1975:

The hypothesis had turned the Torah into "a crazy patchwork," unparalleled in literature. The hypothesis had left itself open to such a charge because it was and has remained what its name implies—a hypothesis. It relies on internal, critical analysis of the received text rather than external, empirical data. Skeptics such as those addressed by Moore claimed that the process by which the hypothesis supposed the Torah to have been composed had no counterpart in the literary reality of the ancient world.

In response, Moore called attention to Tatian's Diatessaron, a harmony of the four gospels produced around the year 170 in Syriac or Greek. They were four gospels into a single running narrative, thus leading to its ancient designation as the "Composite Gospel." By comparing the Diatessaron with its sources, the separate gospels, Moore was able to show in it the entire repertoire of redactional techniques and signs of composition which critics had found in the Torah, a demonstration which led one observer to characterize the Torah as "the Diatessaron of the Old Testament." The Diatessaron has since been cited frequently as an apt parallel to the composition of the Torah. But despite the elegance of Moore's demonstration, the lateness of the Diatessaron left its applicability to the Torah open to question. I. Engnell,


3. Ibid., 11.

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... the documentary theory has been elaborated without reference to other Ancient Oriental literature to find out whether they had been created in this singular manner... Now, nowhere in the Ancient Orient is there anything which is definitely known to parallel the elaborate history of fragmentary composition and conclusion of Hebrew literature (or marked by just such criteria) as the documentary hypothesis would permit.

One is tempted to dismiss such an argument because of its reluctance to contemplate the unique. Nevertheless, one's confidence in the documentary hypothesis would surely be increased by other, unimpeachable examples of the assumed method of composition in the milieu which produced the Torah. Such examples would enable the literary critic to base his work on something more than hypotheses about ancient literary techniques. Concrete examples would provide the critic with first-hand experience of compilers' and redactors' techniques, lending to his observations a refinement they could never have so long as they were based entirely on hypotheses devoid of external controls. Can such examples be found?

Although the Diatessaron has been ruled out of court because of its lateness, Moore's method in analyzing it was exemplary. He was able to demonstrate its literary background empirically because he had its sources as well as its final form before him. When earlier and later forms of the same literary composition are available, comparison of the two facilitates empirical literary history. In the fields of cuneiform literature and early Arabic prose narratives, such procedures are common. But they are not entirely absent in the study of ancient Hebrew literature. Certain biblical texts are also preserved in duplicate, such as doubly transmitted psalms and the revision of Samuel-Kings in 1-2 Chronicles. Such reasoning persists down to the present. Recently, P. Kahle, in his The Growth of the Biblical Traditions, begins a section entitled 'The First Steps in an Investigation into the Background of a Text,' with the observation that 'a study of material with a double transmission will provide the experience necessary to deal with' other texts transmitted only singly. The relationships between such doubly transmitted texts may serve as specimens of the character of the transmission through which biblical books went.

For this purpose we are not limited to texts preserved in the canonical Hebrew Bible, but may also employ non-canonical texts and the non-Masoretic biblical texts from Qumran and elsewhere. Much of this material comes from (or shortly after) the time in which many of the biblical books attained their present form, so that chronologically as well as geographically and culturally they are free of the impediment attached to the Diatessaron and many other non-Israelite models.

2. Expansive, Synthesizing Biblical Manuscripts

The most important texts for our purposes are a group of expansive, synthesizing texts classified by P. Kahle and others as vulgar or popular, and by F. M. Cross as Palestinian. These, well attested in Qumran scrolls and best exemplified in the Samaritan Pentateuch, are characterized by an expansion of the basic text with variant readings or with material imported from related pas-...
sages elsewhere in Scripture. Such "conflate" or "double" readings, when they involve single words and phrases, are well known in textual history. In principle, the "scribal" preservation of double readings does not differ from the "redactional" practice of juxtaposing two variant accounts of the same theme or event. In pentateuchal MSS a number of the expansions involve material from Deuteronomy, since Deuteronomy contains variant accounts of several earlier narratives. Because of its full preservation, the Samaritan Torah is the best Biblical Text in the Making. Therefore, by a comparison of the MT and the Samaritan texts of those pericopes we can disentangle the component parts of the latter and view the methods by which they were combined, just as Moore did with the Diatessaron and the gospels. In following this procedure below I shall, for convenience, refer, somewhat anachronistically, to the prior stage reflected in the MT as "Masoretic."

