

## WHEN WAS *DAYAQOT* – R. SHMUEL BEN MEIR'S GRAMMATICAL TREATISE – WRITTEN?

by Yosef Ofer

Rashbam – R. Shmuel ben Meir – compiled a grammatical treatise, *Dayaqot*, of which only a single manuscript has survived. The first part of this treatise is a grammar book of eight chapters, while its second part is a grammatical commentary to the Bible, which ends abruptly at Genesis 7:5. A new edition of *Dayaqot* was published by Ronella Merdler in the year 1999.

A number of scholars (Yom Tov Stein, Henoch Yalon, Ronella Merdler) have surmised that *Dayaqot* was compiled by Rashbam late in life, after he had completed his Commentary to the Pentateuch, and they have presented some evidence supporting their position. A close examination of the evidence leads, I believe, to the opposite conclusion: a study of four topics discussed in Rashbam's Torah Commentary as well as in *Dayaqot* indicates that *Dayaqot* preceded the Torah Commentary and was, therefore, compiled in the author's youth.

In an appendix, the article tells of the rediscovery of the manuscript of the first edition of *Dayaqot*, redacted by Yom Tov Stein.