



The Samaritan Update
"Mount Gerizim,
All the Days of Our Lives"



November/December 2020

Vol. XX - No 2

[Your link to the Samaritan Update Index](#)
2020, the Samaritan Community number 820.

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Future Events

**It has been 3659 years since the entrance into the Holy Land
which happened on the Sixth Month of the Hebrew Year.
It is the year 6448 since Creation**

2021 Events

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Tuesday evening January 12: 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 10<sup>th</sup> month  
 Thursday evening February 11: 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month  
 Friday evening March 12: 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month  
 Sunday evening April 11: 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 1<sup>th</sup> month of 3659  
 Passover Sacrifice April 25, 2021

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**Avraham Ben Marhev Ben
Yaakov Zadka Hazfri (1928-
1852)**

A rare picture of him taken in the twenties in the barking to which he moved from Jaffa to Nablus in his last days.

Abraham, a great poet who wrote over a thousand songs and logic. The big part of them is combined in the annual prayer order. A sign in the Hebrew and Aramaic language on Borain. The main thing is that he convinced the high priests to open the gates of the

community for marriage with girls outside the community, starting with his fourth son Yefet (in 1928). The next day his death, Yitzhak Ben Tzvi wrote about him in "speak" in 1924: - "Because there is no one in all his witness".





Zebulun son of Abraham the expander

[Ben Sedaka](#) 12/14/2020

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A Samaritan Wedding

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWyB89u54qQ&feature=youtu.be>

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Searchable Whole Volumes in PDF

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[Vol. XVI](#) [Vol. XVII](#) [Vol. XVIII](#) [Vol. XIX](#)

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**3 Articles from Haseb Shehadeh**

The Samaritan Update wishes to thank Haseb Shehadeh for his contributions to the issues of the Samaritan Update and to his contributions to the field of Samaritan Research.



## مخطوطات سامرية حول عقود بيع وشراء من العام ١٦٤٩ ولغاية العام ١٨٥٨

### Samaritan Manuscripts on Sale and Purchase Contracts from 1649 to 1858

أ. د. حسيب شحادة

جامعة هلسنكي

يتوزع السامريون اليوم، قرابة ٧٧٠ شخصا، على خمس عائلات وهي: أولا: عائلة الكهنة وهي من سلالة هارون شقيق النبي موسى عليه السلام من سبط لاوي، تتولى مهمة القيام بالطقوس الدينية للطائفة، ومنها يكون الكاهن الأكبر/الأعظم، الذي يتوارث منصبه الأكبر سنًا في هذه العائلة.

Continue reading at [https://shomron0.tripod.com/articles/sam\\_mss\\_1649\\_to\\_1858.pdf](https://shomron0.tripod.com/articles/sam_mss_1649_to_1858.pdf)

