

The Masoretic Pointing of the Tetragrammaton

יהוה

An Important Point

(no pun intended)

The Masoretic vowel points added to יהוה indicate

- **not** how to pronounce “the Name”
- but how to pronounce the substitute for “the Name”.

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This is a hataph-patach simply because of the aleph. Under a yod it reverts to the normal sheva.

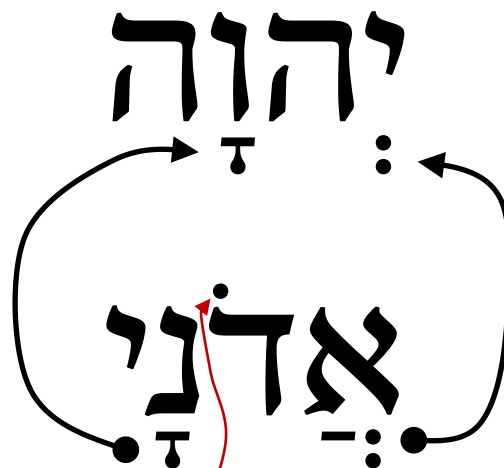
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Note that in this vocalization they didn't add the holem to YHWH.

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So the **sheva** and **qamets** are indicating that in this instance we should use the **substitute** “**Adonai**” for the divine name.

This is, of course, according to the **reading tradition** passed on by the **Tiberian Masoretes**.

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This is called a ‘**perpetual qere ketiv**’ because the consonants for Adonai are **not** written in the margin as with most qere ketiv.

The divine name occurs so often that the reader is simply **expected to know** what the substitute options are.

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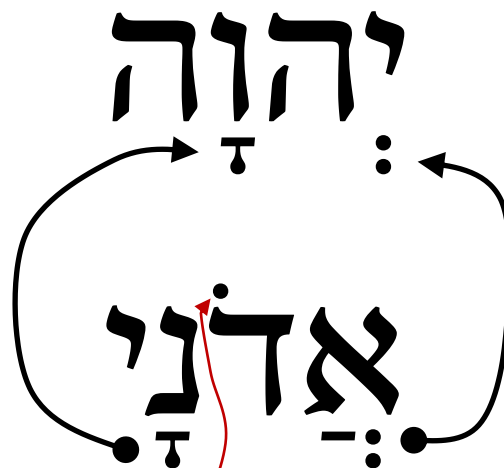
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The substitution options are **Adonai** or **Elohim**.

The Masoretes pointed YHWH **13 different ways** in order to indicate this (according to my Accordance search – see next slide).

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Masoretic Pointing of the Tetragrammaton

Freq	Example	References	Example	Qere	Note
5679	יהוה	Gen 2:4; Ex 3:4; Lev 1:1; Num 1:1; Deut 1:3; Josh 1:1; Isa 1:2; Ps 1:2	יהוה	adonai	This is the standard pointing to indicate "pronounce as adonai" (i.e. qere = "adonai") when you see the divine name
789	יהוה	Gen 4:3; 8:20; 13:14; 24:3	ליהוה	adonai	Occurs when you have a prefix like lamed, bet, waw
269	יהוה	Deut 3:24; Josh 7:7; 1 Kgs 8:53; Isa 3:15; Ps 69:7	אדני יהוה	elohim	When "adonai" precedes the divine name then the qere is "elohim", otherwise you'd end up saying "adonai adonai"
46	יהוה	Gen 3:14; Ex 3:2; 13:9; Deut 31:27; 1Kgs 3:5; Jer 2:37; Ezek 33:23; Hos 10:3; Ps 15:1; Prov 1:29	יהוה אלהים יהוה אליו יהוה ממצרים:	adonai	
32	יהוה	1Kgs 2:26; Isa 50:4; Jer 1:6; Ps 73:28	אדני יהוה	elohim	
6	יהוה	Gen 18:17; Ex 13:12; Lev 23:34; Jer 3:23; 4:4; Ezek 46:13	ויהוה	adonai	
2	יהוה	Gen 15:2,8	אדני יהוה	elohim	
1	יהוה	Hab 3:19	יהוה אדני	elohim	
1	יהוה	Zech 6:12	אתהיכל יהוה:	adonai	
1	יהוה	Judg 16:28	אדני יהוה	elohim	
1	יהוה	Ps 144:15	שיהוה אלהיו	adonai	
1	יהוה	Ps 68:21	וליהוה אדני	elohim	
1	יהוה	Lev 23:38	יהוה	adonai	

