

Emanuel Tov, *Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*. 3rd ed., revised and expanded. Minneapolis: Fortress Press (www.fortresspress.com), 2012. Pages, lviii + 481. Cloth, \$90.00.

This edition rewrites sections of the first edition, especially chapter 3 (“History of the Biblical Text”) and chapter 9 (“Scholarly and Non-Scholarly Editions”). Chapter 10, “Computer-Assisted Tools for Textual Criticism,” is entirely new. Added for the benefit of students is the “Brief Didactic Guide” (pp. lvii–lviii) and “Glossary” (pp. 417–23). The Qumran findings throw light not only on ancient scribal techniques but also on the shape of the biblical texts then circulating and the question of the stabilization of the text of the Hebrew Bible. The impact of Qumran on textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible means that critics may no longer presume that the Masoretic text is better or more frequently reflects the original text (*Vorlage*). Tov advances an “egalitarian approach” to textual witnesses. This would consider on an equal basis the readings of the Masoretic text, the Septuagint, the Samaritan text, and the Qumran texts with a view to establishing the *Vorlage*. This thorough research work satisfies the rigors of scholarship while remaining reasonably accessible to students.