

Dead Sea Scrolls**Daniel Ingoldsby****Prof. Garcia****15/02/2023****The Qumran Community**

The texts, The Community Rule / Manual of Discipline /Serekh ha-Yahad and the Cairo Damascus Document / The Damascus Document, both come from the Dead Sea Scrolls, a collection of Jewish texts discovered in the mid-20th century in the vicinity of the Dead Sea.

The Community Rule / Manual of Discipline /Serekh ha-Yahad is a set of regulations that governed the community of the Essenes, a Jewish sect that lived in the Judean desert during the Second Temple period. The text describes the organization of the Essene community and their religious practices, including the importance of purity, communal living, and strict adherence to the law. The text also emphasizes the role of the leader in the community and the importance of obedience to authority.

The Damascus Document, also known as the Cairo Damascus Document, is another text from the Dead Sea Scrolls that outlines the regulations and beliefs of a Jewish sect. The text is divided into two sections: the first section contains a history of the group and its leaders, while the second section contains its rules and regulations. The text emphasizes the importance of obedience to the law, communal living, and the role of the leader in the community.

There is some relationship between the texts, as they share similarities in their emphasis on the importance of adherence to the law, purity, and separation from the outside world. They both also emphasize the importance of communal living and the role of the leader in the community. However, there are also differences between the texts, such as the Damascus Document's emphasis on the importance of the Temple in Jerusalem, which is not present in the Community Rule.

The texts can shed light on each other, as they offer different perspectives on the beliefs and practices of Jewish sects during the Second Temple period. The Community Rule provides insight into the organization and religious practices of the Essenes, while the Damascus Document offers a different perspective on the beliefs and practices of another Jewish sect. By studying both texts, scholars can gain a deeper understanding of the diversity of Jewish thought and practice during this period.

As Lawrence Schiffman notes in his article, "The Community at Qumran," these texts provide valuable insight into the beliefs and practices of Jewish sects during the Second Temple period. The texts offer a glimpse into the diverse range of religious practices and beliefs during this period and help scholars to better understand the roots of Judaism and the development of Jewish thought and practice over time. By studying these texts, we can gain a deeper understanding of the religious and social context of the Second Temple period and the development of Jewish thought and practice.