MSS

Isaiah 41:21

עָרֵבְךָ צְרָא וְנָשׂוּ וְנִדְרָר מִנְּאִשׁוּרֵי אֲחֵי לְנַעַם
 מִן צְרָא מִן אֱלֹהֵי עֲשׂוּתָא וְנִמְאָת וְקִינִישׁ מִן
 קִינִישׁ מִן צְרָא מִן אֱלֹהֵי עֲשׂוּתָא וְנִמְאָת וְקִינִישׁ מִן
 אֱלֹהֵי עֲשׂוּתָא וְנִמְאָת וְקִינִישׁ מִן צְרָא מִן אֱלֹהֵי
 עֲשׂוּתָא וְנִמְאָת וְקִינִישׁ מִן צְרָא מִן אֱלֹהֵי עֲשׂוּתָא
 וְנִמְאָת וְקִינִישׁ מִן צְרָא מִן אֱלֹהֵי עֲשׂוּתָא וְנִמְאָת

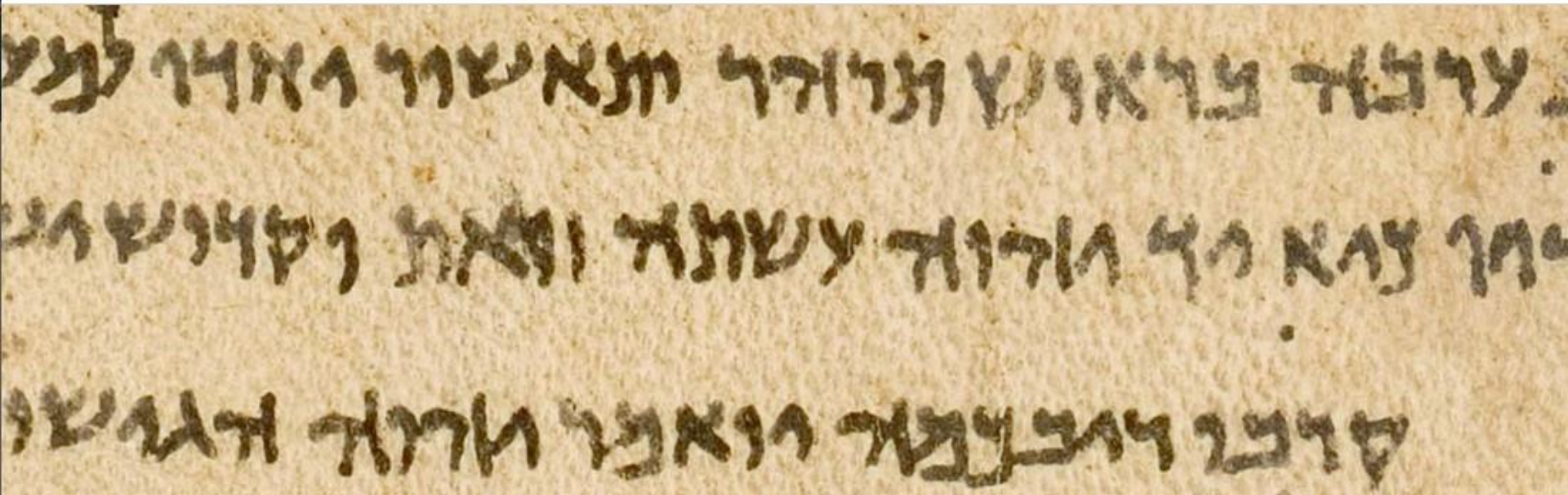
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Map Data

