reading
 c. Notations