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Ancient Artifacts: The Dead Sea Scrolls



THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS
ANCIENT ARTIFACTS

by
CHARLES RIVER EDITORS



Synopsis

In the mid-20th century, one of the most important religious discoveries of all time was made in a series of caves near the Dead Sea, which had hidden remnants of nearly 1,000 texts, some of which were included in the Hebrew Bible and others which were extra-biblical. In addition to being the oldest surviving copies of such documents, the mixture of languages and different kinds of papers helped shed light on the people in the region at the time, making the Dead Sea Scrolls vitally important to the world's major religions. The impact that these scrolls have had on the fields of biblical studies and the history of Second Temple Judaism can hardly be overstated. As The Oxford Companion to Archaeology put it, "The biblical manuscripts from Qumran, which include at least fragments from every book of the Old Testament, except perhaps for the Book of Esther, provide a far older cross section of scriptural tradition than that available to scholars before. While some of the Qumran biblical manuscripts are nearly identical to the Masoretic, or traditional, Hebrew text of the Old Testament, some manuscripts of the books of Exodus and Samuel found in cave four exhibit dramatic differences in both language and content. In their astonishing range of textual variants, the Qumran biblical discoveries have prompted scholars to reconsider the once-accepted theories of the development of the modern biblical text from only three manuscript families: the Masoretic text, the Hebrew original of the Septuagint, and the Samaritan Pentateuch."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Interesting history of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Judea in the days of the Roman Empire. I especially

love how this work goes into the history of the Essenes who wrote and kept the scrolls. Showing how they were at odds with both the Sadducees and the Pharisees, the main political groups in Judea at the time. This gave them a certain objectivity. The translations were interesting, showing the differences between Greek and Aramaic translations at the time and how Hebrew was like Latin in the Middle Ages. Spoken mainly by a religious priesthood. At the end of the work they show the series of messed up incentives that Archaeologists had to deal with in procuring these works from the local population. Very good context showing that discoveries aren't made in a vacuum.

Learned a lot from this book that I didn't know before, very interesting. If you like history this is a book for you.

A really comprehensive treatment of the history of the Dead Sea Scrolls in a compact form that is easy to read in one setting.

I'm not enough of a scholar to determine the accuracy of the facts as reported here, though they do seem to match what I know. Have to give respect to any history of the scrolls that keeps to the Jewish tradition of spelling god. Interesting.

It only told of the people of the area where the scrolls were found. A few quotes about where to bury your crap literally that was it.

This book is great also have told my kindle friends about the book....A for the price you just can't beat 's price.....

It was ok Took me too long to read it, got interested in another book. Might try to read again at a later date.

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