☰ 🔍 🔍

Isaiah 41:21



BHS (Leningrad)
• Consonants

קרבו ריבכם יאמר יהוה



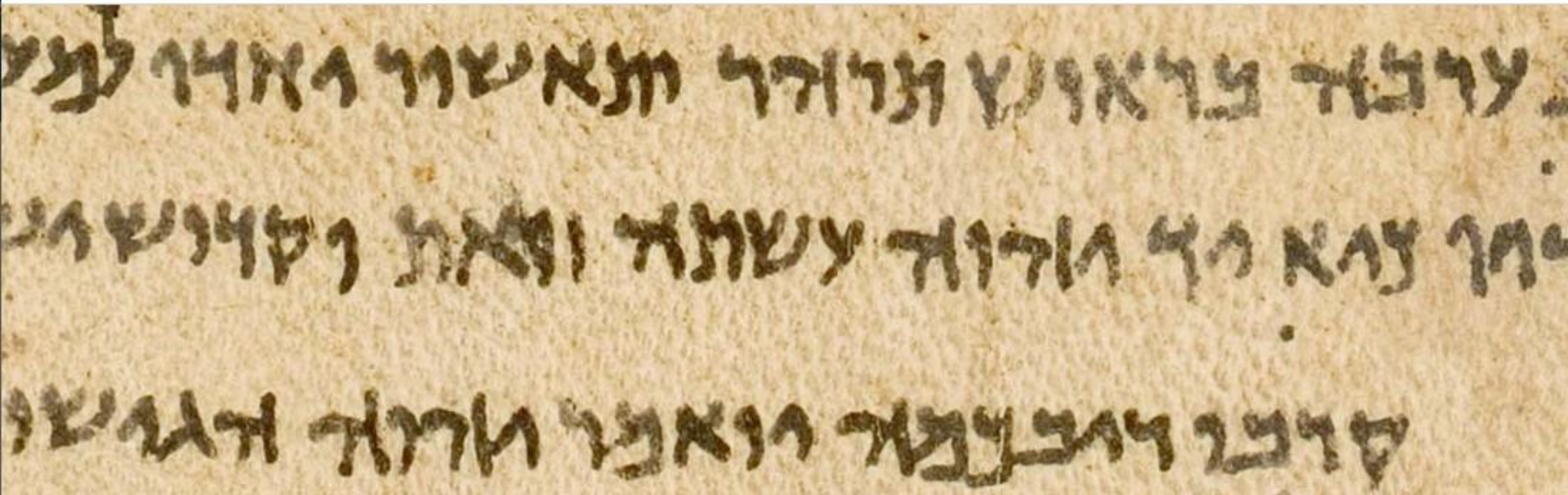
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Isaiah 41:21



קָרְבוּ רִיבְכֶם יֹאמֶר יְהוָה

BHS (Leningrad)
• Consonants
• Vowels



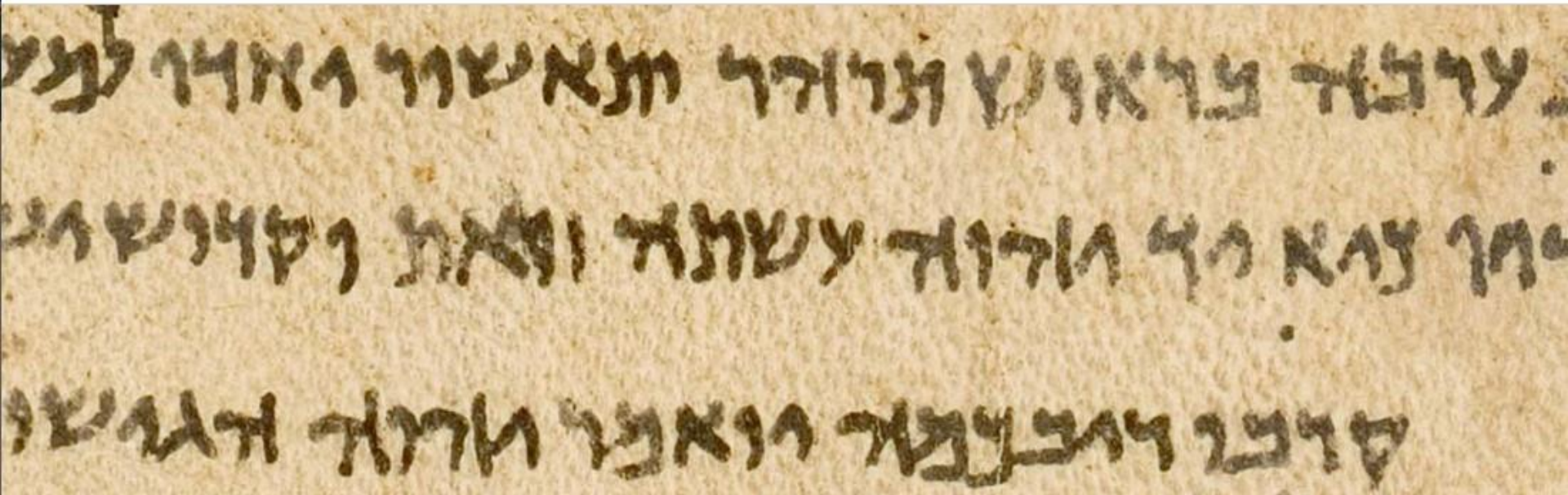
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Isaiah 41:21



