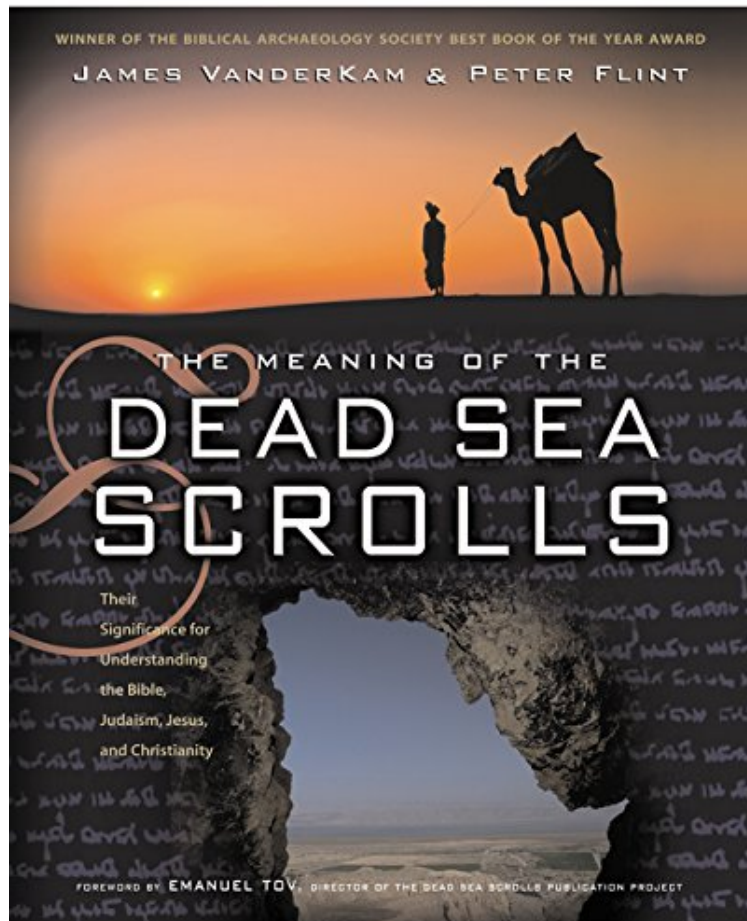


(Free pdf) The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls: Their Significance For Understanding the Bible, Judaism, Jesus, and Christianity

## The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls: Their Significance For Understanding the Bible, Judaism, Jesus, and Christianity

*James VanderKam, Peter Flint*

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with the other four books, BUT there is a book of the giants that was found. Bought the HARDBACK version for a buck... Wow!!! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Auntie Ane's Attic Required for school. Kept my attention while in class. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Debra Newman Supreme service and excellent reading!

The story of the discovery of the first Dead Sea Scrolls has become a part of Western lore. Who has not heard about the Bedouin shepherd who threw a rock into a cave, heard a crash, went in to explore, and found the scrolls? The story in that form may be accurate, but it turns out to be something of a simplification. As a matter of fact, much remains unknown about the exact circumstances under which those scrolls were discovered. The story of the discovery at first deals with just one cave; the other ten were located at later times.

From Publishers Weekly This sweeping and up-to-the-minute introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls includes many recent developments in Scrolls research, bringing readers current information on new DNA dating techniques, discoveries in linguistics, and archaeological findings. VanderKam (The Dead Sea Scrolls Today) and Flint (The Dead Sea Scrolls Bible) are clearly experts in their field, familiar with all the major (and minor) issues at stake. At times, they become submerged in questions that only other specialists will care about, or render unnecessarily detailed information on particular points (for example, providing a paragraph on each of the major photographers who have worked with the Scrolls, or debating the intricacies of Paleo-Hebrew). Despite these forays into arcana, the authors usually manage to keep their prose free of scholarly jargon. Moreover, the accessible design is first-rate, with helpful sidebars and information boxes to aid the reader. VanderKam and Flint pay special attention to the Scrolls' relationship with biblical and apocryphal literature, offering nuanced discussions of the formation of the biblical canon and the development of various lines of scribal transmission. One section deals with the non-biblical Scrolls and attempts to reveal more about the Qumran community, with VanderKam and Flint coming down heavily in favor of Essene authorship of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Overall, this is a superb introduction to all of the major points, though novice readers may wish to skim the more concentrated academic debates. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal VanderKam (Univ. of Notre Dame; The Dead Sea Scrolls Today) and Flint (codirector, Dead Sea Scrolls Inst., Trinity Western Univ., B.C.) have produced a richly informative and insightful book. The content is not all that unusual among recent books on the Scrolls, but the sober, thorough, and balanced presentation sets it apart. The book begins with an examination of the discovery and dating of the Scrolls, which includes the results of new technology. The authors discuss the text and canon of the Hebrew Bible in addition to the Apocrypha and New Testament in relation to the Scrolls. This is followed by a review of the nonbiblical Scrolls and their message. They also evaluate some earlier books on the Scrolls that make outlandish, unfounded claims concerning what they purportedly reveal about Jesus and early Christianity, then present some well-documented ways the Scrolls do offer important background material for understanding Jesus' teachings. The final chapter closes with a review of the controversies surrounding the Scrolls. Each chapter contains helpful sidebars and ends with a useful "Select Bibliography" for further research. Highly recommended as a clear, scholarly, and balanced presentation that helps the reader grasp both the significance of the Scrolls and their value as background material for our understanding of the Bible. David Bourquin, California State Univ., San Bernardino Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist The authors ease readers into the complicated story of the Dead Sea Scrolls, beginning with the murky history of the scrolls' discovery and how they were dated and authenticated. There is also information about the Qumran site, which is thought to be the source of origin of the scrolls, which were discovered in nearby caves. The text then becomes more scholarly but can still be easily read by a lay audience as it discusses the relationship of the scrolls to the Old and New Testaments. Since the Dead Sea Scrolls are now so much a part of public consciousness, a particularly welcome section discusses some of the popular books that have put their own, mostly inaccurate, spin on the topic. Perhaps most interesting for devotees of scrolls research, the book puts into context the relationship of early Christianity (and Jesus) to first-century Judaism. Although there are numerous books about the Dead Sea Scrolls, few are as comprehensive, well designed, and easy to read as this one. Add to all this the authority that VanderKam brings to the text (he has long been involved with scrolls research), and you have the one book you want on the topic, if you can only have one book. Ilene Cooper Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved