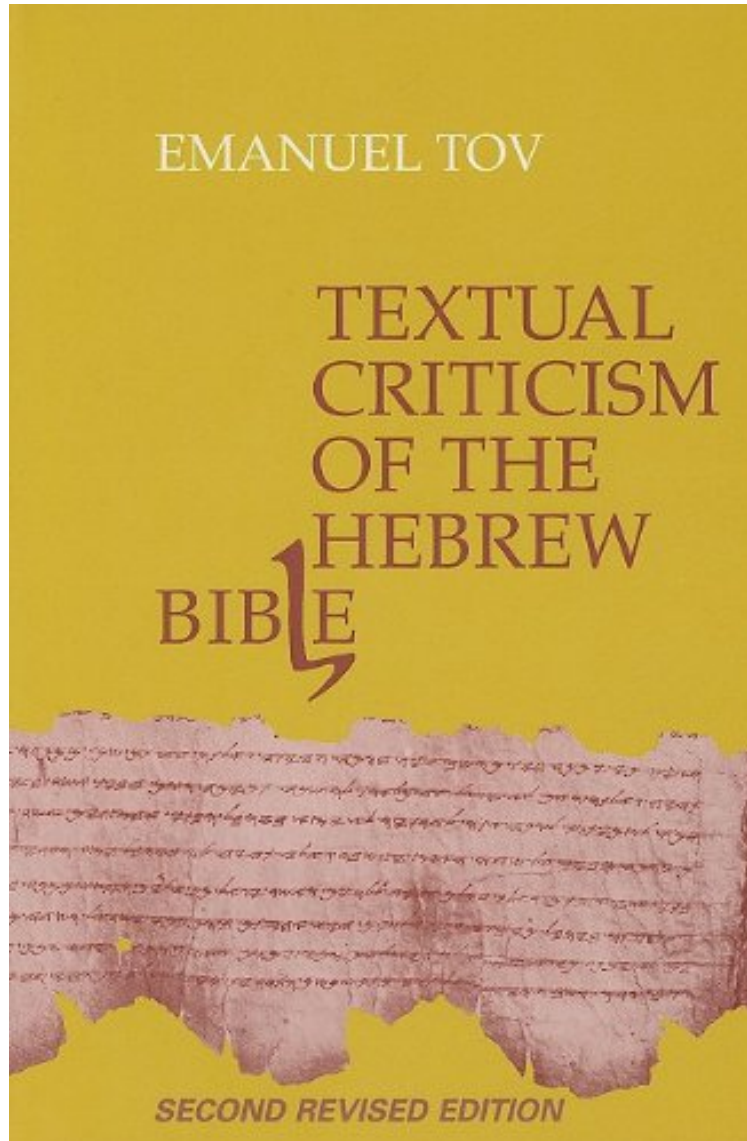


## Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible

*J L Magnes Professor of the Bible Emanuel Tov*  
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outlines the principles of textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible. Especially helpful are discussions of how this field is different than that of Greek New Testament textual criticism. Note that this book is more of a manual for how to do textual criticism than it is a summary of the current state of knowledge in the field (although it does have a fair amount of that too). 3 of 10 people found the following review helpful. **By** **The** book is authoritative and well edited. There is an established tradition in Judaism of how the text was written and how to read what on the surface appears as a deviation from grammar or inconsistency in the meaning of the text. Criticism devoid of any tradition is unfortunately based exclusively on one's chosen ideology. The book perfectly explains this point, which is definitely honest and praiseworthy of the author E. Tov who tries hard to be neutral. The book also shows that all the present day critics are familiar with the Jewish interpretation of the text. Hence, the main lesson one can learn from the book is that although there are many improper ways one can convince oneself why the Jewish interpretation is wrong, the final criticism is always reserved for G-d, the Author of the Hebrew Bible. The claims of the professional textual critics, whether driven by desire to prove that the Masoretic text is not authentic or by a desire to fit in among the left-wing academia, or to win yet another research grant by cooking up a new radically deviant interpretation, happen to be mostly a negative contribution to the overall understanding of the text.

Customers in North America who wish to purchase this publication, please contact Augsburg Fortress Press. First published in 1992, Emanuel Tov's *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible* has rapidly established itself as the authoritative reference work for all those engaged in the study of the text of the Hebrew Bible. This thoroughly revised second edition will be welcomed by students and scholars alike. A wide range of readers will find this book accessible and indispensable. Emanuel Tov offers extensive descriptions of the major witnesses to the text of the Hebrew Bible—the Hebrew texts from Qumran, the Septuagint, the Masoretic Text—as well as the Aramaic Targumim, the Syriac translations, the Vulgate, and others. Special attention is given to the exegetical aspects of the textual transmission, literary issues, and the problem of the original shape of the biblical text. Praise for the First Edition: "Emanuel Tov is preeminent in the world in the field of Septuagint studies. This is a solid and durable work which, given its technical character, is written in a readable way." Frank Moore Cross, Harvard University "Nowhere else can you find such a thorough presentation of how the Bible was transmitted in Second Temple times ... This excellently written handbook represents a major step forward for biblical studies." Lawrence Schiffman, New York University "History will surely regard Emanuel Tov's monumental work as the definitive discussion of textual criticism of this generation. A 'must-have' for any serious scholar of the Bible!" Sidnie A. White, University of Nebraska "The basic reference work on the textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible for at least the next decade. This is a magisterial work which is badly needed and masterfully done." *Journal for the Study of Judaism* "This book will soon be viewed as a classic of biblical studies." Ralph W. Klein, *Journal of Religion* "Replete with examples, tables, plates, lucid definitions and explanations, as well as extensive bibliographies, the volume brings together a wealth of information not previously so accessible and makes the theory and practice of textual criticism easily understandable and visually clear." Judith E. Sanderson, Seattle University