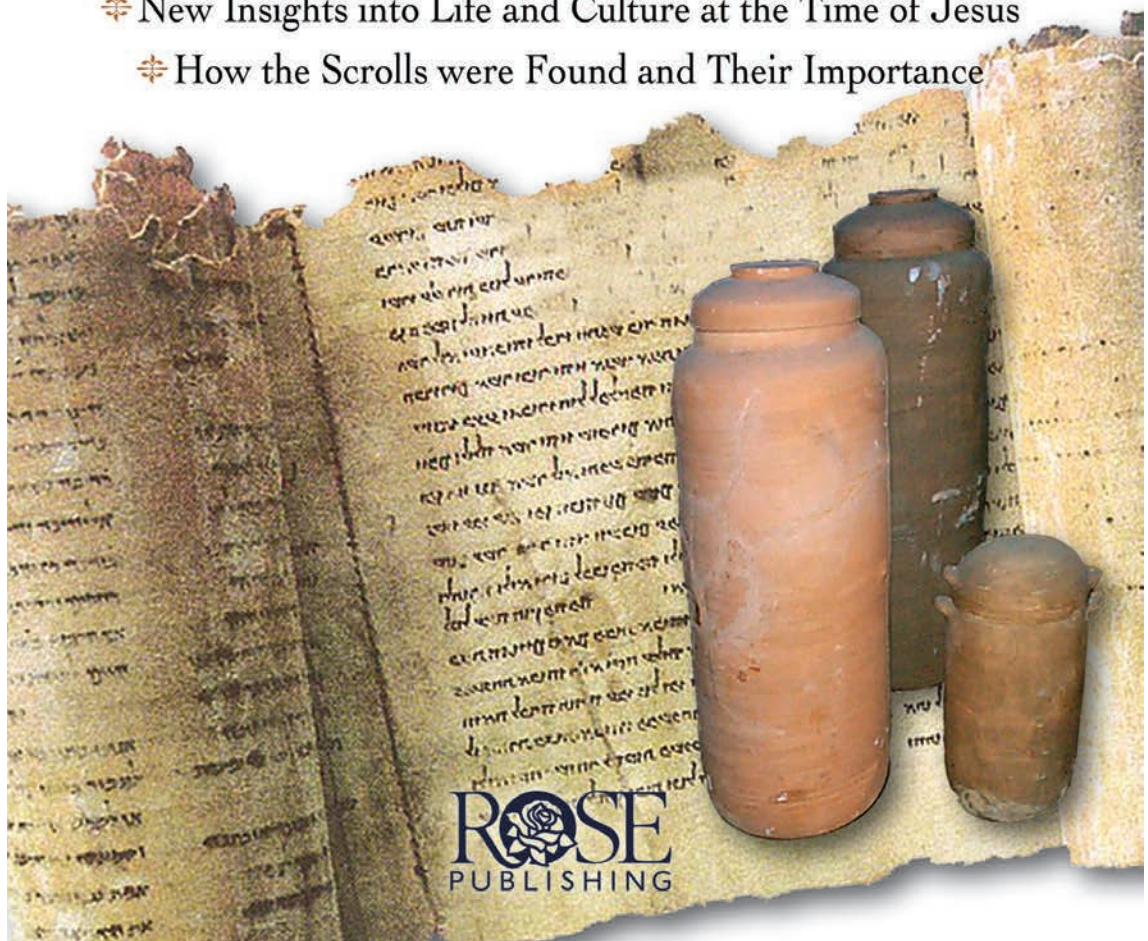


THE DISCOVERY HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

- ✦ Evidence That Supports the Authenticity of the Bible
- ✦ New Insights into Life and Culture at the Time of Jesus
- ✦ How the Scrolls were Found and Their Importance



