

the womb, and its inclusion in Iron Age IIC graves in Judah may reflect the conceptualization of the grave as a womb. Whatever the precise association, scholars believe it was included in order to grant protection to the miscarried child.

Another preexilic example of inscribed amulets from ancient Judah is that of the Ketef Hinnom silver scrolls (see fig. 7.2). The scrolls were briefly mentioned in chapter 1, but the relationship of the text inscribed on the scrolls to the blessing Aaron is instructed to give to the children of Israel in Num 6:23–27 was not discussed in much detail. That text is the earliest attestation of any version of a text that would ultimately constitute part of the later Torah. In

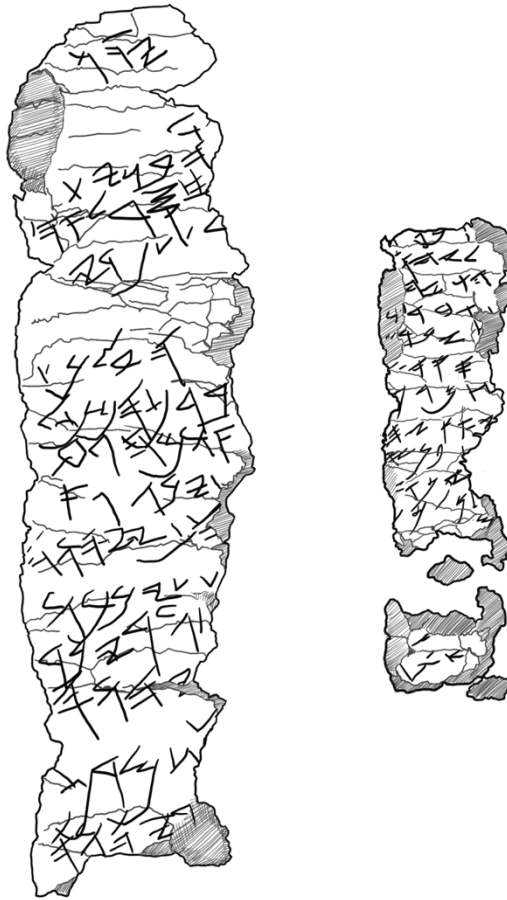


Figure 7.2. The Ketef Hinnom Silver Scrolls. Drawing by the author.