I. EVIDENCES FROM 4QSAM$^{A}$ AND ITS CHARACTERIZATION
Ever since its discovery and the initial publication of parts of it by Frank Moore Cross, 4QSam has been the object of a lively discussion. In his first announcement of the discovery, Cross paralleled 4QSam with the Vorlage of the Septuagint, that is, the Hebrew text underlying the Greek translation of the Books of Samuel.\(^1\) Later discussion has shown that the question of the nature of 4QSam as a textual witness is much more complicated. With this paper, I would like to take part in the ongoing discussion by analyzing readings of 4QSam in Hannah’s Psalm (1 Sam 2:1–10).\(^2\)

Hannah’s Psalm is represented in four fragments of 4QSam,\(^3\) which all belong to one column, obviously the 2nd column of the manuscript. Of these fragments, the first one (a) begins at the upper margin of the column with the verse 1 Sam 1:22; it contains words from the first colon of the poem, preceded by a break, and continues until v. 5. The second fragment (b) is a tiny piece with letters from vv. 6–7. The third one (c) reveals parts of vv. 8–10; it contains a few puzzling details, but no doubt belongs to our poem, since it is connected with the first column of the manuscript. And finally, the fourth fragment (d) very clearly shows the final word of Hannah’s Psalm, the characteristic formulation “his Messiah”. As usual, many details that we would have loved to see are not there. But although no single line is nearly complete, only two lines are completely missing (between the

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\(^3\) Qumran Cave 4 · XII · 1–2 Samuel, by Frank Moore Cross, Donald W. Parry, Richard Saley and Eugene Ulrich (DJD XVII; Oxford, 2005).