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The Dead Sea Scrolls and Early Christianity - BIB 330 (NO)

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**SOME OF THE THEOLOGY OF THE DEAD SEA SECT (ONLINE DISCUSSION 2)**

**What similarities and differences do you see (e.g., please provide examples)?** One thing that I found significant and similar in both texts was the acknowledgement of “sons.” Undeniably, this sect of Judaism in Qumran was focused predominantly on men and Paul, in his writings to the Ephesians, conducted himself in a like manner. For in IQHa: 7, 8, the scribe wrote, “As for me, my office is among the angels,] 8 and my glory[ with that of the **sons** of the king.” And Paul acknowledged the ones who were predetermined by God to be redeemed through Jesus Christ as “sons” (Ephesians 1: 5).

**2. Additionally, both texts are speaking of particular, but different, groups. In what way is that group depicted in relation to God (again, give examples)?** The first group Paul talked about in Ephesians in relation to God was those “who first hoped in Christ” to be set aside and directed to “live for the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1: 12). In the Dead Seas Scroll, the writer mentioned, “[They shall say, “Blessed is God, who does mighty wonders] {to make strength known} and who gre[atly manifests His wondrous strength, who does righteously in knowledge for all his creatures and goodness before them,] that they might know the covenant of [His] mercy [and the abundance of His compassion for all the children of His truth” (IQHa: 31, 32).

And, there were those who heard the gospel, believed and stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit “to the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1: 13, 14) IQHa: 29, 30 made similar reference, mentioning those “who fall to the ground He shall rai[se up without price, and everlasting strength accompanies their step;] eternal joy is in t[heir] dwellings, [perpetual glory without ceasing forever and ever.”

**3. If you did not know that one text was a dead sea scroll and the other was Ephesians, could they originate from the same circles? Why or why not?** I would think that they did originate from the same circles for this reason - The sect in Qumran seemed rigid and bent on making distinctive groups that were worthy of God's Holy Spirit. Paul acted the same way before He preached Christ and after.