A Dead Sea Scroll fragment containing text from the book of Leviticus now belongs to the National Christian Foundation with inventory number NCF.SCR.004742. It has been assigned the designation DSS F.203 or DSS F.Lev6 (Lev 23:24–28) by Eibert Tigchelaar.

The fragment contains portions of four lines of text from Lev 23:24–28, part of a larger passage addressing the appointed festivals of Israel. The fragment corresponds to the section addressing the blowing of trumpets on the first day of the seventh month (Lev 23:24–25) and the beginning of the section related to the Day of Atonement (Lev 23:26–32).

The text of this fragment is attested by all the primary textual witnesses (MT LXX SP T S V), which exhibit very few variant readings. Lev 23:24–28 is also present in two Qumran scrolls: 4QLevb (4Q24) and 11QpaleoLeva (11Q1). While 4QLevb contains fairly substantial portions from the book of Leviticus, for this passage it preserves only traces of a few letters.1 On the other hand, the text of Lev 23:24–28 in 11QpaleoLeva is almost entirely intact and exhibits a text identical to MT. The text of DSS F.Lev6 likewise presents a text close to MT. However, a reconstruction of the missing portions of the lines implies the presence of a variant most likely corresponding to that of the LXX and S.

Physical Description

The fragment measures 2.05 by 2.48 cm and preserves parts of four lines of text that are clearly legible to the naked eye (see color photograph NCF.SCR.

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1 See Eugene Ulrich et al., eds., *Qumran Cave 4.vii: Genesis to Numbers* (DJD xii; Oxford: Clarendon, 1994), plate XXXIII (frg. 20). Considerations of line length do suggest a match with MT.
The ink has bled through so that the letters are also visible on the reverse side, although they are less distinct (see color photograph NCF.SCR.004742_reverse_rs). The fragment is a reddish brown, mottled with light tan throughout. The light tan coloration is most concentrated in the middle of the fragment, spanning the area between lines 2–4. In the PTM images the reddish brown color evident on both the surface and substrate of the fragment appears to be the color of the leather itself, while the light tan appears to be the result of deposits on the surface. Several small areas exhibit a darker, almost black, discoloration. This discoloration is particularly evident surrounding the traces at the top edge of the fragment near the center of line 1 and at the right edge of the fragment between lines 1–2 and lines 3–4.

Letters are fairly consistent in height, ranging from 1.2 mm (yod) to 2.1 mm (averaging 1.8 mm) and range between 0.8 and 1.8 mm in width. The letters alef, he, and resh average 1.6 mm in width. Medium characters such as kaf, lamed, and pe average 1.0 mm in width. The narrowest characters (vav and yod) average 0.8 mm in width. The letter spacing in this fragment remains relatively constant at 0.4 to 0.5 mm. However, the backward lean of the alef in line 4 results in letter spacing of about 0.2 mm. The infrared photograph also suggests that virtually no letter space exists between the remnants of mem and he in line 1.

The fragment provides three clear examples of word spacing in lines 2–3 that range from 0.75 to 0.9 mm. A reconstruction of the fragment suggests that the width of the column was approximately 12.2 cm (2.48 cm preserved), and that the lines of the column ranged from 73–75 letter spaces in length. This fragment exhibits line spacing of about 5 mm, with no visible ruling lines or evidence of margins.

Paleography and Date (by Ada Yardeni)

This small fragment contains the remains of 4 lines written in a ‘Jewish’ square book hand. Two words are intact in line 2, whereas the words in the other lines are all partly damaged. Ten letters of the Hebrew alphabet appear in this fragment: alef, he, vav, yod, kaf, lamed, final mem, pe, resh, and shin (except for he, the reading of the letters in line 1 is uncertain). A clear space of about 0.8 mm marks the word spacing whereas the letter spacing within the words

2 Photographs by Bruce Zuckerman, Kenneth Zuckerman, and Marilyn J. Lundberg, West Semitic Research.
3 Measuring kaf and pe at the topline.