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Dr. Garcia

BIB460: Dead Sea Scrolls and NT

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Lecture Summary Week 5

This week Dr. Garcia speaks about how to read the war scroll. How is the war scroll intended to be read? It is one of the oldest scrolls written. There's work being done on this by a professor in New York University by the name of Alex Jackson, the war scrolls are being said to a fantasy. They are imagining what is going to happen and how should we treat this fantasy? Even if it is a fantasy, there is no evidence in the main documents such as the community rule. According to Flusser the community rule as we have it been the oldest form of that document, there is evidence from Q4 which shows there were earlier versions of the community rule that were different than the one we have. The one we read for class is the only complete rule we have. The other ones that have been found are fragments. There is no other whole community rule in its entirety. At this point they can be described as puzzle pieces.

A student asks the question about the Damascus document. There is not enough information to say what the Damascus document looks like exactly. The dead sea scroll sect is mentioned as a community based on their originality and their scholarship over time, the past vs. the present. When learning about these documents we must tread carefully and compare texts. We can ask ourselves questions like what value are these documents, are they comparing to one another? Are they coming from the same world? Are they dependent on one another?

The war scroll is the final battle, the apocalyptic perspective of Qumran, they are in a time of wickedness and controlled by Baal. The righteous that are separate are waiting and

expecting of God and His angels to come and save them. It is a great battle, but they assume they will not lose the battle. When the battle is won, the sacrifice will be put back in place. The righteous will leave this world. A question is asked if this is Calvinism or Armenians since it believed its ordained, they will win the war based on God's will. The Qumran is older than this idea of categorizing them. There is double destination in the Qumran, those who go up to heaven are chosen and those who go to hell are chosen. Being born into sin comes from the Qumran teaching.