

Dead Sea Scrolls & The New Testament

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Lecture Review Week 2

The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of over 900 manuscripts, written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, and include fragments from every book of the Hebrew Bible and various other Jewish texts. The Dead Sea Scrolls have been divided into 19 sections, each containing multiple manuscripts, based on their contents and themes. Here is a brief explanation of each of the 19 sections:

The Pentateuch: Contains the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy).

Historical Books: Contains books of the Hebrew Bible that recount the history of Israel (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings).

Prophets: Contains books of the Hebrew Bible that contain the writings of the prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel).

Psalms: Contains the Book of Psalms.

Poetical and Wisdom Books: Contains books of the Hebrew Bible that contain poetry and wisdom literature (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the Song of Solomon).

Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books: Contains books that are part of the Greek version of the Hebrew Bible but not the Masoretic Text (Tobit, Judith, Wisdom of Sirach, etc.).

New Testament: Contains fragments from various books of the New Testament.

Calendrical Texts: Contains texts related to the Jewish calendar and festivals.

Laws: Contains texts that discuss Jewish law and customs.

Liturgical Works: Contains texts used for worship and religious rituals.

Parabiblical Texts: Contains texts that are similar to or expand upon biblical stories.

Hodayot (Thanksgiving Hymns): Contains hymns of gratitude and praise to God.

Rule of the Community: Contains a manual for the organization and governance of the community that produced the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Commentaries: Contains biblical commentaries and exegesis.

War Scroll: Contains a military manual that describes a future war between the Sons of Light and the Sons of Darkness.

Peshar (Commentaries): Contains commentaries on specific books of the Hebrew Bible.

Hymns and Poems: Contains religious poems and hymns.

Florilegia (Miscellanies): Contains a collection of texts of various genres and subjects.

Other Texts: Contains miscellaneous texts that do not fit into any of the other categories.

These texts provide valuable insights into the beliefs, practices, and daily life of the Jewish community that produced the Dead Sea Scrolls, and they continue to be the subject of scholarly study and debate.