- BHS (Leningrad)
- Consonants
- Vowels
- Cantillation

קָרְבוּ רִיבְכֶם יֹאמֵר יְהוָה



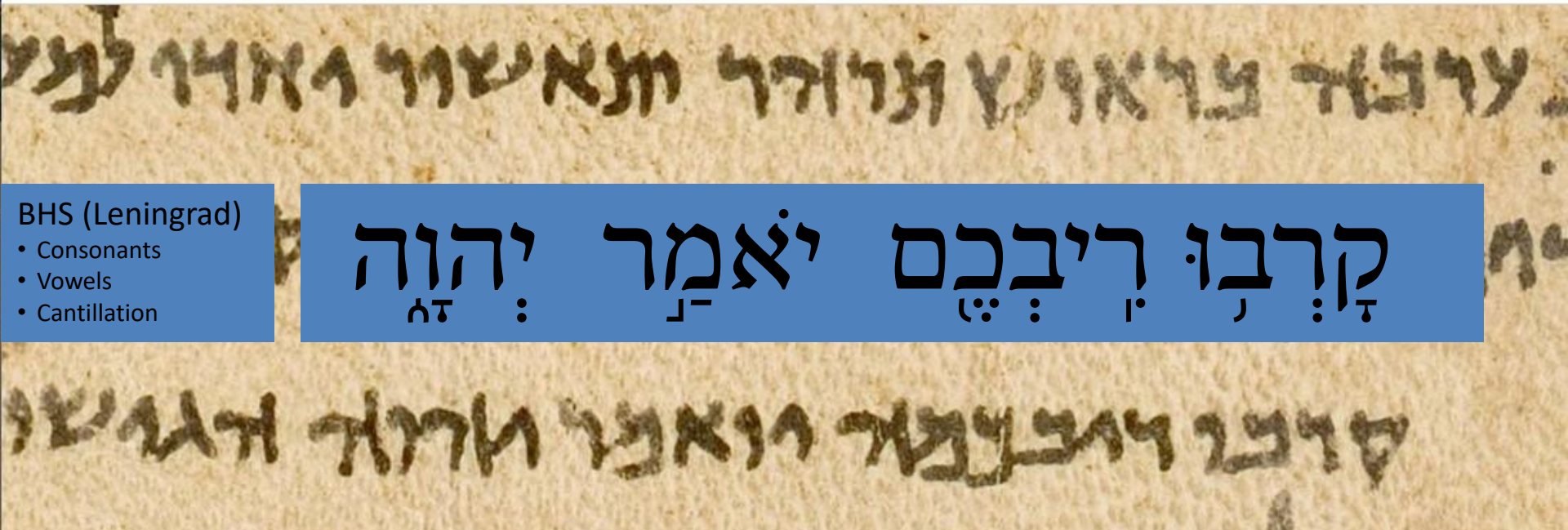
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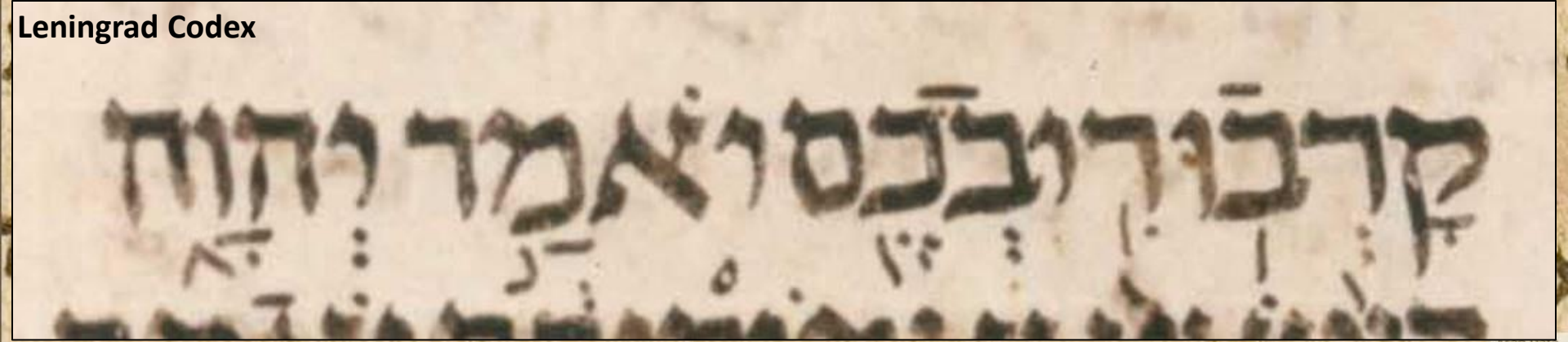


