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**AN AUTHORSHIP STUDY**

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in  
Computer-Assisted Statistical Linguistics

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1985

YEHUDA T. RADDAY and HAIM SHORE  
with  
DIETER WICKMAN, MOSHE A. POLLATSCHEK  
CHAIM RABIN and SHEMARYAHU TALMON

Preface by  
DAVID NOEL FREEDMAN

# Genesis

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TIPOGRAFIA POLIGLOTTA DELLA PONTIFICIA UNIVERSITÀ GREGORIANA  
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### Acknowledgments

As its title indicates, this book is the result of a joint research project undertaken by a group of scholars in four different fields: Bible studies, linguistics, statistics and computer science. For geographical reasons, they regrettably never had opportunity to meet, all together, at the same time and place, one of the reasons why each is responsible only for the chapter or chapters where his participation is mentioned.

They all, though, are united in expressing their gratitude to the following for the help extended to them: The Technion — Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa; the Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule as well as the now defunct Institut für Mathematisch-Empirische Systemforschung, both in Aachen; and the Katz Institute for Literary Research, Tel-Aviv University, especially its Director, Dr. Z. Malachi.

They also wish to acknowledge Ms. Edna Rothenstein-Widgeron's assistance in analyzing the Hebrew text of Genesis, and the skill of Mr. Uri Regev and Mr. Dov Barak, both formerly of the Technion Computer Center, who carried out most of the computer routines. The machines used were an IBM 370/168 in Haifa, a CDC 6600 in Tel-Aviv and a CYBER 175 in Aachen.

Less professional and more personal thanks are due to Ms. Amira Esser for more than two decades of support and encouragement.

Y. T. R.

H. S.

## Preface

The authors of this volume have produced a formidable work in the area of computer studies and the Bible. We are indebted to them for their pioneering efforts in this new and promising field of research. Radday's own earlier work, especially his classic study of literary characteristics and affinities in the Book of Isaiah, has initiated discussion and debate among scholars in these fields, and the immediate result has been a growing collection of articles and books responding to the first publications and extending the inquiry. As is inevitable in the early phases of a serious, scholarly enterprise, much controversy has arisen over principles and procedures, approaches and inferences. What is overwhelmingly important at this stage, however, is not the conclusions or claims, however interesting and exciting in themselves, but the great mass of useful data that has been collected, processed, classified, and organized in the course of this extended research. An enormous amount of such information is now or will shortly be available and accessible to scholars trained in both computer analysis and biblical studies.

There can be no question about the importance of the work undertaken by the present team of scholars, or about its bearing on basic questions of analysis and interpretation of the books of the Bible, quite apart from whether one agrees throughout with the approach, method, findings, and conclusions derived from the data. In this impressive volume especially Radday and Shore have mounted a major research project, an investigation into the so-called literary sources of the Pentateuch insofar as these are found in the Book of Genesis. While one may wish to quibble with the choices and decisions made as to specific assignment of passages and authorities used and cited, no one can doubt that this work makes an important contribution to the elucidation of this central issue in biblical studies.

Unlimited controversy will surely boil up over the conclusions reached by the authors, and that is all to the good. They have presented their effort to test the established views of generations of scholars and to put in their place, on the basis of material criteria and inductive considerations, a different hypothesis concerning the composition of the Book of Genesis and, by implication, other books of the Pentateuch or Hexateuch. Whether the contributors to this study have solved the problems, resolved the issues, and produced a better thesis about the literary character and characteristics of Genesis can only be settled through further testing and refining. But it will be impossible to ignore this work and others like it in the future, and those who

deal with such literary questions will have to reckon with the methods, procedures, and, above all, data in this volume.

The results of this work are extremely provocative; they merit the attention, consideration, and reaction of scholars everywhere in our field. We are deeply indebted to Radday and his fellow-workers as they blaze a trail for the rest of us to follow.

David Noel Freedman

Professor of Biblical Studies  
Dept. of Near Eastern Studies  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



### **Avant-propos by the Publishers**

This book is a pioneer effort at studying an old problem, the authorship of Genesis (and eventually the Pentateuch), by means of a radically new, modern method, the employment of computers and statistical linguistics. The reliability of such a method is as yet imperfectly known since the whole science of computer linguistics is still developing with great speed. Hence *Analecta Biblica* cannot take full responsibility for all the methods and the conclusions they lead to here. Nevertheless we are proud to present this pioneering effort. We hope that reactions, even if they be critical, will stimulate discussion which can develop for the benefit of biblical and even linguistic science.

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