

The Dead Sea Scrolls:
The Texts and Their Significance for
Early Judaism and Early Christianity

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Colgate University – 18 February 2015





Qumran caves



Qumran
caves



Qumran caves



Location of Qumran in the Judean Desert



Qumran
Cave One



Muhammad
edh-Dhib
and colleague



Kando



Eleazar L. Sukenik (1889-1953)



Second
Isaiah
Scroll
(1QIsa^b)



War Scroll (1QM)

**Hodayot
Scroll
(Thanksgiving
Hymns)
(1QH)**



Kando

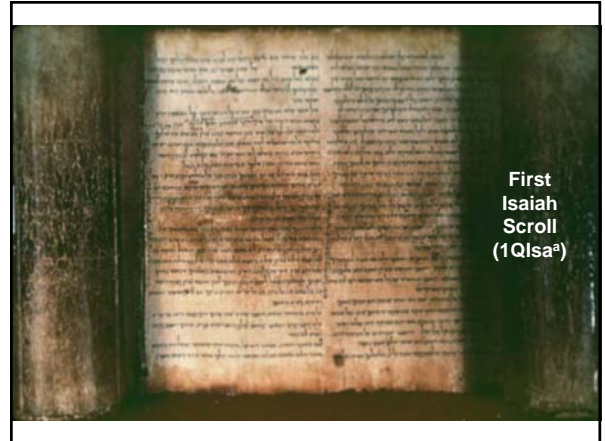


**Mar Samuel

The Syrian
Metropolitan**



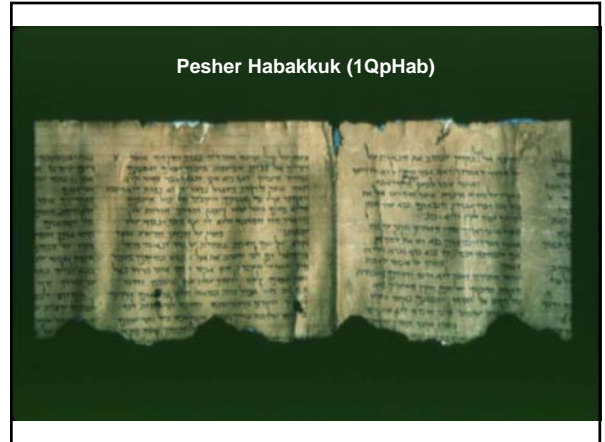
**First
Isaiah
Scroll
(1QIsa^a)**

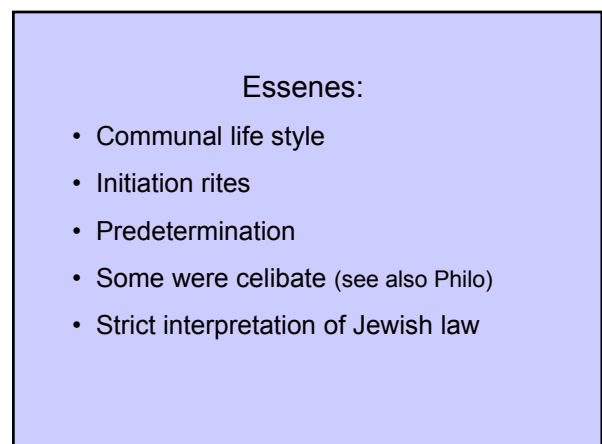
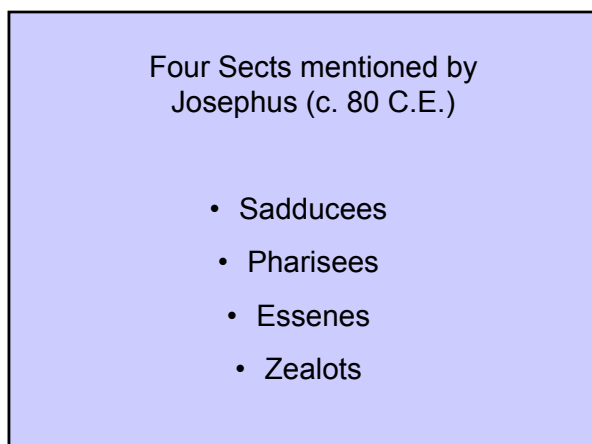
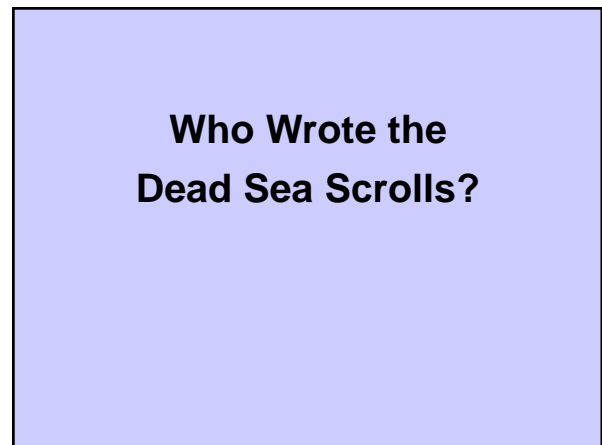
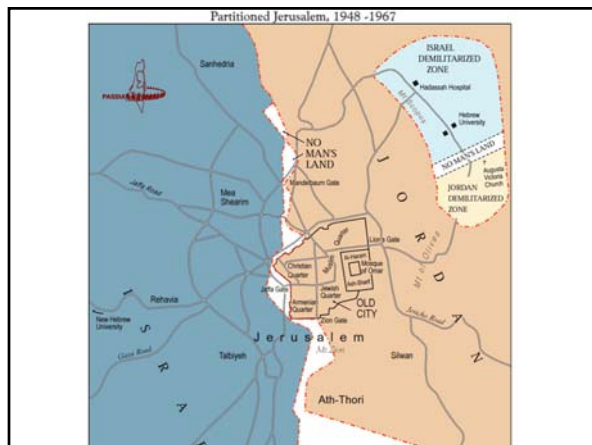
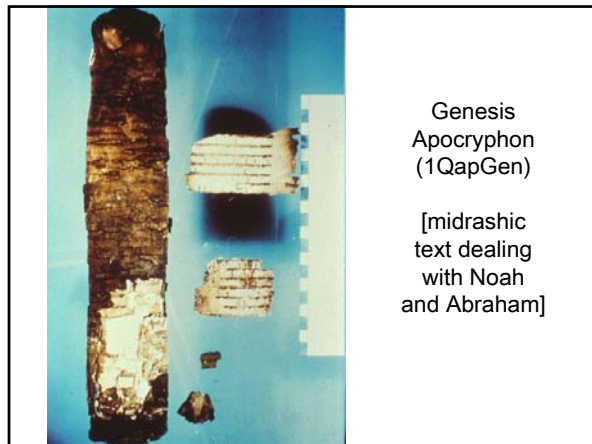


**Community Rule
(Manual of
Discipline)
(1QS)**



Pesher Habakkuk (1QpHab)





**Community Rule
(Manual of
Discipline)
(1QS)**



Key Passages from the Community Rule (1QS)

3.15-16 All that is now and ever shall be originates with the God of knowledge. Before things come to be, He has ordered all their designs, so that when they do come to exist – at their appointed times as ordained by His glorious plan – they fulfill their destiny, a destiny impossible to change.

6.1-2 They shall eat together, they shall pray together, and they shall deliberate together.

6.13-23 [detailed description of initiation rites]

7.13 And whoever spits in the midst of the assembly of the congregation, he shall be punished thirty days.

Pliny the Elder (23-79 C.E.),
Natural History (77 C.E.)

mentions the Essenes living along the
shore of the Dead Sea and then states:

infra hos Engada ‘below this is Ein Gedi’

“with no women among them,
renouncing desire entirely, without money,
with (only) palm trees for company”



**Community Rule
(Manual of
Discipline)
(1QS)**

**Not a single
mention of
women in the
11-column text**



Col. V (Purity)

13 אל יבוא במים לגעת בטהרת אנשי הקודש כיא לוא יטהרו
14 כי אם שבו מרעתם כיא טמא בכול עוברי דברו

13. None of the perverse men is to enter purifying waters
used by the Men of Holiness and so contact their purity. Indeed,
it is impossible to be purified

14. without first repenting of evil, inasmuch as impurity
adheres to all who transgress His word.

