The Aleppo Codex

Sifre Debarim 356

There were three scrolls in the Temple court: one of "me`onim," one of "hee hee," and one was called "the scroll of za`tutim."

Babylonian Talmud, Kiddushin 31a

Why were the early sages called *soferim*? For they used to count (*soferim*) all the letters in the Torah. They would say: "The *vav* of *gahon* (Lev. 11:42) is the middle letter of the Torah."

...Rav Yosef asked: "Is the *vav* of *gahon* the middle letter from this side or from that side?" They responded: "Let us bring a Sefer Troah and count..." He told them: "They were proficient in plene (with vowel letters) and defective (without vowel letters) letters but we are not proficient."

Rambam, Laws of Sefer Torah, 8:4

Because I saw serious errors in these matters in all the scrolls that I have seen, while authorities on the Masorah differ...I deemed it fit to write here a list of the sections which are closed and which are open, and also the forms of the songs of the Bible, so that all the scrolls may be corrected from and compared with them.

The book which I relied upon to check the scrolls is the well-known codex in Egypt which contains the twenty-four books and that had been in Jerusalem for several years and upon which all relied because it was proofread by Ben Asher, who worked on it carefully for many years and examined it again whenever it was copied. This codex was the text upon which I relied in the Torah scroll that I myself wrote according to the rules.

זרועי ב מי ענפי עשייני מי מערין משר ידי תכן: למנות ול ושנתר את ירעף וישת את דוודי חים גני אפרתי יואם בן עלדית ובנחרות ב פי תעבר במים ושמתי בים ירן ב יגאר לתנות ימינו ש לנגדף ב ויאמר נסעד שתח שנתנו י Masora Ketana 江 Short Notes in the margins. ובותונוביפתו גביו i חל 451 אור そ氏にと כות ガユ 1; "Gimel" means there are 3 words in Tanakh spelled 中子子 大江江 大 this way. בגבורת שפונים שנה ותעולם ג ב נול וחד חם ומשום לא שמעו חלא אני רחשה ומעלם בימות ל ותי מי מביונות ילמי ושבינין וביונו ובינו ביות ב ביושתינו פי ויכא ג לא יבא פעועדכא ואול דכא ושפל רוח מרינותה בתכ ושנרא חדינשת בתכ נ ילכון ג גבר ברצילתו ואיש Masorah Gedolah Long notes on the top and bottom. This lists the 3 other

verses that contain this word.

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