Isaiah 41:21



קָרְבוּ רִיבְכֶם יֹאמֶר יְהוָה

- BHS (Leningrad)
- Consonants
 - Vowels
 - Cantillation



Leningrad Codex

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54 53 52 51 50 49 48 47 46 45 44 43 42 41 40 39 38 37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Map Data

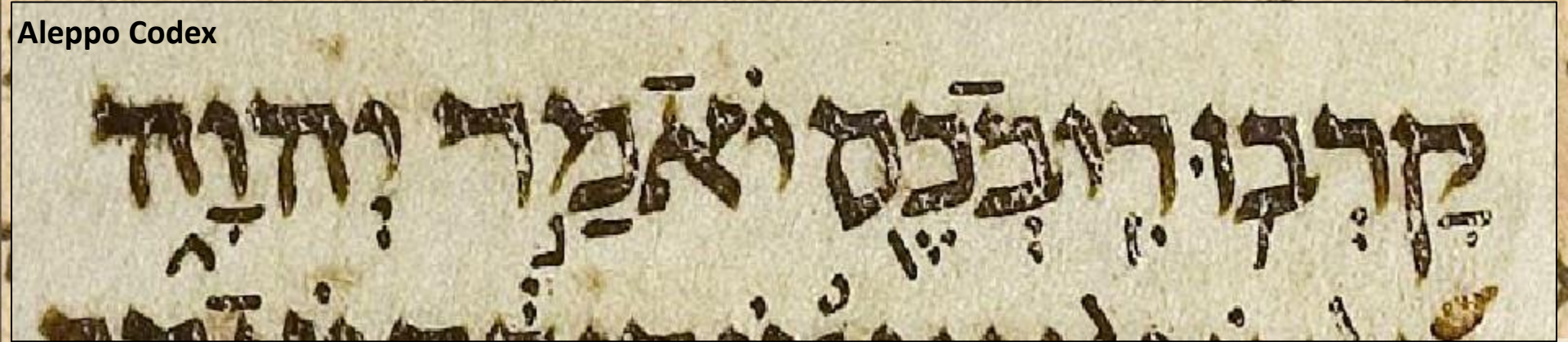
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Isaiah 41:21



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קָרְבוּ רִיבְכֶם יֹאמֵר יְהוָה



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Map Data

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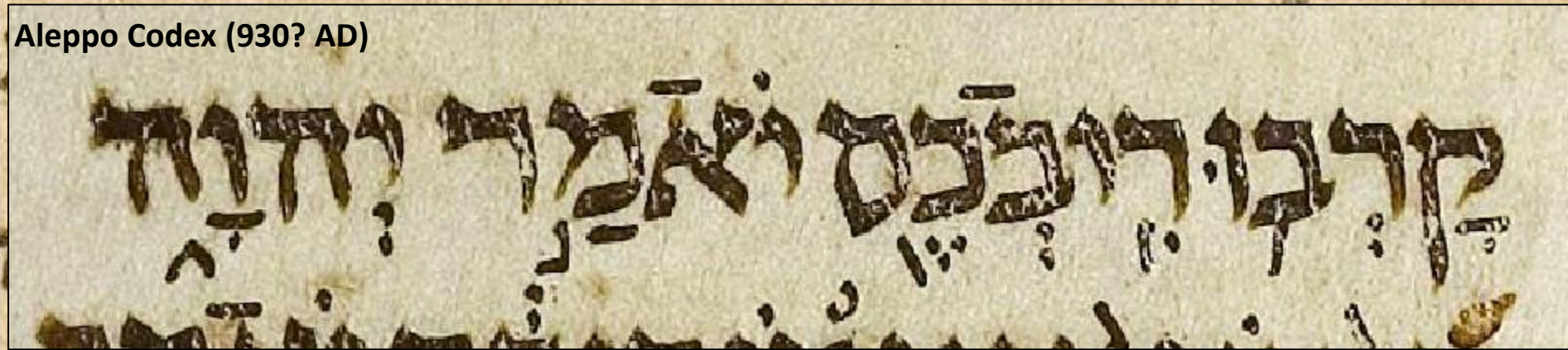
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Leningrad Codex (1008/9 AD)



Great Isaiah Scroll or 1QIsa^a (350-100 BC)

Aleppo Codex (930? AD)



Map Data