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Visual Comparison: Manuscripts to Modern Day Translations

For this paper I will be looking at and comparing differences only in physical appearances with an ancient biblical manuscript (from the Leningrad Codex) and one from the Book of Jonah, in my King James Version Bible. Although there are many ancient Biblical manuscripts, The Leningrad Codex, codices created by the Masoretic scholars, provide tools for the reader to better understand the text. These ancient texts contain vowel markings in the form of subscripts and superscripts, and also contain markings which indicate pitch relationships, to guide the cantor in chanting the prescribed Torah portion

Another difference seen in the ancient text that is not seen in modern day translation is the massive marginal notations (masora) concerning cruxes in the text that are crucial to interpretational accuracy. Because the Masoretes saw the text as sacred, they made no changes to the text itself, but chose to record notes within the margins of the text. Unlike the Sopherim before them, they did not take any textual liberties, but drew attention to any textual issues, correcting them in the margins.

Material used for these ancient texts were primarily written on scrolls, made of papyrus, or parchment (made from animal skins). When we look at the modern day Bibles, we tend to think of the Bible as a Book, of flowing stories, and that isn't entirely wrong, however the Bible didn't

originate as a book bound between two covers. Aided through time, and the advent of the printing press, the Bible could now be mass produce and distributed worldwide.

Additionally, I have observed a lack of spacing and an endless flow of words written with not a lot of grammatical structure, as seen with a lack of defined paragraphs. Modern day translations show an immensely improved writing format.

Numerous reasons to start with reading an ancient text first would include first and foremost, that Gods word has been around forever, and has never changed. Early writings only validate and reinforce our beliefs as Christians that God has always been here, and always will be. That alone only strengthens our resolve to follow him and spread his good news to the world.