### تفسير سامري مجهول على سفر التكوين ١: ٢٦

#### Anonymous Samaritan Interpretation of Genesis 1: 26

حسيب شحادة

جامعة هلسنكي

فيما يلي أورد ما جاء في تفسير عربي لهذه الآية في مخطوط محفوظ في المكتبة الوطنية الروسية في سانت بطرسبورغ الغنية بمثل هذه المخطوطات، قرابة ١٣٥٠ مخطوطا. إنه المخطوط Sam III 17، وهو بمثابة شرح ناقص لمسألة الخليقة، يستعين بعلم الفلك، ويضم ثمانين ورقة بمقاس ١٧x٢٢ سم، التفسير والاستشهادات من التوراة مكتوبة بالعربية وبالرسم العربي وتظهر علامة شبيهة بالمدة العربية على معظم الكلمات العبرية المقتبسة ولم أستطع إبرازها لأسباب تقنية. لا ذكر في المخطوط لهوية مؤلف هذا التفسير وقل الأمر ذاته بالنسبة لاسم الناسخ والزمان والمكان. في الكاتالوج اليدوي المتوفر في المكتبة ذكر القرن الثامن عشر بدون الإشارة إلى أية مصادر ويبدو لي، انطلاقا من الكتابة، أنه قد يعود إلى القرن اللاحق، القرن التاسع عشر. صفحات هذا المخطوط غير متتالية كما يتضح من تسلسل الأمور أولا ومن استخدام نهج الـ catchwords أي كتابة الكلمة الأولى في الصفحة التالية في أسفل الصفحة السابقة. يبدأ المخطوط بالكلمات: "اربعه واعلم ان الجوهر الاول هو/ (هذا الخط المائل يدل على نهاية سطر وبداية آخر) والارض كانت مغمورة بذلك/لقوله تعالى عز من قائل/". والكلمات الأخيرة في المخطوط: "وقد سماهم الله/تعالى في كتابه العزيز فيشون وجييون وهديل/وفرت ثم بعد تمام ذلك اخذ الله تعالى ادم واقره/في الجنة واوصاه ان ياكل من كل اثمار الجنة الا ذلك الشجرة المعرفه" (المعرفه هي كاتش ورد). في كل صفحة واحد وعشرون سطرا.

Continue reading at <https://shomron0.tripod.com/articles/Tafsiir.pdf>

תולדות השומרונים: שתי תשבחות ללמע'רבי אל-בהלול  
History of the Samaritans: Two Eulogies by al-Maghrebi al-Bahloul

מאת חסיב שחאדה

אוניברסיטת הלסינקי

הנני מפרסם בזה לראשונה שתי תשבחות המיוחסות ללמע'רבי אל-בהלול לאור חמשה עשר מקורות עיקריים, שמונה כתבי-יד שומרונים, כתב-יד ערבי המצוי בספריית האוניברסיטה ע"ש המלך סעוד, ושישה טקסטים הקיימים במרשתת. התשבחות כתובות בערבית הקרובה יותר ללשון הדיבור מאשר ללשון הספרות. תרגום לעברית מצורף למקור וכן סקירה לשונית של המקור הערבי. התשבחת הראשונה נושאת את הכותרת "זאת הינזרות מוע'רבית" הכוללת מאה ושני בתי שיר, ואילו התשבחת השנייה לא ניתנה לה כותרת והיא בת תשעים ושמונה בתי שיר לפי כתב-היד השמור במנצ'סטר והוא שימש לעיל בפנים המהדורה. שתי תשבחות אלה מושרות לפי שתי מנגינות ידועות בפיטו השומרונים: אין אל פרט לאלוהים הוי עם העד; קום ושים פניך אל האל לפני סיום חיך.

Continue reading at <https://shomron0.tripod.com/articles/Bahloul.pdf>

### Sotheby's Auction

SASSOON: A Golden Legacy

Live Auction: 17 December 2020 • 10:00 EST • New York

ISHBAN KASHTAH (SAMARITAN CALENDRIAL TREATISE), [LAND OF ISRAEL: EARLY 14TH CENTURY]

Estimate: 8,000 - 12,000 USD **Sold \$40,320 USD**

Description: LOT 64: ISHBAN KASHTAH (SAMARITAN CALENDRIAL TREATISE), [LAND OF ISRAEL: EARLY 14TH CENTURY]



35 pages on parchment, 1 page on paper (3 7/8 x 3 1/2 in.; 98 x 88 mm) (pp. 30-31, 33 blank); modern pagination in pencil in Arabic numerals in upper-outer corners; written in Samaritan square and Arabic scripts in black ink; inconsistent number of lines; unruled; no headers or catchwords. Intricate calendrical concentric circle diagram on p. 1; extensive calendrical tables on pp. 5-18. Slight scattered staining; some ink chipped or worn (see, e.g., p. 34); some parchment leaves have darkened; tiny wormhole in gutter at head of pp.

1-27; small paper repairs at lower edges of pp. 4, 36. Modern brown buckram; paper ticket with manuscript name on spine; shelf mark lettered in gilt on spine; modern paper flyleaves and pastedowns.