Pesher Habakkuk 7.17 – 8.3

'But the righteous man by his faith will live' (Hab 2:4)

This refers to all those who obey the Torah among the Jews whom God will rescue from the house of judgment, because of their suffering and their faith in the Teacher of Righteousness.

- This verse is cited and used the same way 3x in the New Testament: Romans 1:17, Hebrews 10:38, Galatians 3:11



Pesher Method in the New Testament Matthew 1

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Ben Ezra Synagogue – Cairo Geniza discovery (1890s)



Damascus Document

medieval copy
(10th century C.E.)
of a composition
belonging to an
unknown ancient
Jewish sect

found 1896 by
Solomon Schechter
(1847-1910)



Damascus Document – key passages

4.20 – 5.1 They are caught in two: fornication, by taking two wives in their lifetimes although the principle of creation is *'male and female He created them'* (Gen 1:27).

12.1-2 A man may not lie with a woman in the city of the Temple, defiling the city of the Temple by their impurity.

12.8-10 No one may sell a permitted animal or bird to the Gentiles, lest they sacrifice them; neither from his threshing-floor nor from his winepress shall he sell to them.

12.13-14 and the fish, they may not be eaten unless they are split open while alive and their blood poured out.

Damascus Document – Sabbath law (most of cols. 10-11)

10:21 – 11:2

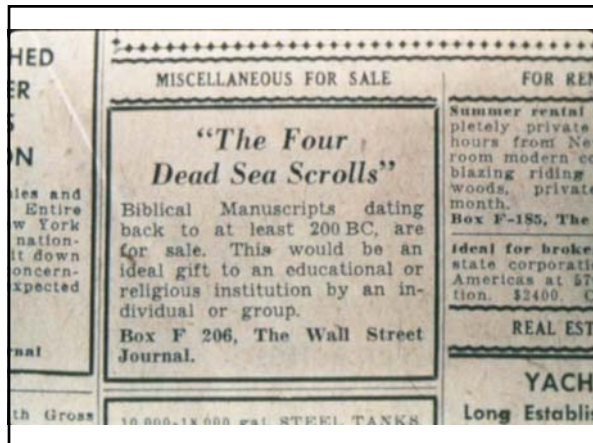
- One may not travel outside his city more than a thousand cubits.
- A man may not eat anything on the Sabbath day except food already prepared.
- One may not send a Gentile to do his business on the Sabbath day.

Josephus, *Jewish War*

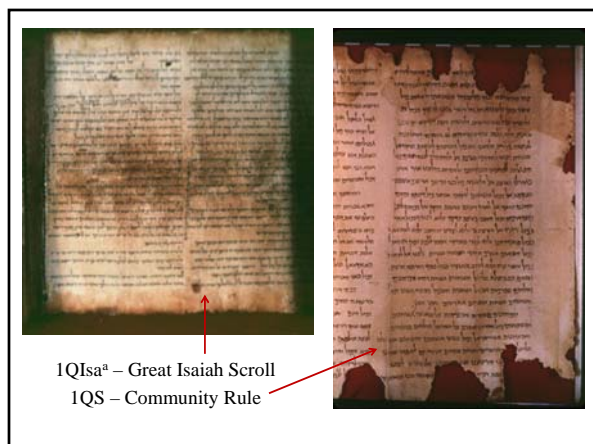
8.9 Moreover, they [sc. the Essenes] are stricter than any other of the Jews in resting on their labors on the seventh day. For they not only get their food ready the day before, that they may not be obliged to kindle a fire on that day, but they will not remove any vessel out of its place. . . .

