

Yosef Ofer

A New Edition of the Bible

Jerusalem Crown: The Bible of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The recently published edition of the Bible, *Keter Yerushalayim*, was prepared under the aegis of the Hebrew University following the text and the Masora of the Aleppo Codex and related manuscripts according to the method of Rabbi Mordechai Breuer (supervising editor: Yosef Ofer, Jerusalem, 2000). The article reviews the principles according to which the biblical text was determined, comparisons made to other variants, and explicates the decisions taken. Such documentation is an essential part of any modern scientific Bible edition.

Based on the *Horev* edition (1996) prepared by Breuer and on the principles he established, the modifications in the *Jerusalem Crown* are of two main types: modifications connected to page makeup, and changes deriving from new examination of textual details. In design the *Jerusalem Crown* resembles the Aleppo Codex and other biblical manuscripts of the masoretic age. Each page contains three columns, which necessitated the adoption of unusual forms of *petuhot* and *setumot*. Psalms, Proverbs, and Job are also modeled on the Aleppo Codex, with each line divided into two columns based upon the cantillation signs (*ta'ame ha-miqra*). In addition to being proofread against the *Horev* edition, comparisons were made to two other editions of the Bible: *Miqra'ot Gedolot Haketer*, which was based on the Aleppo Codex, and the JPS edition, which was based on MS. Leningrad B19a. These comparisons supported the readings and decisions made by Breuer. Based on a variety of considerations, four changes were made to letters, and a number of changes to punctuation and *ge'ayot* were made in addition. About thirty errors found in the *Horev* edition were corrected.