One of the oldest surviving manuscripts for the calculation of the Samaritan calendar.

Dating back more than 2,500 years, the Samaritans are the longest-lived religious sect in Israelite/Jewish history; today, their traditions, beliefs, and practices are still maintained by a small community of approximately eight hundred souls. As they have for nearly their entire existence, many Samaritans currently live in the vicinity of the biblical city of Shechem (Nablus), near Mount Gerizim on the West Bank. The mountain is central to Samaritan worship and is the site of the group's annual Passover sacrifice.

The present work, known by its Samaritan Aramaic title *Ishban kashtah* (=Heshbon kushta; True Reckoning), features a series of calendrical tables written in the distinctive Samaritan alphabet, with explanatory text provided in Arabic script. The Samaritan calendar, like the Jewish one, is lunisolar, adding extra (lunar) months seven times every nineteen years in order to ensure that the Passover festival coincides with the (solar) spring. According to Samaritan tradition, the secrets of the calendar and its calculations were transmitted by God through the angels to Adam, from whom they passed to Enoch, Noah, Shem, Eber, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Phinehas, and the priestly line, which continues to safeguard them to this day. Indeed, the Samaritan High Priest issues a new calendar every six months, and each male in the community is required to secure a copy for himself.

Precious few manuscripts of the *Ishban kashtah* from such an early date as this one have survived. The codex is further distinguished by the presence on its first page of a diagram composed of concentric circles that give the numerical values of the Arabic consonants, the stations of the moon, the zodiacal signs, and the four seasons, among other data points. If the owner recorded on p. 4 is to be identified with a member of the famous Danfi scribal family active in Shechem in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries that would lend even further prestige to this already important witness to late medieval Samaritan religious culture.

Provenance: Murjan ibn Ibrahim al-Danfi, 1669 (p. 4)

Literature: Maurice Baillet, "Quelques manuscrits samaritains," *Semitica* 26 (1976): 143-166, at p. 154 n. 2.

Alan D. Crown, "Samaritan Minuscule Palaeography," *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester* 63,2 (1981): 330-368, at pp. 352-353.

Alan D. Crown, "Studies in Samaritan Scribal Practices and Manuscript History: IV. An Index of Scribes, Witnesses, Owners and Others Mentioned in Samaritan Manuscripts, with a Key to the Principal Families Therein," *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester* 68,2 (1986): 317-372, at pp. 330-331 (no. 45), 360 (no. 439).

Sylvia Powels, *Der Kalender der Samaritaner anhand des Kitāb ḥisāb as-sinīn und anderer Handschriften* (Berlin; New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1977), 106-107.

Sylvia Powels, "Relations between Samaritan and Arabic Astronomical Calculations," *Abr-Nahrain* 25 (1987): 92-142, at pp. 92, 96.

Sylvia Powels, "The Samaritan Calendar and the Roots of Samaritan Chronology," in Alan D. Crown (ed.), *The Samaritans* (Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr [Paul Siebeck], 1989), 691-742, at pp. 725-726.

Marina Rustow, Sharon Liberman Mintz, and Elka Deitsch, *Scripture and Schism: Samaritan and Karaite Treasures from the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary* (New York: The Library, 2000), 54-55.

David Solomon Sassoon, *Ohel Dawid: Descriptive Catalogue of the Hebrew and Samaritan Manuscripts in the Sassoon Library, London*, vol. 2 ([Oxford]: Oxford University Press; London: Humphrey Milford, 1932), 601 (no. 722).