Mar Samuel

The Syrian Metropolitan



Yigael Yadin (1917-1984)



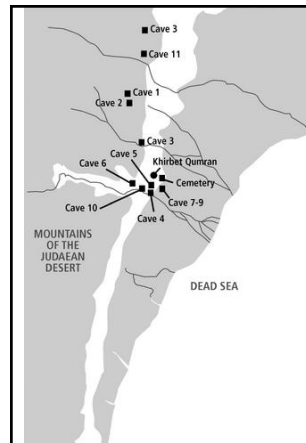


היכל הספר –
Israel Museum – מוזאון ישראל
Opened 1965



Qumran caves

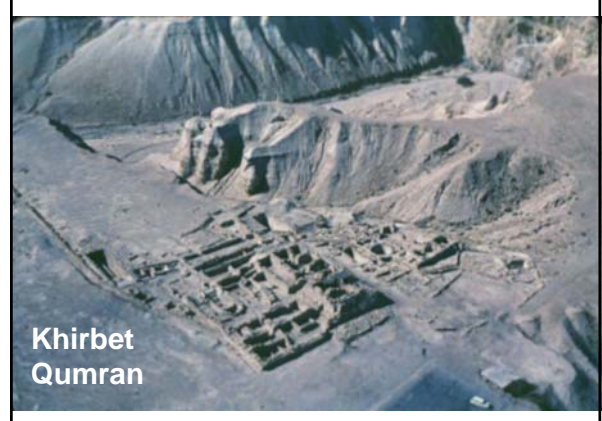
Qumran
caves



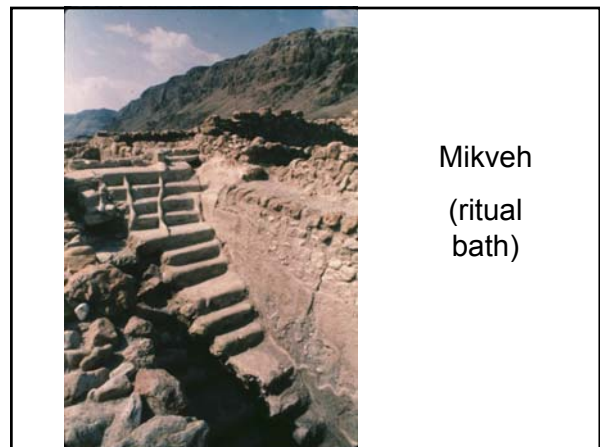
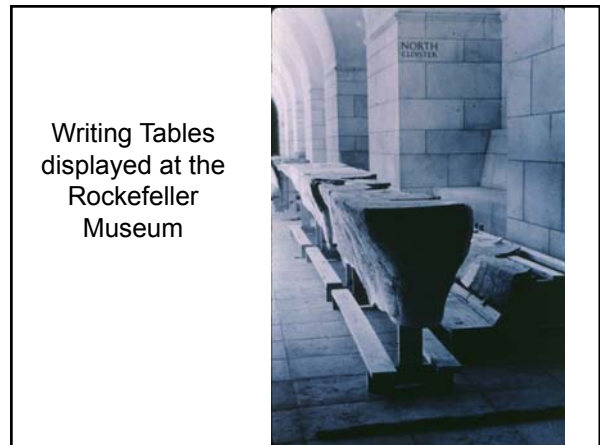
Père Roland
de Vaux, O.P.
(1903-1971)



