

## Dead Sea Scrolls & New Testament

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### Lecture Review:

#### Week 3

The Dead Sea Sect is a term that is commonly used to refer to a group of Jewish ascetics who lived in the vicinity of the Dead Sea in the late Second Temple period. The Dead Sea Scrolls, which were discovered in the 1940s in the vicinity of the Dead Sea, are believed to be the library of this sect. The Dead Sea Scrolls are considered one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century, and they shed light on the beliefs and practices of the Jewish community in the Second Temple period. The Dead Sea Sect was known for its strict adherence to Jewish law and for its unique beliefs and practices, which set it apart from other Jewish groups of the time. The Dead Sea Scrolls include texts that are now considered to be part of the biblical canon, as well as non-biblical texts that provide insight into the beliefs and practices of the Dead Sea Sect.

"Miqtsat Ma'aseh Hatorah" is a Hebrew phrase that translates to "Some Works of the Torah," and it is a term used to refer to a specific group of texts within the Dead Sea Scrolls. The term "Miqtsat Ma'aseh Hatorah" specifically refers to a group of texts within the Dead Sea Scrolls that are considered to be a type of sectarian manual or handbook for the members of the Dead Sea Sect. These texts provide instructions and rules for the daily life and practice of the members of the sect, including guidelines for proper behaviour, customs, and beliefs. They also contain information about the beliefs and teachings of the sect, and they provide insight into the unique religious and philosophical outlook of the members of the Dead Sea Sect.

In this sense, the "Miqtsat Ma'aseh Hatorah" texts are an important part of the Dead Sea Scrolls, as they give us a glimpse into the daily life and beliefs of the members of the Dead Sea Sect, and they shed light on the diversity of Jewish beliefs and practices in the Second Temple period.

Flavius Josephus and the Essenes are two figures that are often mentioned in connection with the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Flavius Josephus was a first-century Jewish historian who wrote extensively about the Jewish people and the events of his time. In his works, Josephus mentions the existence of a Jewish sect known as the Essenes, who lived in the vicinity of the Dead Sea. According to Josephus, the Essenes were known for their strict adherence to Jewish law, communal way of life, and rejection of worldly goods.

The Essenes are believed by many scholars to have been the authors or keepers of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The beliefs and practices described by Josephus in his works are similar to those described in the Dead Sea Scrolls, leading many to conclude that the Essenes were the creators or guardians of the scrolls.

However, it should be noted that the relationship between the Essenes, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and Josephus is still a matter of debate among scholars, and there is no consensus on this issue. Some scholars believe that the Essenes were the authors of the Dead Sea Scrolls, while others believe that they were created by another Jewish sect or by a group with different beliefs and practices.

The Qumran community is the group of people who lived in the vicinity of the Dead Sea and who are believed by many scholars to have been responsible for the creation and preservation of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Many scholars believe that the Qumran community was a Jewish sect known as the Essenes, who lived a communal and ascetic lifestyle in the area. However, there is no consensus on the relationship between the Qumran community and the Dead Sea Scrolls. Some scholars believe that the Qumran community was indeed the Essenes, while others believe that it was a different group, or that the scrolls were created by multiple communities or individuals.

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