

Samuel MSS from Qumran

4 mss discovered in Qumran, 1 from Cave 1 (1947) and 3 from Cave 4 (1952), though some fragments obtained later by purchase from Bedouin:

- 4QSam^a (4Q51): 50-25 BCE
- 4QSam^b (4Q52): ca. 250 BCE
- 4QSam^c (4Q53): 100-75 BCE

In general, these mss evidence a Hebrew text superior to MT and close to OG, though sometimes superior to both. Often agrees with LXX^B in OG sections, LXX^L in *kaige* sections. Frequent agreement with Josephus, Chronicles, & Old Latin.

1QSam

Fragmentary.

4QSam^a

By far the most extensive mss of Samuel found in Qumran, containing at least parts of every chapter of 2 Sam & parts of every chapter of 1 Sam except 13, 16, 19, 21, 23 in hundreds of fragments. Originally 55-60 columns. Text similar to that used by author of Chronicles.

Frequently has fuller text than MT, often in agreement with OG (cf. DSS Bible).

Song of Hannah (1 Sam 2:1-10) longer in Q, perhaps evidence of separate edition (cf. Odes).

Long addition before 1 Sam 11:1 (Nahash & the Ammonites).

2 Sam 24:16: David raised his eyes and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven; his drawn sword was in his hand stretched out toward Jerusalem, David and the elders, covered in sackcloth, fell down on their faces.

2 Sam 24:17: Behold, I have sinned, and I the shepherd have done evil (הִרְעַתִּי הָרְעָה), but these sheep, what have they done?

4QSam^b

Oldest ms from Qumran. One large fragment & 22 small fragments. Portions of 1 Sam 14-23.

Where there are variants, 142 superior readings (90 with OG, 63 with MT), 16 inferior

readings. 20 unique readings, of which 15 superior, none inferior.

1 Sam 20:36: “to the city”

1 Sam 21:4: (they may eat) “from it”

4QSam^c

Numerous small fragments from three columns of ms, containing 2 Sam 14:7-15:15, plus 1 Sam 25:30-32. Frequently superior to MT.