École biblique et archéologique française



Khirbet
Qumran



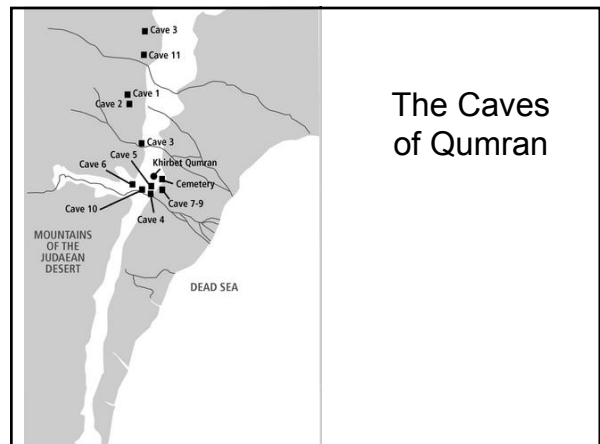
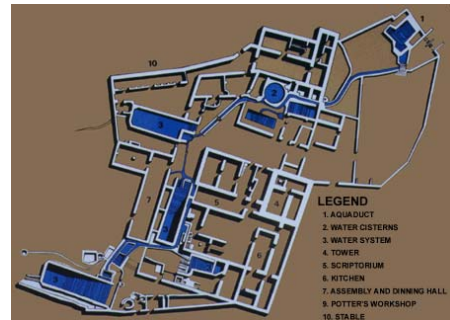
Miqveh
(ritual bath)



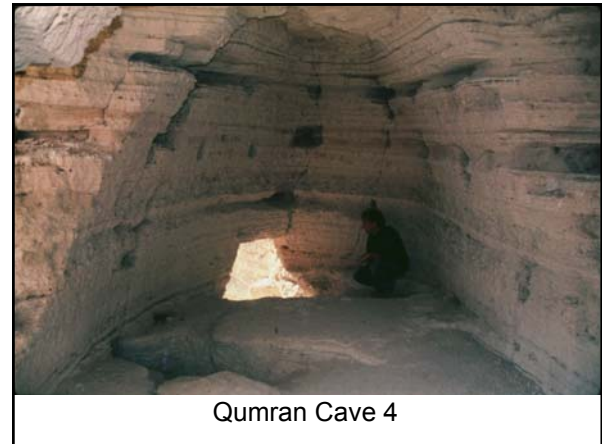
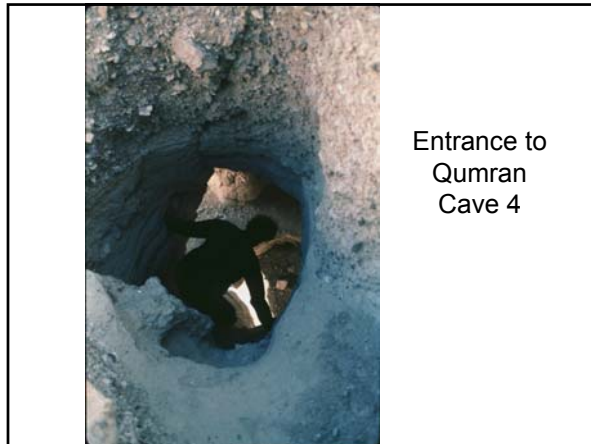
Large Cistern



