# Theological and Halakhic Corrections in the MT Pentateuch Jonathan Ben-Dov, Tel Aviv University

Table 1: Groups of Harmonizations in the Torah<sup>39</sup>

	Total	LXX	%	SP	%	MT	%	SP-LXX	%	MT-SP	%	MT-LXX	%
Gen	346	196	56	40	12	0	0	63	18	47	14	0	0
Exod	208	137	66	18	9	2	1	31	15	18	9	0	0
Lev	314	201	64	8	2.5	5	1.5	80	25.5	20	6.5	0	0
Num	284	179	63	16	6	1	0	45	16	43	15	0	0
Deut	202	99	49	22	11	2	1	27	13	44	22	8	4

E. Tov, "Textual Harmonization in the Five Books of the Torah: A Summary", in *Textual Developments. Collected Essays volume 4*. VTSup 181 (Leiden: Brill, 2019), 172-192.

#### 1. Letter of Aristeas 310-311

... as [the scrolls] were translated well and in a holy manner and accurately in every respect, it is appropriate that they should remain as they are and that no interpolation (διασκευή) should be made. And when all had assented to these words, they, as was the custom among them, ordered that anybody will be cursed who will introduce an interpolation (διασκευάσει) by either adding or generally transferring something of what is written or by making a deletion (ἔι τις διασκευάσει προστιθεὶς ἢ μεταφέρων τι τὸ σύνολον τῶν γεγραμμένων ἢ ποιούμενος ἀφαίρεσιν). They did this well with the intent that they [the scrolls] be preserved everlasting and standing fast for ever.

#### 2. Joshua 5:10-12 MT

10. וַיַּחֲנִוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בַּגִּלְגָּל וַיַּצְשִׂוּ אֶת־הַפֶּּסַח בְּאַרְבָּעָה ׁ עָשָּׁר יְוֹם לַחֶּדֶשׁ בָּאֶרֶב בְּאַרְבָּוֹת יְרִיחִוּ: 11. וַיּּאֹכְלוּ מֵעֲבָוּר הָאָרֶץ מִמֶּחֲרָת הַפֶּסַח מַצְּוֹת וְקָלֵוִּי בְּאֶבֶם הַיִּוֹם הַזֶּה: 12. וַיִּשְׁבֹּת הַמָּו מֵמְּחֲרָת בְּאַרְלָם מֵעֲבָוּר הָאָרֶץ וְלֹא־הָזָיִה עְוֹד לִבְנֵי יִשִּׂרָאֵל מֵן וַיֹּאֹכְלוּ מִתִּבוּאַת אֱרֵץ כִּנַעו בַּשָּׁנֵה הַהֵּיא:

10. Encamped at Gilgal, the Israelites offered the Passover sacrifice on the fourteenth of the month, toward evening, in the steppes of Jericho. 11. They ate from of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, as unleavened bread and parched grain on that same day. 12. The manna stopped on the day after, as they ate from the produce of the Land. The Israelites got no more manna; that year they ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.

- 11. ממחרת הפסח < G
- 12. ממחרת < G

#### The Year of the Flood

3. 1 En 106:15 (Ethiopic, trans. Stuckenbruck)

And there will be great destruction over the whole earth, and there will be a flood and a great destruction for one year.

#### 4. Jubilees 6:32

You, command the Israelites to keep the years in this number -364 days. Then the year will be complete.

5. 4Q252 Commentary on Genesis<sup>A</sup> II 1-3

... באחת ושש מאות שנה לחיי נוח <u>ובשבעה עשר יום לחודש השני</u> יבשה הארץ באחד בשבת. ביום ההוא יצא נוח מן התבה <u>לקץ שנה תמימה</u> לימים שלוש מאות ששים וארבעה באחד בשבת

... on year 601 to the life of Noah. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of the second month the earth dried up, on day 1 of the week. On that day Noah left the ark after one full year, 364 days, on day 1 of the week.

