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THE444: The Messiah

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Messianism and the Messiah in the Yahad/ Qumran Community

Messianism is the belief in the advent of a messiah who acts as the savior of a group of people. This week L.H. Schiffman starts with explaining the messianic or eschatological materials in the corpus of scrolls found at Qumran are mostly known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. They play an important role in the reconstruction of the history of the messianic idea of Judaism and Christianity. There are two concerns, the first being little need for another in the series of syntheses. The second being pitfalls of anyone who tries to investigate the Qumran studies. The Dead Sea Scrolls include a wide variety of material. They contain hymns, prayers, commentaries, the earliest Ten Commandments, and mystical formulas. The archaelogists came to the caves and found small fragments that matched the scrolls. They are authentic and do not contradict the Bible. The Dead Sea Scrolls do not mention Jesus or the earlier Christians. They do however help to have a better understanding of the Jewish world.

The Dead Sea Scrolls are known as the ancient Jewish and Hebrew manuscripts. Many scholars have questions as to how they were preserved so long, as well how they were found. The Essenes are said to have written the Scrolls. I personally am enjoying learning about the Dead Sea Scrolls but mostly I am also interested as to how they were kept well for so long.

Today they look like tissue paper that is going to rip at any moment. I also find it interesting that there are many scrolls missing.