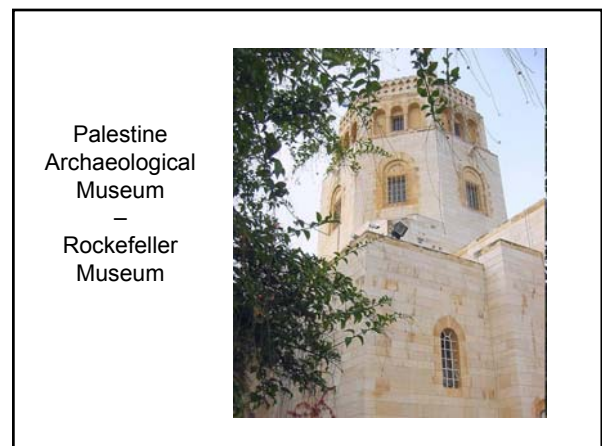
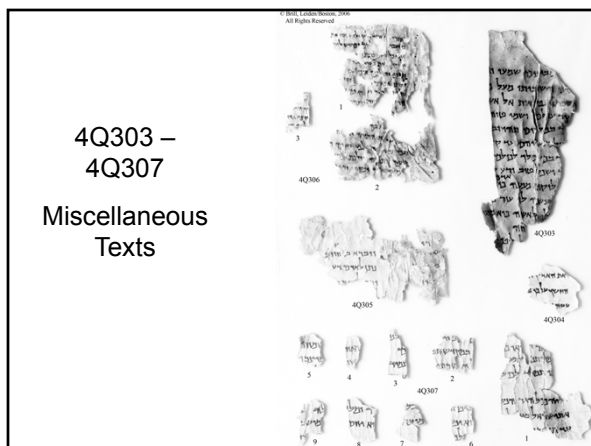
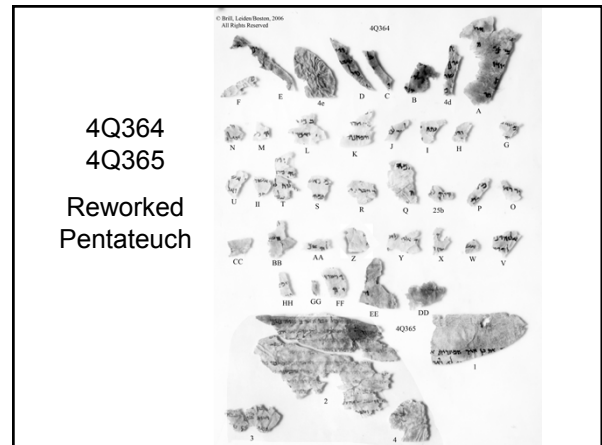
Water
Channel



The Caves
of Qumran

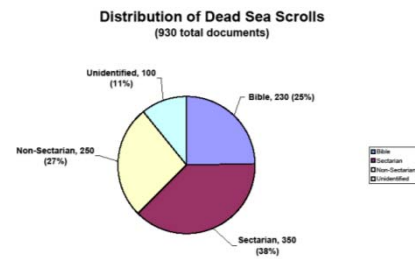


581 texts from Qumran Cave 4 alone





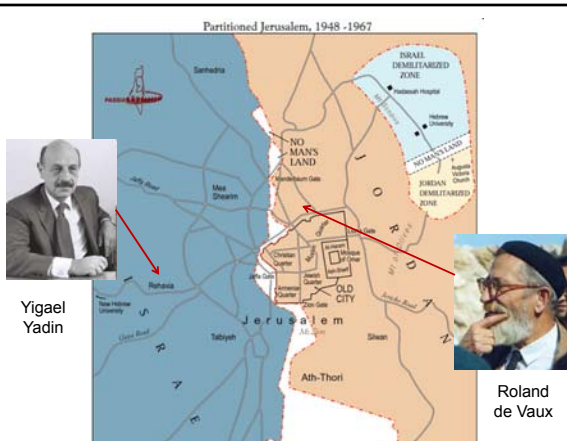
Scrolleries at the Rockefeller Museum (PAM)



Every biblical book (except Esther)
is represented

Best attested ones are:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Psalms – 39 | Numbers – 12 |
| Deuteronomy – 31 | The Twelve – 10 |
| Isaiah – 22 | Daniel – 8 |
| Genesis – 18 | Ezekiel – 7 |
| Exodus – 18 | Jeremiah – 6 |
| Leviticus – 17 | |



7th edition, Penguin, 2012



Geza Vermes
(1924-2013)

1967 – Six-Day War



Yigael Yadin



Kando

Temple Scroll (11QT)



Temple Scroll

47.7-13 All skins of permitted animals that will be slaughtered within their cities, they shall not bring into it; but in their cities they may do with them their work for all their needs; but into the city of my temple they shall not bring (them). . . . And you shall not defile the city in which I settle my name and my temple; but in the skins (of the animals) that they will slaughter in the temple, in them they shall bring their wine and their oil and all their foodstuffs to my temple city.

Temple Scroll

46.13-16 And you shall make for them a place (for) the 'hand', outside the city, to which they shall go out, to the northwest of the city – roofed houses, with pits within them, into which the excrement may descend, so that it will not be visible at any distance from the city, three thousand cubits.

Temple Scroll

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