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## **Scribal Practices and Approaches Reflected in the Texts Found in the Judean Desert (Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah)**

*Emanuel Tov*

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**Emanuel Tov : Scribal Practices and Approaches Reflected in the Texts Found in the Judean Desert (Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scribal Practices and Approaches Reflected in the Texts Found in the Judean Desert (Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Ronald L. Troxel Magesterial volume. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A much needed overview of Judaen texts By Jeri Scholars interested in detailed research into scribal practices and documents found in Qumran and throughout the Judean desert will find this book a treasure. Tov provides plenty of charts showing the number of documents, whether they were on leather or papyrus, the number of errors, where they were found, the type of ink, and pretty much everything else you ever had a question about. Scribes of religious texts eventually came to be called "soferim... (which) combined... the copying of texts especially of Scripture and other religious documents" (p 12). Not unsurprisingly, the recovered texts show variability in the skill level of the scribe, the number and kind of errors, and the size and quality of the letters. "Lemaire claimed... abecedaries derived from the First Temple period point to the existence of scribal schools, and this argument may be valid also with regard to Qumran" (13). At Qumran, "the scrolls in cave 4 probably were stored on wooden

shelves attached to the walls, for which there is some archaeological evidence" (p 43). It is known that synagogues placed their Scripture in a separate room, then later, in a special niche. Nearly all of the documents recovered from the Judean desert were written in black ink; only a very small amount were done in red ink. "The main argument in favor of the existence of a Qumran scribal practice is the orthographic and morphological, however inconsistent, allowing a distinction between a group of texts" (p 262). Tov argues that it can't be only a coincidence that the majority of sectarian texts "followed special scribal conventions" (p 262).

This monograph is written in the form of a handbook on the scribal features of the texts found in the Judean Desert, the Dead Sea Scrolls. It details the material, shape, and preparation of the scrolls; scribes and scribal activity; scripts, writing conventions, errors and their correction, and scribal signs; scribal traditions; differences between different types of scrolls (e.g., biblical and nonbiblical scrolls); and the possible existence of scribal schools such as that at Qumran. In most categories, the analysis is meant to be exhaustive. Numerous tables as well as annotated illustrations and charts of scribal signs accompany the detailed analysis. The findings have major implications for the study of the scrolls and the understanding of their relationship to scribal traditions in Israel and elsewhere.

"Das Werk ist für alle, die sich mit der Textgeschichte der biblischen Bücher beschäftigen ein unabdingbares Handwerkszeug." A. Lange, "Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft." ...the essential starting point and reference work for any future work on scribal practices and scribal production of texts during the second temple period in the Palestine. Like the scribes he so clearly admires, in this volume Tov has produced a De Luxe edition dedicated to the study of their work. Russell Fuller "Revue de Qumran" "Das Werk ist für alle, die sich mit der Textgeschichte der biblischen Bücher beschäftigen ein unabdingbares Handwerkszeug." A. Lange, Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft. ...the essential starting point and reference work for any future work on scribal practices and scribal production of texts during the second temple period in the Palestine. Like the scribes he so clearly admires, in this volume Tov has produced a De Luxe edition dedicated to the study of their work. Russell Fuller Revue de Qumran "Das Werk ist für alle, die sich mit der Textgeschichte der biblischen Bücher beschäftigen ein unabdingbares Handwerkszeug." - A. Lange, in: Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft ..".the essential starting point and reference work for any future work on scribal practices and scribal production of texts during the second temple period in the Palestine. Like the scribes he so clearly admires, in this volume Tov has produced a De Luxe edition dedicated to the study of their work." - Russell Fuller, in: Revue de Qumran About the Author Emanuel Tov, Ph.D. (1973) in Biblical Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is J. L. Magness Professor of Bible at the Hebrew University. He is the editor-in-chief of the Dead Sea Scrolls publication project and the author of two handbooks on textual criticism and co-author of The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader (Brill).