

What manuscript was used for the story about Abraham

The story of Abraham is found in the book of Genesis, which is part of the Pentateuch. As with the entire Pentateuch, there isn't a single "original manuscript" of the Abraham story that exists today. Instead, our knowledge comes from ancient copies and textual traditions.

The most important manuscripts for the story of Abraham are:

- **Dead Sea Scrolls (3rd Century BCE - 1st Century CE):** These include fragments of Genesis, providing the earliest direct Hebrew evidence for the text of the Abraham narrative. They demonstrate the remarkable stability of the text over a long period.
- **Codex Leningradensis (c. 1008 CE):** This is the oldest complete manuscript of the Hebrew Bible, including the entire book of Genesis. It represents the Masoretic Text, which is the standard Hebrew text for Judaism and the basis for most modern Bible translations.
- **Samaritan Pentateuch Manuscripts:** While the Samaritan Pentateuch has its own ancient tradition, the oldest complete manuscripts date from the Middle Ages. However, some Dead Sea Scrolls fragments show a "pre-Samaritan" text type that includes portions of Genesis.
- **Greek Septuagint Codices (4th-5th Century CE):** Important early Greek translations of the Hebrew Bible, such as Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus, contain the book of Genesis and offer insights into earlier Hebrew textual traditions that existed before the standardization of the Masoretic Text.

Therefore, the story of Abraham, as we know it, is based on the meticulous transmission of these ancient texts, with the Dead Sea Scrolls providing the oldest direct Hebrew fragments and the Masoretic Text (like Codex Leningradensis) being the most complete and widely used Hebrew version.