An example which shows the harmonistic purpose of conflation is found in Exodus 18 of the Samaritan Pentateuch and the proto-Samaritan Exodus MS from Qumran (see chart I).

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</table>

In a number of pericopes the Samaritan Pentateuch presents a conflate text. This conflate character of the text is secondary in comparison with the brevity of the MT. Apart from the question of precise recensional relationships, the "conservative, often pristine" MT reflects a stage anterior to the expansion which produced the Samaritan text. Therefore, by a comparison of the MT and the Samaritan texts of these pericopes we can disentangle the component parts of the latter and view the methods by which they were combined, just as Moore did with the Diatessaron and the gospels. In following this procedure below I shall, for convenience, refer, somewhat anachronistically, to the prior stage reflected in the MT as "Masoretic."

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The "Masoretic" text of this chapter has Moses institute Israel's judicial administration at Jethro's suggestion, which is addressed to Moses (Exod 18:19-24). Deuteronomy, however, speaks only of Moses' initiative, addressed to the people (Deut 1:9-18). The Samaritan Exodus resolves this situation by arranging the conflicting details in sequence. First come Jethro's advice and Moses' compliance, from Exodus; then, from Deuteronomy, Moses broaches the idea to the people. All of this is absent from the MT of Exodus save the appointment, which is visible in the change from the first and second person, which befits the insert's home in Deuteronomy, to the third person where necessary, as suits the narrative context of its new home in the Samaritan Exodus, and in the dropping of 'b'ar 'b'ar of Deuteronomy, which fits Deuteronomy's retrospective stance but not that of Exodus.

This illustration of the redactor's procedure supports the following characterization by M. Greenberg of the (Masoretic) Pentateuchal redactor's operation:

... intent on forging a continuous narrative. He therefore incorporated significant, complementary variants side by side, attempting to elaborate a single, reasonably effective narrative out of them. At times we suspect he may have regarded the result as a restoration of the true complexity of the event - a complexity dissolved into its elements among the various traditions he received.

The best-known composite pericope in the Samaritan Torah is the theophany at Mt. Sinai in Exodus 20 (see chart II below). In the Samaritan Pentateuch and in the proto-Samaritan biblical fragments and reflexes from Qumran, the variant account of Deuteronomy 5, supplemented by Deuteronomy 18, is fully spliced into the Exodus version. The Qumran attestations show that the expansion is not an exclusively Samaritan feature. Only the law of the altar on Mt. Gerizim, imported from Deuteronomy 11 and 27, which the Samaritan Pentateuch treats as the tenth commandment, is absent from the Qumran texts and appears to be an exclusively Samaritan item (see chart III below).

Just as we suppose with texts built up from J, E, and P, one finds the Samaritan Exodus flitting back and forth between the "Masoretic" Exodus and Deuteronomy, adding or dropping a phrase or detail here and there, in an attempt to reconcile the conflicting accounts.

Immediately after the "Masoretic" Decalogue the Samaritan text adds its own tenth commandment (see chart III below), to which we shall return.

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The description of the people's fright at the theophany in the "Masoretic" Exodus is slightly reworded to avoid the awkward "seeing" of the sounds and perhaps to avoid separating the sounds of the *špadar* from the other sounds. Then the text shifts to Deuteronomy's version of the people's plea to Moses, after which it places the shorter Exodus version of the same as its conclusion. The "Masoretic" Exodus is followed through Moses' response to the people, his approach to God, and the introduction to God's speech (Exod 20:22a–26, concerning the altar, etc.). But before the version of God's speech in Exodus (vs. 22a–26, concerning the altar, etc.), the text shifts to the very different divine speech of Deuteronomy 5, into which is inserted the promise of a future prophet from Deuteronomy 18, which promise vs. 17 implies was indeed first voiced on this occasion. After this inter-
polation the divine speech of Deuteronomy 5 is concluded from the point of interruption, and the text then returns to where it left off in Exodus 20. The introduction to the divine speech in Exodus (20:22a) is repeated (resumptive repetition), and the speech itself now appears as the conclusion of a long discourse. Some of the verses in the Samaritan text are composed of parts of verses from the separate sources: part of the “Masoretic” Exod 20:19 is joined with part of Deut 5:24; Deut 5:27 is concluded with part of Exod 20:19; part of Exod 20:22 is joined with part of Deut 5:28 (see chart II); the same is true of the Samaritan’s tenth commandment (see chart III), which combines part of Deut 11:29 with parts of Deut 27:2, 3, and 4. In sum, as fine an example as one could wish of scissors-and-paste composition, a “patchwork.”