6. Mishnah Eduyot 2, 10

אף הוא היה אומר חמשה דברים של שנים עשר חדש . משפט דור המבול, שנים עשר חדש . משפט איוב, שנים עשר חדש . משפט רשעים עשר חדש . משפט רשעים בגיהנם, שנים עשר חדש . משפט רשעים בגיהנם, שנים עשר חדש.

... he used to say that five things last for twelve months (=the schematic indication of one year in rabbinic literature): the punishment of the Flood generation -12 months; the Egyptians' punishment -12 months; the future punishment of Gog and Magog -12 month; the punishment of the wicked in hell -12 months.

## The Year of the Flood in Genesis: tradition 1

7. Gen 7:6

ּוְנַחַ בֶּן־שֵׁשׁ מֵאֻות שָׁנָה וְהַפַּבִּוּל הָיָָה מַיִם עַל־הָאָרֶץ:

And Noah was <u>six hundred years old</u> when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

8. Gen 8:13

ֿוְיְהִי בְּאַהֶׁת וְשֵׁשׁ־מֵאֹות שָׁנָּה בֶּרְאשׁוֹן בְּאֶחֶד לַחֹּדֶשׁ חֲרְבִּוּ הַמַּיִם מֵעַל הָאֶרֶץ And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth.

## The Year of the Flood in Genesis: Tradition 2

9. Gen 7:11 MT

בִּשְׁנַת שֵׁשִׁ־מֵאָות שָׁנָה לְחַיֵּי־נֹחַ בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִּי בְּשִּׁבְעָה־עָשֶׂר יְום לַחְדֶשׁ בַּיִּום הַנֶּה נִבְקְעוּ בֵּלִימַעְיְנִת ׁתְּהָום רַבָּה וַאֲרֻבְּת הַשָּׁמֵיִם נִפָּתֵּחוּ

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

#### 10. Gen 7:11 G

έν τῷ ἑξακοσιοστῷ ἔτει ἐν τῇ ζωῇ τοῦ Νωε, τοῦ δευτέρου μηνός, ἑβδόμῃ καὶ εἰκάδι τοῦ μηνός, τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ταύτῃ ἐρράγησαν πᾶσαι αἱ πηγαὶ τῆς ἀβύσσου, καὶ οἱ καταρράκται τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἠνεῳχθησαν.

In the six hundredth year in Noe's life, the second month, on the twenty–seventh of the month, on this day all the fountains of the abyss burst forth, and the cataracts of the sky were opened,

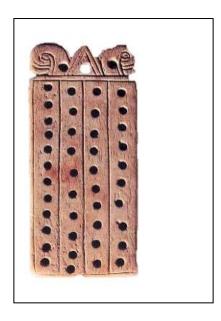
## 11. Gen 8:14 MT (=G)

ָּוּבַהֹּדֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִּי בְּשָּׁבְעָה וְעָשְׁרֵים יְוֹם לַתְדֶשׁ יָבְשֻׁה הָאֶרֶץ

And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dry.

## 12. The Year of the Flood: Comparative chart

MT, SP	G	
17/ I	27/ II	Beginning of Flood (7:11)
27.	End of Flood (8:14)	



## 13. Desk Calendar found in Tel Aroer (Photo A. Biran, *Biblical Archeology Review* 1983)

## 14. Deuteronomy 27:4 MT

ְוָהָיָה בְּעָבְרְכֶם אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּךְ תָּקִׁימוּ אֶת־הָאֲבָנִים הָאֵׁלֶּה אֲשֶׁׁר אָנֹכִי מְצֵנְּה אֶתְכֶם הַיִּום בָּחַר עִיבֵּל

And it shall be, when ye are passed over the Jordan, that ye shall set up these stones, which I command you this day, in mount Ebal,

#### 15. Deuteronomy 27:4 SP

והיה בעברכם את הירדן תקימו את האבנים האלה אשר אנכי מצוה אתכם היום <u>בהרגריזים</u>