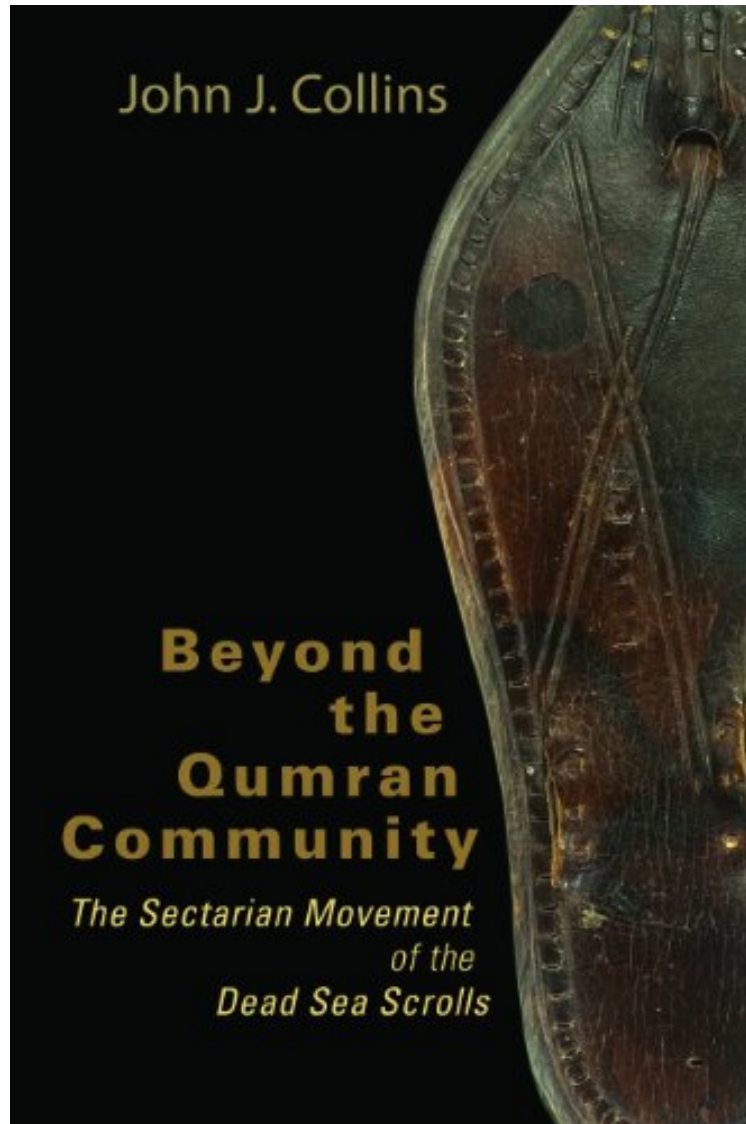


Beyond the Qumran Community: The Sectarian Movement of the Dead Sea Scrolls

John J. Collins

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John J. Collins : Beyond the Qumran Community: The Sectarian Movement of the Dead Sea Scrolls before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beyond the Qumran Community: The Sectarian Movement of the Dead Sea Scrolls:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A remarkably balanced and in-depth treatmentBy Dr. Karen M. GrayMuch is still controversial. I am recommending Collins' work to my students because his approach is

unexpectedly objective and thorough in its coverage of the critical issues, history, and interpretive problem. I am grateful for this well written work. 8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful. A balanced discussion of the Qumran community. By Jeri Collins presents all points of view in his book on the Qumran community. His writing is also very clear, and accessible even to the general reader. He has an interesting overview of the Yahad and the historical background to the community. I was especially fascinated by his chapter on the Essenes. Both Pliny and Josephus give favorable reports about the Essenes, and Josephus spends a disproportionate length of time on them. He says "the Essenes behave with self-control...in their attitudes toward passions, sex, and women. The Essene community of goods illustrates the Jewish pursuit of koinonia...which is the opposite of misanthropia, the vice with which Jews were often charged" (p 137). But was the community of Qumran an Essene community? Perhaps the greatest objection is the presence of women there, because the Yahad taught celibacy. Most fascinating in connection to later Christianity is the presence in the scrolls of a belief that some people after death, the just, would reach heaven, whereas others would reside in "a dark pit shaken by storms" (p 151). The connection between the Therapeutae and the Essenes, although their doctrines seem to coincide on many points, is still too obscure to make any definite judgment. The Therapeutae did allow for women, most of them virgins, however, and drank no wine and ate no meat. A fine addition to the discussion. 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A very recommended read for professional or amateur biblical studies collections. By Midwest Book Review. Early Christianity is a subject that eludes many scholars. "Beyond the Qumran Community: The Sectarian Movement of the Dead Sea Scrolls" focuses on the Qumran community focusing on the periods and the origins of the texts that have fueled much of the research surrounding the scrolls. Stating that there were other communities involved in this movement, John J. Collins gives a scholarly look into these possible other houses, making "Beyond the Qumran Community" a very recommended read for professional or amateur biblical studies collections.

With the full publication of the Dead Sea Scrolls, fresh analysis of the evidence presented can be and indeed, should be made. Beyond the Qumran Community does just that, reaching a surprising conclusion: the sect described in the Dead Sea Scrolls developed later than has usually been supposed and was never confined to the site of Qumran. / John J. Collins here deconstructs the Qumran community and shows that the sectarian documents actually come from a text spread throughout the land. He examines the Community Rule, or Yahad, and considers the Teacher of Righteousness, a pivotal figure in the Essene movement. After examining the available evidence, Collins concludes that it is, in fact, overwhelmingly likely that the site of Qumran housed merely a single settlement of a very widespread movement.

About the Author John J. Collins is Holmes Professor of Old Testament Criticism and Interpretation at Yale Divinity School. His many other books include The Apocalyptic Imagination: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature, Early Judaism: A Comprehensive Overview, and The Oxford Handbook of Apocalyptic Literature.