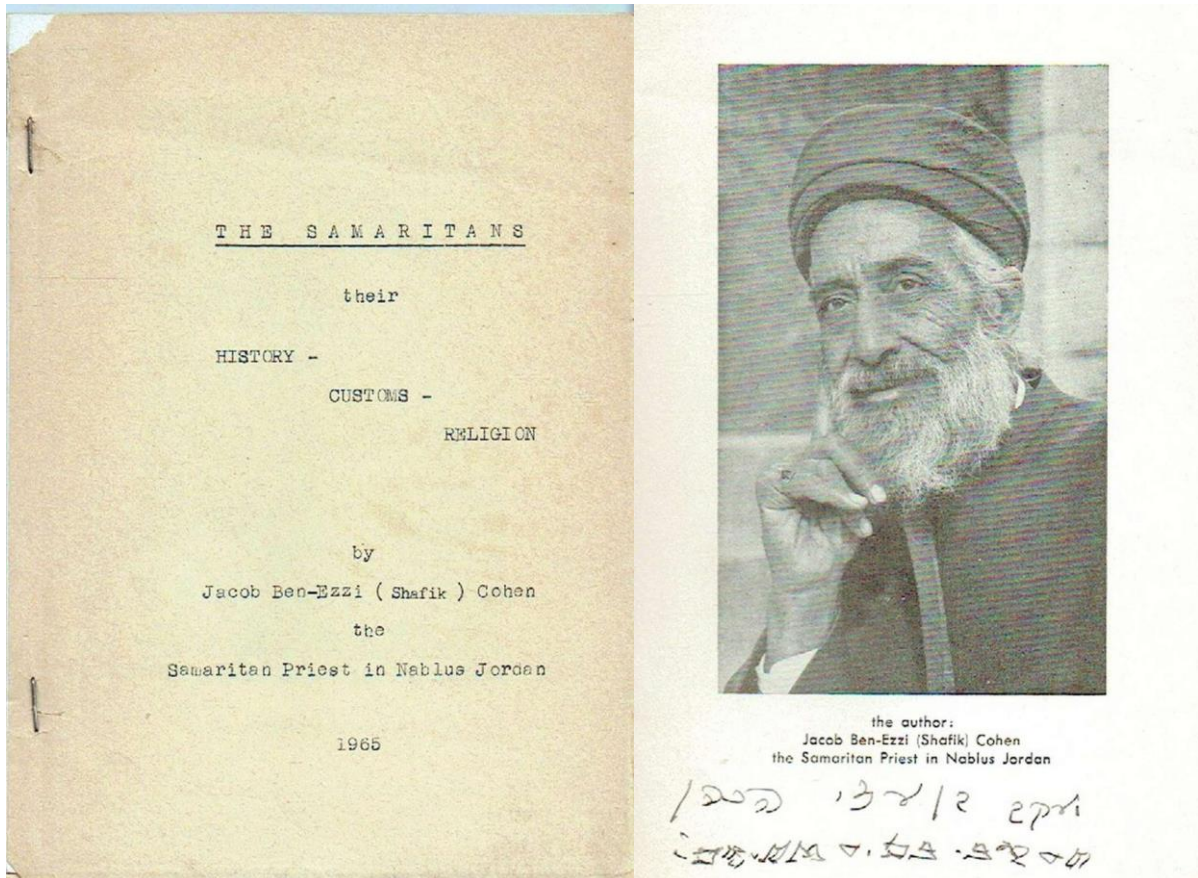
<https://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/auction/2020/sassoon-a-golden-legacy/ishban-kashtah-samaritan-calendrical-treatise-land>

