

Some variations have no explanation to date. For example:

Book of Exodus

One copy is similar to the Samaritan Codex written with the ancient Hebrew script.

One copy is similar to the LXX written with the square script.

Book of Numbers

Written with red ink and more detailed than our current text. Reason unknown.

Four Stages/Surprises:

1. Surprise: Exact agreement with mediaeval manuscripts. For example: 1QIs-a agreed with consonantal text of messoretic tradition. Written 125-100 B.C. 1QIa-b was written 75-100 B.C. (?)
2. Books of Samuel and Jeremiah show a clear divergence from the MT, but agree with the LXX. Other books are: Ezekiel, Job, Esther (?), Daniel, Ben Sira, and Tobit. Two text-forms discovered are:
Rabbinic tradition
Christian tradition - LXX
Q: How different are the two?
3. Texts related to the Samaritan Pentateuch have been known since the Renaissance. Verses at times are restructured. For example: Phrases that follow Gen 30:36 are taken from 31:11-13. Includes a discussion between Moses and God. Passages between Numbers and Deuteronomy were exchanged.

Theology of the Samaritans was studied by the Essenes. Most important point: YHWH told Moses to worship on Mt. Garizim, as indicated after the 10th commandment.

Samaritans were not a distinct group until the Assyrian invasion of 722 B.C. I assume the text corrupted after that (?).