But the patchwork is not “crazy.” The main task of the redactor in the Jethro and theophany pericopes was to reconcile dissimilar accounts of the same events. By interweaving their details in sequence, he facilitated their harmonious coexistence. He accommodated their differing details by making them refer to different moments of those events. He has also drawn in material (Deut 1:15) from outside the parallel accounts, material which purported to belong to the theophany pericope.

As instructive as are his inclusions from Deuteronomy, so are the redactor’s omissions, which are minimal and insubstantial. His aim of reconciliation extended to almost every significant detail of his parallel sources. In the Jethro pericope he brought in everything that Deuteronomy had to offer save the ten commandments. In the theophany pericope he brought in everything that Deuteronomy had to offer save the two tablets of stone, which he gave to me.” Since this refers to a later event (see Exod 24:12, 18; 32:15-16; Deut 9:9-10), it is out of place in the theophany pericope. This is typical of the redactor’s omissions: what he drops is either substantially covered in the parallel material which he preserves, or easily disposed of on other grounds. This procedure agrees with a tendency which has been observed in the redaction of the Pentateuch. Building on an observation of W. F. Albright, M. Greenberg concludes: “What has not been preserved of a given source may the more confidently be supposed to have differed from our text only insubstantially.” In the cases that we have examined, this observation is borne out.

The aim of reconciliation was not fully compatible with the aim of maximal preservation. That the aim of maximal preservation was uppermost is shown by the fact that the preservation extended even to conflicting details. The result is a text which displays just such internal discrepancies as are at the core of the documentary hypothesis. In the Jethro pericope, for example, Jethro advises Moses to choose men “from among all the people” (from Exod 18:21); but in complying, Moses chooses “the tribal leaders” (from Deut 1:15). Jethro recommends “capable men who fear God, trustworthy men who spurn ill-gotten gain” (from Exod 18:21), but Moses chooses “wise, discerning and experienced men” (from Deut 1:13, 15). Jethro speaks only of “chiefs of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens” (from Exod 18:21), but Moses appoints these plus three hundred (from Deut 1:15). The differing vocabulary of the sources is manifest in the alternation between Jethro’s remark, “they shall bring” (yhabim) difficult


43 The nature of the evidence is such that we can test this supposition only where the Samaritan and/or proto-Samaritan redactor chose to combine parallel material (for lists of such passages, see the literature cited by J. D. Puekis, Samaritan Pentateuch, 70-11 n. 114; G. B. Gray, Numbers [ICC; Edinburgh: Clark, 1903] xi). In most cases they have left such material in its separate locations (as in the MT), a method which preserves the variants equally well but in a manner from which we learn nothing about the redactors’ combining techniques.

cases (from Exod 18:22, MT yāḇāḇā), Moses’ saying, “you shall bring near” (tagrīḇān, from Deut 1:17), and the summary, “they would bring” (yēḇāḇān, from Exod 18:25). Harmonistic exegesis might regard such a variation as an attempt to avoid monotony; the redactor may have told himself the same. But having seen his sources, we know that the variation stems from differences in the sources.

The conflate accounts of the Jethro and theophany episodes are, as mentioned, already present in the proto-Samaritan Exodus MSS from Qumran. There is nothing sectarian about these accounts or the redactional techniques by which they were composed. Only the Samaritan tenth commandment and certain related tendentious features are exclusively Samaritan characteristics. That commandment has been shown by Skehan to have been absent in the Qumran MS, since there is insufficient space for it. In other words, the Samaritan tenth commandment represents a tendentious supplement beyond the stage of redaction represented in the proto-Samaritan recension from Qumran.

The techniques employed in creating this supplement are mostly similar to those described above and will not be reviewed here (see chart III).