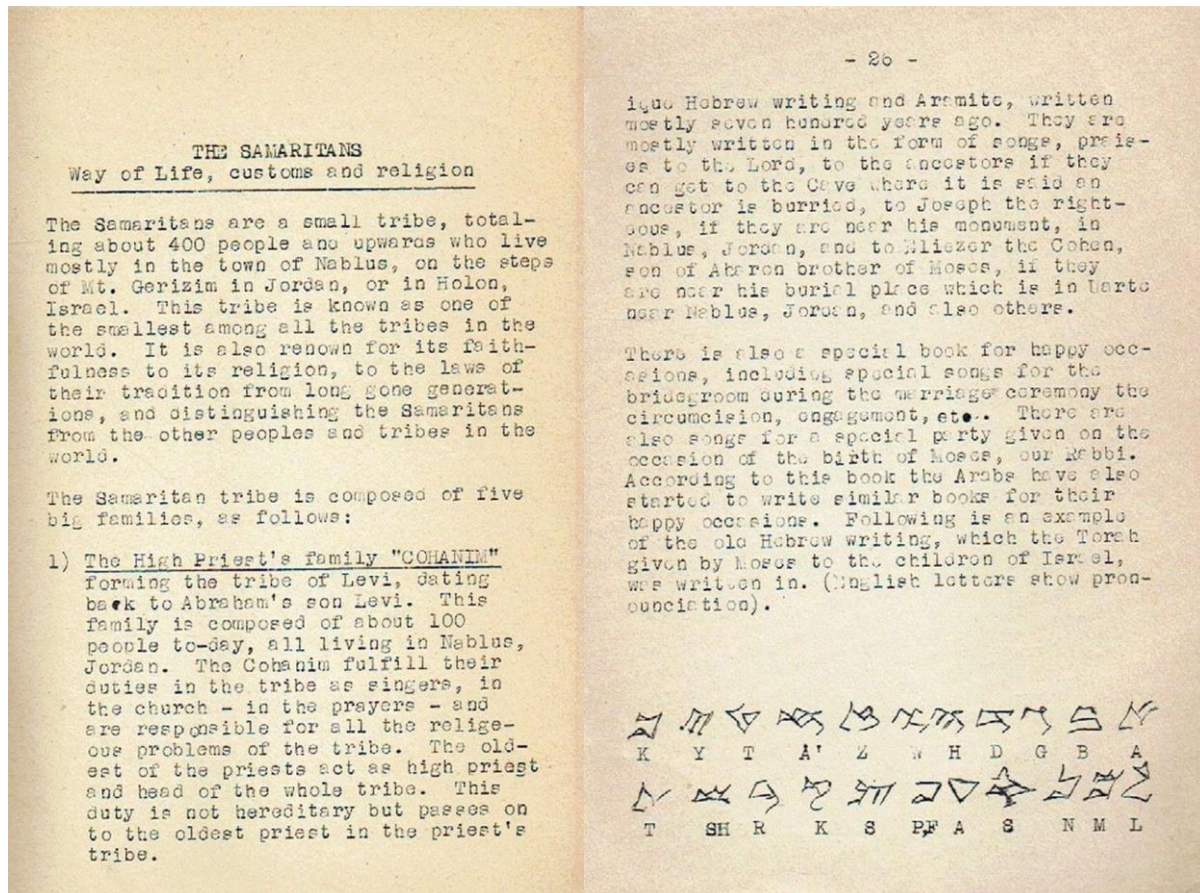
**Part A: Jewelry, Antique Rare Books, Eretz Israel paperware, Stamps, Jewish Art**  
by The Bidder

November 22, 2020, 5:00 PM IST

Gedera, Israel

**Lot 180: Jacob ben-Ezzi Cohen autograph on his book "The Samaritans", with portrait, illust., Stencil 1965, Nablus, Jordan**



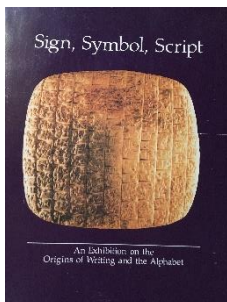


**Description**

Jacob ben-Ezzi Cohen, autograph on his book "The Samaritans, their History, Customs, Religion", stencil, in English, Nablus, Jordan. 1965, 26 pp. and 6 plates of photos including the photo of Jacob ben-Ezzi Cohen with autograph, size: 19.5 x 14 cm., yellow paper Jacob ben-Ezzi (Shafik) Cohen, the Samaritan Priest in Nablus, Jordan

