

DISCOVERY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS (Draft)

I. DISCOVERIES IN ANTIQUITY

- A. Origen (2nd-3rd Cent): MSS Found in Jars near Jericho in AD 217
- B. Nestorian Patriarch Timothy I (780-823) in Letter to Sergius of Ela: “200 psalms of David” and other books in Hebrew script found near Jericho in a cave-dwelling

II. THE FIRST DISCOVERIES

- A. Late 1946-Early 1947: Cave Discoveries on Judean Wilderness near Qumran
 - 1. Cave 1 found By Bedouin Shepherds of the Taamireh Tribe
 - 2. Contained Clay Jars with Lids, One with Rolls of Leather
 - 3. Three Scrolls (+2 Jars) Removed, Taken to Bedouin Camp
- B. Spring 1947-Spring 1948: Scrolls Come to the Attention of Scholars
 - 1. April, Bethlehem: 3 Scrolls to “Kando” (Cobbler/Antiquities dealer)
 - 2. May or June: 4 Additional Scrolls Taken from Cave 1; 1 to Kando
 - 3. July: Kando’s 4 Scrolls Sold to Metro. Samuel of St. Mark’s monastery in Jerusalem
 - a. Isaiah Scroll Identified, Assumed Late by Catholic Scholar
 - b. Librarians from Hebrew University Examine Scrolls
 - 4. November 29: E.L. Sukenik (Hebrew University) Buys 2 of Remaining Scrolls
 - a. U.N. Votes to partition Palestine (into Israel & Arab State)
 - b. 3rd Remaining Scroll Purchased in December
 - 5. February 1948: The St. Mark’s Scrolls Examined
 - a. Sukenik Examines the Scrolls, Offers to Buy
 - b. John C. Trever, Acting Director of ASOR, is shown St. Mark’s scrolls
 - 1) Trever Gets Permission & Photographs 3 of the Scrolls
 - 2) By March the Scrolls Antiquity is Certain (Albright)
 - 6. Visit to Cave 1 by Scholars Aborted Because of Unrest
 - 7. March 25: St. Mark’s Scrolls Taken to Beirut
 - 8. April 11, 1948: News Release About Scrolls Appears Around the World
 - 9. April 26, 1948: Sukenik Releases News of Hebrew Univ Scrolls
 - 10. May 15, 1948: British Mandate ends; War of Independence Begins
St. Mark’s Hit by Bomb, Monk Butrus Sowmy Killed
- C. The Scrolls Publicized
 - 1. Additional Fragments of Other Works Obtained by St. Mark’s
 - 2. September 1948: 1st Scroll Publication by ASOR & Hebrew Univ.
 - 3. January 1949: Metropolitan Samuel Tours U.S. with ‘his’ Scrolls
 - 4. July 1, 1954: St. Mark’s Scrolls Purchased by Y. Yadin for Israel
- D. The First 7 Scrolls
 - 1. St. Mark’s (Syrian Orthodox) Scrolls
 - a. Complete “Great” Isaiah (1QIs^a)
 - b. Habakkuk Commentary (1QpHab)
 - c. Manuel of Discipline (1QS)
 - d. Genesis Apocryphon (1QapGen): unrolled 1956
 - 2. Hebrew University Scrolls
 - a. Thanksgiving Hymns (1QH)

- b. War Scrolls (1Qm)
 - c. Incomplete Isaiah (1QIs^b): unrolled 1949
- E. Winter-Spring 1949: Cave 1 Excavated by Archaeologists

III. ADDITIONAL MANUSCRIPT DISCOVERIES FROM QUMRAN AREA

- A. February 1952: Bedouin Discover Cave 2; MSS appear on antiquities market
- B. March 1952: expedition explores cave area
 - 1. Cave 3: Copper Scroll discovered
 - 2. Bedouins discover Cave 4 in marl adjacent to Khirbet Qumran
 - a. 100s of MSS in 10,000s of fragments covered the soil
 - b. Most MSS fragments purchased; systematic excavation followed
 - 3. Cave 5 discovered near Cave 4
 - 4. Cave 6 discovered by Bedouin in cliff opposite Qumran
 - 5. Caves 7-10 found by archaeologists in 1955
 - 6. Bedouin discover Cave 11 in 1956: At Least 7 Substantial MSS
- C. June 1967: Six-Day War, Israel captures West Bank
 - 1. Scrollery at Rockefeller Museum, Qumran fall under Israeli control
 - 2. y. Yadin obtains Temple Scroll (probably of 11Q) from Kando

