

Crystal Francis

Dead Sea Scrolls

Assignment 1

What Do They Tell Us About

There are many versions of the story as to how the scrolls were discovered. In this particular version it Bedouins discovered the first scroll from Qumran . These were found one winter in the cave to the north of Qumran. Bedouins found several cylindrical jars covered with bowl-shaped lids, some of these jars were still sealed with clay. Not all the jars seemed to have contained anything of much value, some contained dirt, and others were empty. One of the jars, however, contained three scrolls. These scrolls were wrapped in linen. He later removed four more scrolls from this cave.

These scrolls entail and offered information that was not accessible or available previously. The name of the seven scrolls which were in the cave is, one complete and another partial copy of Isaiah, The Community Rule (Manual of Discipline), The Pesher – commentary on Habakkuk (this is a book of one of the minor prophets, The war scroll, The Thanksgiving Hymn or Hymn Scroll (Hebrew Hodayot) and the Genesis Apocryphon.

The scrolls were sold by the Bedouins to a cobbler in Bethlehem by the name of Kando. Kando dealt with antiquities, so these were all fascinating for him. Bedouins on the other hand did not know the values of the scrolls, he did not know what they were. The first set of scrolls was sold to Samuel for 24 British pounds. The four which was sold were the largest scroll of the set, the Isaiah scroll, the Community Rule, the Pesher Habakkuk, and the Genesis Apocryphon. A second lot of scrolls were sold by Kando to Eleazer Lipa Sukenik. Sukenik was a biblical scholar

and archaeologist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Sukenik's desires were fulfilled when he purchased these last three scrolls. He was very anxious, and he was the first to recognize that they were authentic ancient scrolls that were dated back before the time of Jesus.

After these discoveries, Bedouins continued to search for scrolls, which he did find in several other caves. The caves were all given numbers, and these were numbered from 1-11. Other persons came on board searching for more caves with scrolls. The Bedouins found a total of five caves (1,2,4,6,11). The archaeologists discovered the other six caves (3,5,7-10