<https://www.invaluable.com/auction-lot/jacob-ben-ezzi-cohen-autograph-on-his-book-the-sa-180-c-36f4075ba8>

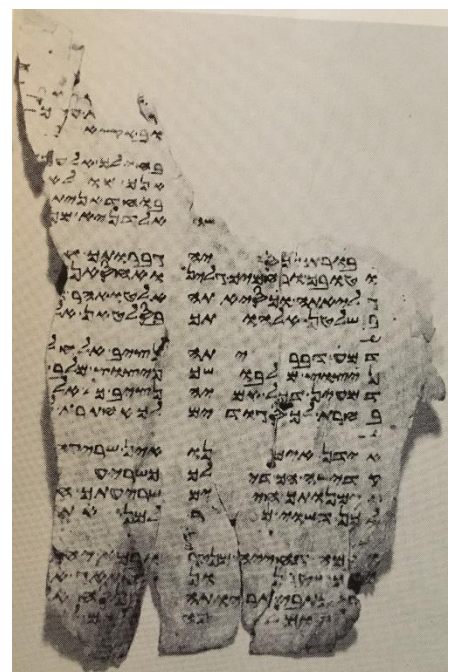
**From the Editor**



A Samaritan parchment fragment of the beginning of the song of Marqeh owned by [K. N. Schoville](#), is displayed in the book, 'Sign, Symbol, Script: An Exhibition on the Origins of Writing and the Alphabet.' An exhibit book by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System (Department of Hebrew and Semitic

Studies). University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The book does not say much, only that the measurements are 21.6 x 12.7 cm and that it is of parchment. The date is mentioned that it is unknown. The image on page 5, does in fact show that it is in Samaritan script.



I have not had any success in contacting any family member as to where this fragment may be today.

[Schoville, Keith Norman](#) was born on March 3, 1928 in Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin, United States. Son of Harley Leonard and Viva Ruth (Banta) Schoville.

I would like to thank Matthew Hamilton for bring this to our attention.

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New Publications

Samaritan Cookbook: A Culinary Odyssey from the Ancient Israelites to the Modern Mediterranean [Print Replica] Kindle Edition

by [Benyamim Tsedaka](#) (Author), [Ben Piven](#) (Editor), [Avishay Zelmanovich](#) (Editor), [Steven Fine](#) (Foreword) Format: Kindle Edition