IV. EXCAVATION OF KHIRBET QUMRAN

- A. Ruins along N. bank of Wadi Qumran; assumed to be Roman fort
- B. Excavated 1951-56 by Father Roland de Vaux
- C. 4 strata of occupation
 - 1. Iron Age II (8th-7th cent BC): fortress
 - 2. 2nd cent BC to AD 68: coins provide evidence
 - a. Period I:
 - 1) 2nd Cent BC to mid-late 1st Cent BC
 - 2) earthquake in 31 BC left cracked cistern, split walls, etc
 - b. Period II: beginning of AD era to AD 68; destroyed by Romans???
 - 3. Occupation by Roman garrison ca. AD68-86: Coins
 - 4. Occupation by Jewish Rebels in Second Revolt, AD 132-135: coins
- D. Main features of occupation up to AD 68
 - 1. Buildings form rectangular enclosure with tower at NW
 - 2. Aqueduct supplied canal that filled 7 large cisterns
 - a. 6 Rectangular with descending steps; 1 Round
 - b. Possibly for ritual baths of Essene community?
 - 3. "Scriptorium:" long room with second story, containing:
 - a. Plastered remains of long, narrow table(s)
 - b. Desk top with 3 inkwells (2 clay, 1 brass)
 - c. Basins (for hand washing?)
 - 4. Kitchen and Storerooms
 - 5. Large hall (22 x 4.5 m) south of main block; east end pillared
 - 6. Pottery workshop with kilns
 - 7. Pottery like jars in Cave 1; no Scroll Remains; 1 Ostrakon
 - 8. Not Much Area for Housing

9. toilet plus evidence for ritual meals

E. Hoard of 158 Silver Coins Found Below Floor of Period II

V. OTHER MANUSCRIPT FINDS IN THE JUDEAN DESERT

- A. Wadi Murabaat: Section of Great Wadi South of Wadi Qumran
 1. 1951: Bedouin Find MSS in Cave
 2. 1952: Archaeologists under Dept. of Antiquities of Jordan excavate
 - a. 4 Large Caves
 - b. Chalcolithic; Middle Bronze Age; Iron II; Greco-Roman; Arab
 3. Documents Found
 - a. Palimpsest papyrus: 6th cent BC text over 8th cent text
 - b. Ostraca from period of Qumran MSS
 - c. Material dating from the 2nd Jewish Revolt against Rome (AD 132-35)
 - 1) Biblical texts: Pentateuch, Isaiah, Minor Prophets, Psalms
 - 2) Contracts and letters: some relating to Simeon ben Kosiba (= Simon bar Kokhba)
 4. Additional material from “unidentified site” by Bedouin
- B. Khirbet Mird = ancient Hyrcania, fortress built by John Hyrcanus
 1. AD 492: Christian monastery built on site
 2. 1952: Bedouin find MSS at site
 3. 1953: Belgian archaeological mission conducts excavations
 4. Christian MSS in Arabic, Greek, Aramaic, from 7th-8th centuries AD
- C. Cave discoveries in Israel (further south in wadis to the Dead Sea)
 1. Suspicions that Bedouin had excavated caves on Israeli side of border was initiative
 2. 1955: Aharoni located “Cave of Horror” in Nahal Hever, S of Murabaat
 - a. Evidence of Bedouin activity
 - b. Dozens of skeletons, apparently of Jews from Bar Kokhba Rebellion
 - c. Evidence that Jews were starved out, suffocated by Romans
 3. 1960-61: Expedition of 4 teams
 - a. Y. Yadin in Nahal Hever
 - 1) “Cave of the Vulture:” modern sock, Bedouin headcloth
 - 2) Nahal Hever Cave = “Cave of the Letters”
 - a) many disarticulated skeletons in baskets in niche
 - b) objects from 2nd Revolt: coins, Roman cult objects, personal objects
 - 3) Another cave: biblical texts (Psalms) and 15 letters from Bar Kokhba
 - b. Aharoni in Nahal Tse’elim
 - 1) biblical texts and other documents
 - 2) about 40 skeletons and objects of 2nd Revolt
 - c. Bar-Adon: Chalcolithic “Cave of the Treasure”
 - 1) basket with 439 ritual objects of copper and ivory: crowns, mace heads, scepters
 - 2) perhaps related to Chalcolithic temple at En-Gedi
- D. MSS from Masada
 1. Built by Alexander Jannaeus; rebuilt, enlarged as palace-fortress complex by Herod the Great
 2. Last stand for Jewish Zealots of 1st Jewish Revolt; fell in ad 73 or 74
 3. Excavated by Yadin, 1963-65
 - a. biblical fragments: Gen, Lev, Ps
 - b. Hebrew fragments of Wisdom of Jesus ben Sira
 - c. Angelic Liturgy known from Qumran cave 4
 - d. ostraca and Latin papyri