

TRANSLATION OF FRAGMENT c. 1450 OF THE TORAH FROM BEN EZRA SYNAGOGUE, EGYPT

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ABSTRACT

The preservation of ancient texts is vital for understanding not only culture and ensuring the survival of traditions but also to safeguard this linguistic heritage for future generations as well as to give more scholars access to manuscripts, thereby allowing for translation and expansion of linguistic knowledge. Cross comparison of texts and translations can then be conducted for the purpose of understanding grammar, content, stylistic change over periods and to ascertain the reliability of copies when compared over large periods of time. The translation of the Fragment from Ben Ezra Synagogue is such an attempt. This fragment written circa 1450 provides a brief insight into the scholarly work of Hebrew Soferim (סופרים) during the Islamic rule of the Mamluk Sultanate of Egypt (سلطنة المماليك Salṭanat al-Mamālīk). This will further provide a source of comparison for Bible translation in unison with the use of older as well as newer copies of the Sacred writings.

Keywords: Bible, Hebrew, Translation, Ben Ezra, Egypt, Tetragrammaton, Jehovah.