Softcover: \$35.00 at Amazon

Kindle: \$19.99 at [Amazon](#)

~~~~~



A NEW BOOK IN THREE VOLUMES:

THE TREASURE OF FOLK STORIES OF THE ISREALITE SAMARITANS

The stories of the community that we loved about a thousand pages in total, are stories that run thousands and hundreds of years among the community from the days of Genesis to our days.

Folk stories that fathers and elders told boys, privately or in group and community family gatherings.



Most stories are true, that can happen to any of us. Few are accompanied by miracles or natural events. There will hardly be a story that is not related to the characters of most high priests or the event that happened. The stories are most historical. A little bit of stories about the fathers



of the world and the fathers of the Israeli nation and most of them are stories in the nineteenth Stories of high priests, priests and elders and young people of the Samaritan Israeli community. The file of hundreds of stories is counted by numbers and every number is permanently in this book, most of the numbers are no longer with us, but their families will continue to remember them and their stories and start to future generations with immense recognition. The stories were recorded in most of them directly from the numbers themselves. Every number preceded to tell about himself and the environment in which he acted, before he opened to tell about the topic of the story.

Some of the stories were recorded by my brother Yafet Ben Will Charity [1946 -], High Priest Yaakov Ben Azi [1987-1899] May God have mercy on the Lord and will Benim Tzadka Hazafri [1990-1922] May God have mercy on the Lord and two of them were recorded by the deceased Prof. ' Ornamental Bear and Menachem Kapeliuk RIP. Most of the stories were told to both of us directly in spoken Arabic and minority were written in Modern Hebrew.

All the stories have been filed for this book, kind and translated into Hebrew if necessary and work into a storytelling language that may enjoy the readers in and outside the community - by the writer and editor Benim Benimim Ben-Willed Charity [1944 -]. The two brother's residents of the city of Holon, Israel

Thank you to the numbers who willingly told from their memories, knowing that what they told will be written and released. These are the deceased, the Lord will have mercy on them and the few living will prolong their lives.

Benny Tsedaka

The ninth new, the year of Gaternity

Holon, January, year 2021

A.B. Institute for Samaritan Studies

The book on its three volumes was distributed to all the Samaritan Israeli families.

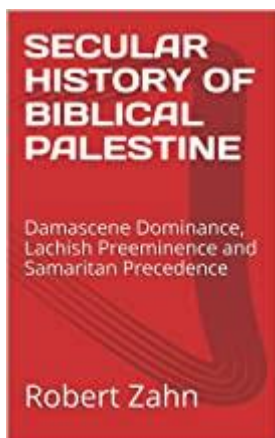
The book can be purchased at the A.B. Institute of Samaritan Studies for 900 shekels or including delivery for 200 shekels.

On purchase outside Israel, the price is \$ 400 including shipping

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The Samaritans: And the Question of Jewish Identity

by [Juan Marcos Bejarano Gutierrez](#) (Author)



Har Bracha Tahini

Paperback – June 23, 2020

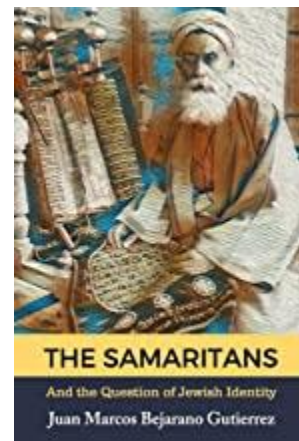
\$8.98 at [Amazon](#)

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**SECULAR HISTORY OF BIBLICAL PALESTINE:  
Damascene Dominance, Lachish  
Preeminence and Samaritan Precedence**  
by [Robert Zahn](#) (Author)

See [Amazon](#) for Editions

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<https://www.bayyari.com/har/>

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A few places to buy Samaritan made Har Bracha Tahini

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[Super Kacker](#)

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[Nuts and More](#)



See an online video by **Atah Cohen** of the Har Bracha Tahini on

[Youtube](#)

See process in action at

<https://www.facebook.com/HarBrachaTahini/videos/581017939383792/?t=13>

Common ground: Palestinian Tehina flows from Nablus to Tel Aviv from [the Jerusalem Post](#)

See the review at the Strategist of the New York Magazine

<http://nymag.com/strategist/article/best-tahini-according-to-experts.html>

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### **Articles:**

**Bourgel, Jonathan**

["The Samaritans in the Eyes of the Romans: The Discovery of an Identity"](#), *Cathedra* 144 (2012), 7-20

**Louis C. Jonker** [Stellenbosch University](#)

*The Samaritans in Historical, Cultural and Linguistic Perspectives*, J. Dušek (ed.) - book review  
[Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages](#), Volume 46 Number 1, Nov 2020, p. 105 - 109