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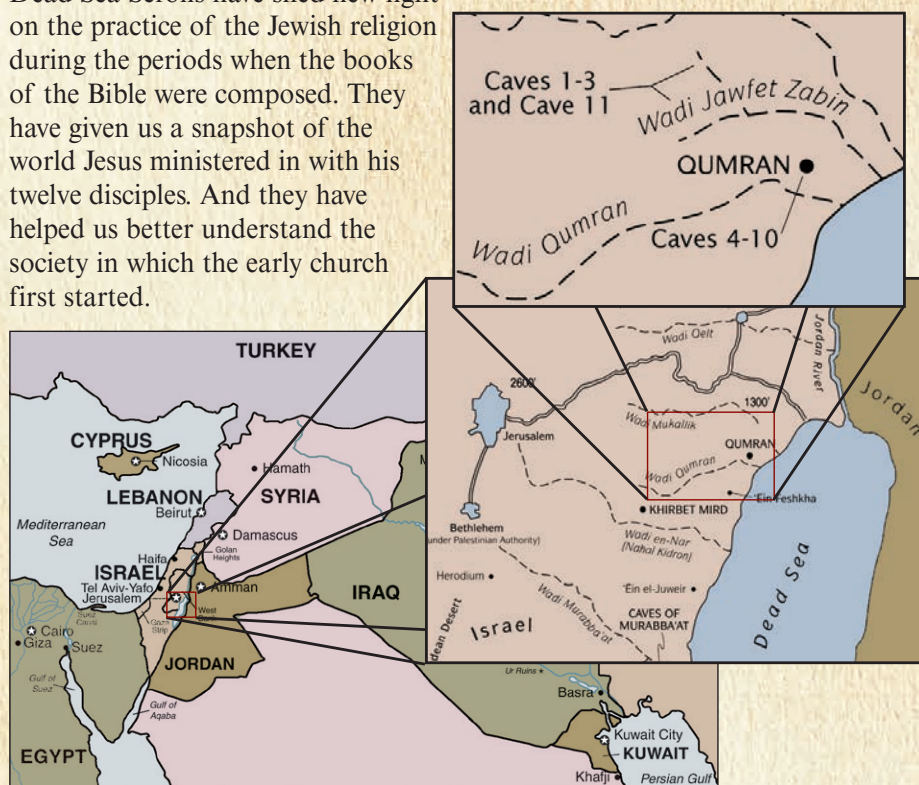
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WHAT ARE THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS?

The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of 931 documents discovered over a half century ago in a region of the Judean desert in what is today called the West Bank. The scrolls date from different periods—as early as 300 BC to AD 40—and were hidden in caves along the edge of the Dead Sea. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls is the greatest literary and archaeological discovery of our time. The scrolls are not the original documents that make up the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament), but they are the oldest copies of those documents that we have today. The Dead Sea Scrolls have shed new light on the practice of the Jewish religion during the periods when the books of the Bible were composed. They have given us a snapshot of the world Jesus ministered in with his twelve disciples. And they have helped us better understand the society in which the early church first started.



Location of Dead Sea Scrolls Discoveries

People and Events in Israel

700 BC

25 years between lines

600 BC

- Beginning of return of exiles to Jerusalem
- Esther
- Second Temple is built
- Joshua serves

500 BC

Events at Qumran

WHAT ARE THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS?

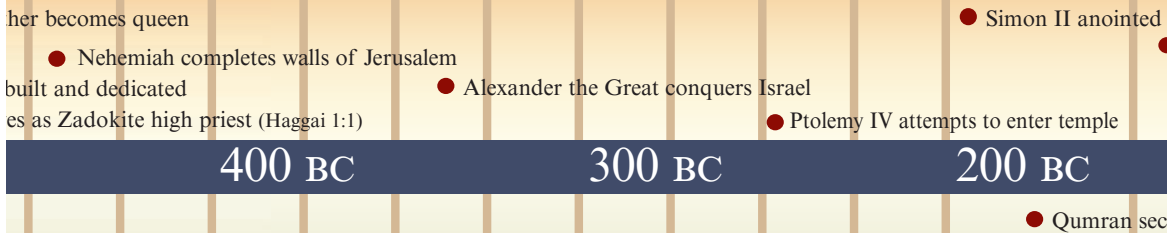
The scrolls are believed to be from the “library” of a group of first-century Jews who separated themselves from the rest of society by living out in the desert at a site known as Qumran. The scrolls contain a variety of writings: portions of every book of the Old Testament except the Book of Esther, commentaries on the books of the Bible, rules for religious rituals and community life, texts designed to prepare the Qumran sect for a war at the End of Time, marriage contracts, deeds of sale, calendars, horoscopes, and writings that claimed to foretell the future.

