

# The Genizah – A Treasury of Sacred Jewish Books

In accordance with Jewish religious practice, sacred books no longer in use were not idly discarded but, rather, were either committed to a genizah or buried. The community in Fustāt made full use of the first option and deposited not only sacred works such as the Bible, rabbinical literature and liturgies, but also sectarian and secular literature and documents of all kinds. In fact, almost every piece of writing that passed through the community's hands, whether on vellum or paper, in printed or manuscript form, early or late in date, containing scholarly research or reading exercises for children, was consigned to the Genizah. Due to a variety of historical and social factors, as well as the exceptionally dry climate of Egypt, the contents were extraordinarily preserved for hundreds of years against the ravages of time and decay.



T-S AS 64.209 recto: Judges 3:28-31, with decorated samekh and non-standard Tiberian vocalization



T-S K 27.33 - The recitation of Shmna from an Early Siddur found in the Genizah



T-S 10 K6 - The Damascus Covenant. This is a medieval manuscript of a Second Temple sectarian document. The text was found in the Genizah, and later on in Qumran. How the ancient document made its way into medieval Cairo? Another Genizah riddle.



T-S F1(2).93 - Babylonian Talmud with mixed Babylonian and Tiberian pointing.