This volume follows in the footsteps of previous volumes on the Samaritans, published in the well-known series *Studia Samaritana*. These volumes stem from the international congresses of the Société d'études samaritaines that are held in different locations every four years. This volume, like its predecessors, cover the wide spectrum of Samaritan studies. It starts with some contributions on the Hebrew Bible and the Samaritan Pentateuch (three essays). Thereafter, follow sections on Roman-Byzantine and Rabbinic studies (three essays), Arabic studies (four essays), studies on the Samaritans in Modern and Contemporary times (four essays), and some linguistic studies (two essays). The scope of this book is motivated by the editor, Jan Dušek, in the preface: "The Samaritans and their culture witnessed history over more than two millennia and we can be spectators of the development of their community in modern times. The Samaritans, their Pentateuch and Mount Gerizim represent a kind of historical constant in the southern Levant during numerous historic events and overthrows, perhaps even despite many

of them” (p. v). Right from the outset one could say that such a wide scope will necessarily lead to a somewhat patchy treatment of the very long historical period. One should therefore not expect deep and exhaustive studies in each of the subsections; rather, the contributions represent the state of the field as expressed at the Prague conference of 2016 where these papers were delivered.

<https://journals.co.za/content/journal/10520/EJC-20a3e51373>

## **Biblio**

### **Ben-Hayyim, Z.**

[A Fragment of the “Memar Marge” in an Unknown Version.](#) *III Studies in Talmudic Literature in Post-Biblical Hebrew and in Biblical Exegesis*, Tel-Aviv University 1983

### **Bianchi, Francesco**

[Abstractsalerno: Cultura materiale e fonti scritte nella Samaria di epoca achemenide ed ellenistica \(539-110 A.C\)](#)

This is an abstract of a longer paper which was read in Salerno during the XXI Convegno di Studi Vetero-Testamentari: I Samaritani. Un ebraismo autonomo oltre l'ottica scismatica giudaica e quella idealizzante cristiana (September 9-11 2019). The paper deals with both the material culture of the Achaemenid province of Samaria [archeology of Samaria and Sicheim; the territory of Manasseh; the epigraphy (the papyri of Wadi Dalyieh), bullae and seals; the Samaritan coinage; the governors of Samaria] and the material culture of Hellenistic Age (Mount Garizim excavations; the Aramaic and Paleo-Hebrew inscriptions of the sacred precinct)

### **Dayfani, Hila**

[The Contribution of Variants Due to Graphic Similarity to Textual Criticism of the Pentateuch](#)

This study focuses on variant readings due to graphic similarity between the Masoretic text and the Samaritan Pentateuch. Its first and foremost aim is to create a comprehensive corpus of all these variants, to study each one independently and to examine them from a broad perspective. Analysis of the findings in the present study was carried out using methods available to all scholars of the biblical text. Yet in addition, the study incorporates methods from the palaeographic realm and in this respect, it marks a new direction. The many researchers who have dealt with variants due to graphic similarity as part of the discussion of the textual history of the bible have made little use of knowledge that has accrued over the past decades on the development of the Hebrew script and the square script to explain specific phenomena or general processes. Therefore, my work will hopefully add to the research of textual criticism in all its dimensions and to biblical research itself. Following an introduction to the study which includes its aims, a review of research on relevant topics and an outline, the second chapter presents the textual findings. This chapter surveys all the variants due to graphic similarity between the Masoretic text and the Samaritan Pentateuch and gathers variants from additional textual witnesses, primarily the Qumran scrolls and the Septuagint. Each difference is examined independently through a philological analysis of the variants, their process of development and an evaluation of which version is superior. Finally, the chapter presents a statistical analysis of the data, including, for example, a survey of the interchanging letters, the frequency of the interchanges, the number of superior readings in each textual witness and the frequency of

agreement between the Septuagint and each textual witness. The third chapter treats the paleographic background of the variants and examines the shapes of the interchanging letters during each stage of development of the three relevant scripts-Hebrew script, square script and Samaritan script. Through this process it determines an estimated dating of...

**Fine, Steven**

[Review of Abraham Tal, ed. Tibât Mârge: The Ark of Marge; Edition, Translation, Commentary. Studia Samaritana 9.](#) 2020, Review of Biblical Literature

**Phelps, Sylvanus Dryden**

[Holy Land, with Glimpses of Europe and Egypt, A Year's Tour.](#) New York: U.D. Ward 1877

**Tischendorf, Constantin von**

[Travels in the East](#), London: Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, 1851

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The Samaritan Update is open to any articles that are relative to Samaritan Studies. Submit your work to [The Editor](#)

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Editor: Larry Rynearson. Contact: [The Editor](#)

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