Canonical Division (According to the Hebrew Bible)	Old Testament Book	Number of Qumran and other Manuscripts (?=possible fragment)	
Pentateuch (Torah)	Genesis	24	
	Exodus	18	
	Leviticus	18	
	Numbers	11	
	Deuteronomy	33	
Prophets (Nevi'im)	Joshua	2	
	Judges	3	
	Former Prophets	1-2 Samuel	4
	1-2 Kings	3	
Latter Prophets	Isaiah	22	
	Jeremiah	6	
	Ezekiel	6	
	Twelve (Minor) Prophets	10	
Writings (Ketubim)	Psalms	39	
	Proverbs	2	
	Job	6	
The Five Scrolls	Song of Songs	4	
	Ruth	4	
	Lamentation	4	
	Ecclesiastes	3	
	Esther	0*	
	Daniel	8	
	Ezra-Nehemiah	1	
	1-2 Chronicles	1	
		Total 231	
		Adjusted 223*	

*The total has been adjusted to read 8 less, since 6 scrolls from Qumran contain portions of two books (counted 2X), and 1 scroll from Wadi Murabba'at contains portions of 3 books (counted 3x).

Qumran Manuscripts, which are copies of Books of the Old Testament

The texts are composed in three languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. They are written on leather parchment (made from goat or sheep skins) and papyrus (a form of early paper). One scroll is inscribed on pure copper and is known as the Copper Scroll. It appears to be a treasure map, detailing directions to 66 places throughout the Judean desert where immense amounts of gold, silver, and other precious items were hidden. Due to the secretive and mysterious way the texts were written and the loss of identifying physical features in the region today, all attempts to locate the treasure have thus far proven unsuccessful.



HOW WERE THE SCROLLS DISCOVERED?

In 1946, shepherds of the Ta'amireh Bedouin tribe settled in a desert area between Bethlehem and the Dead Sea, where they tended their flocks and herds. According to local hearsay, a teenager by the name of Muhammed edh-Dhib ("Muhammed the Wolf") went in search of a stray goat. Believing it to have wandered into one of the caves that honeycombed the limestone cliffs, he threw a rock into the cave to scare it out. Instead of hearing the bleat of a goat, he heard the sound of breaking pottery.



Inside Cave 1

He climbed up into what is today called Cave 1 and found ancient clay storage jars filled with seven scrolls. Four of these scrolls were sold in Bethlehem to an antiquities dealer known as Kando. He in turn sold them



for \$97.20 to the archbishop of the Monastery of St. Mark's in Jerusalem, the Metropolitan (a high office in the priesthood of the Syrian Orthodox Church) Mar Athanasius Yeshue Samuel. The other three were sold to Feidi Salahi, another antiquities dealer in Bethlehem, who in turn sold them to Hebrew University Professor Eleazar Sukenik in Jerusalem.

ointed high priest

● Simon anointed high priest. Jews rule themselves for 79 years

● Antiochus IV desecrates the temple; the Maccabean Revolt begins

● Jerusalem besieged by Antiochus VII Sidetes of Syria

● Death of Judas Maccabeus (leader of the revolt)

● John Hyrcanus destroys Samaritan temple on Mt. Gerizim; forces the Judaization of Idumea

150 BC

125 BC

100 BC

an sect in Damascus?

● Founding of Qumran Settlement near the Dead Sea (early date)

● Period Ia founding of settlement; time of John Hyrcanus (?) (late date)

● Period Ib begins, ma of Alexander Jannae