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The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls

Have you ever wondered just what the Dead Sea Scrolls truly are? Where do they come from? How were they found? Well, thanks to Jodi Magness, you can learn all about it. She refers to herself as a “Classical and Biblical archaeologist specializing in ancient Palestine (modern Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian territories) from the time of Jesus up to the tenth century.”¹ She is well traveled and has participated in over 20 excavations in Israel and in Greece. She is the author of the book, “The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls” which I will be reviewing today.

The overall structure of the book is created with people like me in mind. Someone who doesn't have the slightest clue about the dead sea scrolls could pick this book up and truly understand the contents of it. She likes to add in her own side comments which makes the reading a lot more enjoyable than most books of this nature tend to be. She also has the ability of summerzing difficult information in a way that is plain and simple, not likely to be misinterpreted or confused. For example: “The archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls reminds us of the diversity of Jewish communities in the ancient world, and underscores the importance of studying the material culture of ancient Judaism alongside its textual traditions.”²

In conclusion, Jodi did what most people could not do by gathering as much information she could on a very complicated topic and making it easy to understand.

¹ “Jodi Magness, Archaeologist.” *Jodi Magness - Classical and Biblical Archaeologist Specializing in Ancient Palestine*, 13 Sept. 2021, <https://jodimagness.org/>.

² Magness, Jodi. *The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Williamm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2021.

