

The Majesty and Mystery of the Dead Sea Scrolls

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CAJE 32
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1 The Cast

- Khalil Musa, Jum'a Mohammed, and Mohammed el-Dhib — Ta'amireh Bedouin
- Jalil "Kando" Iskandar Shalim — antiquities dealer
- Athanasius Yeshue Samuel — Archimandrite of Saint Mark in Jerusalem
- Eliezer Sukenik — professor at Hebrew University
- John Trever — research student at ASOR and amateur photographer
- Yigael Yadin — archaeologist and IDF chief of staff (E. Sukenik's son)
- Lankester Harding — director of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan
- Roland de Vaux — director of *Ecole Biblique et Archéologique Française*
- Ben Zion Wacholder — professor at HUC-JIR in Cincinnati
- Martin Abegg — graduate student working with Professor Wacholder

2 The Plot

3 The Scrolls

- Rules
- Halakhic Texts
- Eschatological Literature
- Exegetical Literature
- Para-Biblical Literature
- Poetic Texts
- Liturgical Texts
- Astronomical Texts, Calendars, & Horoscopes
- Biblical Material
- The Copper Scroll

4 Psalms

4.1 4Q88

Let heaven and earth exult. May all the stars of dusk exult with them. Rejoice, Judah, rejoice greatly! Rejoice greatly and delight greatly, celebrate your celebrations and fulfill your vows, for there is no evil¹ in you. Lift up your hand, strengthen your right hand, for your enemies will perish and all evil[do]ers scatter. You, Adonai, are forever, and your glory is forever....

4.2 Psalms

[Psalm 96] Let heaven rejoice and earth delight... [Psalm 92] When the wicked sprout like weeds and all evildoers flourish, it is that they be destroyed forever. But You are exalted forever, Adonai.

¹Lit., Belial.

5 Differences

5.1 Deuteronomy 31:1

- Masoretic Text (Deut. 31:1)

- וילך משה וידבר
- ...and Moses went and spoke...

- 1QDeut^b:

- ויכל משה וידבר
- ...and Moses finished speaking...

- Septuagint:

- και συνετελεσεν Μωυσης λαλων
- ...and Moses finished speaking...

5.2 Psalm 145:1

- Masoretic Text (Psalm 145:1)

- תהלה לדוד ארוממך אלוהי המלך
- David's Psalm: I will exalt you, my God the king...

- 2QPs:

- תפלה לדוד ארוממכה אלוהי המלך
- David's Prayer: I will exalt you, Adonai, my God the king...

5.3 Psalm 145:4

- Masoretic Text (Psalm 145:4)
 - דור לדור ישבח מעשיך
 - Generation to generation will praise your works....
- 2QPs:
 - דור לדור ישבחו מעשיך
 - Generation to generation, they will praise your works....

5.4 Samuel

Differences² between the Masoretic and DSS versions of Samuel 11

Masoretic Version	4QSam ^a (DSS)
[And he was like a silent one.] Nahash the Ammonite alighted and besieged Jabesh-Gilead. All the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a pact with us and we will serve you." But Nahash the Ammonite said, "This is how I will make a pact with you, by gouging out your every right eye, that I will use the eye to humiliate all of Israel."	And Nahash, king of the children of Ammon, was the one who severely oppressed the children of Gad and the children of Reuben, and gouged out their every right eye and visited terror and dread on Israel; not one man among the children of Israel was left beyond the Jordan whose right eye was not gouged out by Nahash, king of the children of Ammon. Only 7,000 men left the children of Ammon and came to Jabesh-Gilead. And it was after roughly a month that Nahash the Ammonite alighted and besieged Jabesh-Gilead. All the men of Jabesh said to Nahash the Ammonite, "Make a pact with us and we will serve you." But Nahash the Ammonite said, "This is how..."

²From *In The Beginning: A Short History of the Hebrew Language*.

5.5 Ezekiel

5.5.1 4Q386

[...] the sight that Ezekiel saw [...] the gleam of the chariot and four living creatures; a living creature [...] do not turn when they walk] backwards; one³ living creature walked on two, and their two le[gs] [...] was a spirit, and their faces were each joined to the other. The appearance of the fa[ces was: one a lion, on]e an eagle, one a calf and one a human.

5.5.2 Ezekiel 1:5

In the center [of the cloud from the stormy wind from Ezekiel 1:4 —JMH] was the appearance of four living creatures and this is how they looked: They had the appearance of human beings. They had four faces each, and four wings each. [...] They do not turn when they walk, each man moving in the direction of any of its faces. The appearance of their faces was: a human face, a lion's face to the right of all four, and an ox's face to the left of all four, and an eagle's face to all four.

6 Benedictions

From 1Q28b (1QS^b):

Words of blessi[ng]: For the Instructor: To bless those who hold God in awe, do his will, keep his commandments, hold fast to his holy co[ven]ant and walk with purity [on all his paths of tr]uth so that He chooses them for the eternal covenant that will last forever:

May God bless them^{you} from his holy spring, and open for you from heaven the eternal source that will not fail.

May Adonai lift his face toward you, and sm[ell the pleas]ing aroma [of your offerings]...

By your works may He judge all nobles, and from the luck of your lips all princes of nations. May he cause you to inherit the first of all delights.⁴

³"Each...?"

⁴Hebrew, *ma'adanim*, the same word we find in the Jerusalem Talmud blessing for food.

7 Thanksgiving (1QH)

...I offer you thanks for⁵ the spirits⁶ that you placed in me. Let me find an answer on my tongue to recount your justice, and the patience of your judgements, the deeds of your mighty right hand, forgiveness for first⁷ offenses....

[Blessed are You] Adonai, who puts understanding in the heart of your servant...

Blessed are You, Adonai, great [plan]ner and mighty actor, whose deeds are everything! You have acted lovingly toward your servant...

I offer you thanks, Adonai, for you have redeemed my life from destruction⁸ and from Sheol of devastation, you have lifted me to an eternal height.

[Cf., e.g., Psalm 16:10: "You will not abandon my life to Sheol, nor let your faithful one see destruction {or "the pit"}."]]

8 Shabbat Songs

From 4QShirShabb^d (=4Q403):

For the Instructor. Song of the sacrifice of the seventh shabbat on the 16th of the month: Praise the God of heights ... God's holy ones will magnify the King of Glory...

For the Instructor. Song of the sacrifice of the eighth shabbat on the 23rd of the second month...

9 The Temple Scroll (11Q19)

...You shall not work with an ox and a donkey together. You shall not sacrifice any pure cow, sheep, or goat in any cities which are less than a three day's walk from my temple, but instead sacrifice them inside the temple....

⁵Or "From..."

⁶Hebrew, *ruxot*.

⁷Or "former..."

⁸Or "the pit..."

10 The War Scroll (1QM)

For the In[structor: The Rule] of the War. The first attack by the sons of light will be launched against the lot of the sons of darkness, against the army of Belial, against the company of Edom and of Moab and of the sons of Amnon.... The sons of Levi, the sons of Judah and the sons of Benjamin, the exiled of the desert, will wage war against them....

11 The Copper Scroll (3Q15)

In the ruin in the dark valley,⁹ under the steps leading east, forty cubits [?]: a chest of silver and its vessels, weighing 17 talents.
KEN...

In the cave of the rinsing house in the third platform sixty five gold ingots. *θE...*

⁹Or, "in the Valley of Akur..."

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