One aspect deserves special mention. Even this tendentious supplement is composed in almost every detail, save the presumed change from Ebal to Gerizim, of elements already present in the “Masoretic” Torah, and thus admittedly divine. Even the interpolation of this commandment at the end of the Decalogue is not without logic, for this law about an altar of uncut stone is only a concession (vs. 22A), is a price that the Samaritan interpolator was willing to pay, since he was determined to endow his religion’s central dogma with Sinaitic Decalogue-authority. In order to accommodate both this interpolation and his dogma, it was necessary to emend vs. 24b. The “Masoretic” phrase, “in every place where I cause my name to be mentioned,” which contemplates several places as yet unnamed, becomes in the Samaritan text, “in the place where I have caused my name to be mentioned [pākēr, a hybrid form], there I will come and bless you.” It refers to the just-named site of Gerizim (and not the as yet unnamed Jerusalem). Ironically, the allusion to Gerizim thus created remains attached to the injunction to build an earthen altar! What is noteworthy about the interpolator’s technique is that actual changes in substance are remarkably few. On the whole, he accomplished his tendentious purpose with material already present somewhere in his sources.

3. Conclusion

We are thus able to document three stages in the evolution of the Jethro and theophany pericopes: (1) A stage, represented by the Masoretic Torah, in which the Exodus and Deuteronomy versions were separate; (2) a stage, represented by the proto-Samaritan Qumran MSS, which combined the two versions;
and (3) a stage, represented by the Samaritan Torah, in which the conflate narrative has been tendentiously interpolated and revised. The second stage, in particular, answers the query which prompted this paper. Obviously, there are differences between the state of the proto-Samaritan redactor's source-material and his freedom of operation and what is presumed in the case of the Pentateuch. The proto-Samaritan redactor encountered variant accounts scattered about the Torah in already fixed places. He could combine a variant from one locus with its counterpart elsewhere in the Torah, but could not then drop it from the former locus to avoid redundancy. As a result, material added to Exodus from Deuteronomy was simultaneously preserved in Deuteronomy. Despite the fact that his sources were continuous documents, the proto-Samaritan redactor appears as an interpolator who supplemented one basic text from another rather than give equal play to both sources or create a totally new account. The compiler of the Pentateuch is credited with greater freedom. It is not in these respects that the redaction of the proto-Samaritan Torah and the composition of the Pentateuch are analogous, but in the very fact of combining and in the techniques and purposes of combining. In the latter respect, we find that the documentary hypothesis presumes a method of composition which is empirically attested in ancient Israel, from a time close to that in which most of the biblical books attained their present form. The evidence here reviewed constitutes a type of documentary composition unfolding before our very eyes.

See n. 30 above.

WAPOMAR (ZECH 3:5) AND THE GENRE OF ZECHARIAH'S FOURTH VISION

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The fifth verse of the third chapter of Zechariah presents three minor textual questions: (1) The first person, wa’ōmar (“and I said”), at the beginning of the verse, without which the “narrative of the vision is self-contained.” (2) The obvious need to insert, but without support from the versions, ´hōrim (“clean”) after bgādim (“garments”) (cf. BH). (3) The awkwardness of the last three words of the verse in their present form and position, ūmātak Yabweb ʾāmēd, “and the angel of the Lord was standing by.”

Clearly, the issue in (2) is of little consequence, and (3) is not by any means impossible, as it stands, but (1) is a disruptive element in an otherwise straightforward narrative and invites further investigation. It is not without parallels elsewhere in the OT, e.g., Isa 6:8 and 40:6 (LXX and 1QIsa), but these are not normally thought to shed any light on Zech 3:5. A fresh investigation of this question indicates that such an opinion requires radical revision.

Text-critically, the unexpected use of the first person at the beginning of Zech 3:5 does not present a complex problem. The LXX omits wa’ōmar, continuing the narrative and the sequence of plural imperatives with w’ēsimah, and the deletion of this word is recommended by BH and adopted by D. W. Thomas, while the Vg and Peš, with a third-person reading, represent most likely “an accommodation to the expected sense.” The MT is favored by the majority of commentators, and the sudden change of person is explained as an impulsive intervention of the prophet at the point of climax in the vision, when he could

1 RSV: “And I said, ‘Let them put a clean turban on his head.’” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments; and the angel of the Lord was standing by.”


3 The case for retaining the MT is ably presented by H. G. Mitchell, Haggai and Zechariah (ICC; Edinburgh: Clark, 1912) 153.
