

Yosef Ofer

The Babylonian Masorah to the Pentateuch  
in a Tiberian Rescension

Mordechai Breuer, ed., *The Masorah Magna to the Pentateuch by Shemuel ben Ya'aqov (MS בל)*, New York: Manfred and Anne Lehmann Foundation, 1992, 2 vols., 821 pp. + English introduction, lvi pp.

Only a small portion of the Babylonian Masorah to the Pentateuch remains extant. In distinction to the Tiberian Masorah, the various manuscripts of the Babylonian reflect a uniform version arranged according to the biblical sequence. The eleventh-century masorete and scribe, Shemuel ben Ya'aqov, the copyist of the well-known complete manuscript of the Bible, Leningrad B19<sup>A</sup>, integrated the Babylonian Masorah in the marginal notations to a Tiberian codex of the Pentateuch (formerly, Cairo, Gottheil 14). The editor of this MS, Rabbi Mordechai Breuer, cites the Masorah Magna found therein, discusses the problems arising from each comment, and provides a comprehensive introduction as well.