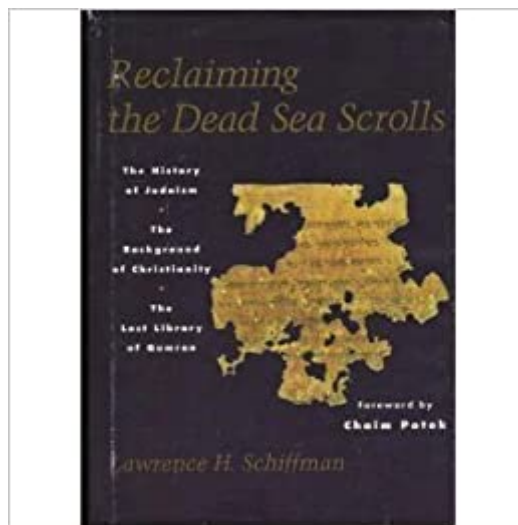




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# **Reclaiming The Dead Sea Scrolls: The History Of Judaism, The Background Of Christianity, The Lost Library Of Qumran**



## Synopsis

Controversy has surrounded the Dead Sea Scrolls ever since they were first discovered in caves bordering the Dead Sea. What is their true meaning? What revelations do they hold about Judaism and about the origins of Christianity? In this bestseller Schiffman lifts the shroud of mystery and conspiracy that has obscured their true meaning, proving that many of the scrolls have been incorrectly translated and misinterpreted.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 529 pages

Publisher: Jewish Pubn Society; 1 edition (December 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0827605307

ISBN-13: 978-0827605305

Product Dimensions: 1.5 x 10.5 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.7 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #545,496 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Additional Texts > Dead Sea Scrolls #808 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Sacred Writings #7700 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Bible Study

## Customer Reviews

The most thorough and authoritative of the flood of new books occasioned by the full release of the Dead Sea Scrolls between 1991 and 1993. Schiffman (Near Eastern Studies/New York Univ.), a Hebrew and Judaic studies expert who now serves on the editorial team that is publishing the scrolls, clearly presents what scholars know and, equally important, what they don't know about the documents that many would agree constitute the greatest archaeological find of the century. He describes in considerable detail the contents and the political and religious historical context of the scrolls, produced between 150 bce and 70 ce during the Greek and Roman conquests of Palestine. But Schiffman also makes the case for a paradigm shift in the manner in which the scrolls should be viewed and interpreted. As he notes: "The first generation of scroll scholars, primarily Christians interested in either the Hebrew Bible or the New Testament, did not understand the scrolls for what they were: documents illuminating the history of Second Temple Judaism...What resulted therefore, was a Christianized version of the scrolls." Schiffman, in contrast, views the scrolls as Jewish texts.

He rejects earlier theories, such as that the scrolls were written by the ascetic sect of Essenes, and makes the case for many of the scrolls being of Sadducee origin (the Sadducees were an anti-Rabbinic group that had links to the priestly class). An updated tale of the discovery, acquisition, and deciphering of the Dead Sea Scrolls would make a great narrative. But this is not Schiffman's aim. For now, Edmund Wilson's 1954 *The Dead Sea Scrolls*, based on his *New Yorker* reportage, remains the classic page-turner about the scrolls. Schiffman's scholarly presentation is plodding, but his arguments and conclusions are well reasoned and reliable. (For more on the Dead Sea Scrolls, see Neil Asher Silberman, *The Hidden Scrolls*, p. TK.) Scholars in religious studies, seasoned scroll amateurs, and newcomers to this fascinating subject can all benefit from immersion in this welcome volume. (40 photos) (Author tour) -- Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Dead Sea Scrolls expert Lawrence H. Schiffman shifts attention away from the sensationalism surrounding who has control of the scrolls by focusing on how these texts shed light on the history of Judaism and early Christianity. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Tragically, scholarship has mostly ignored the significance of 4QMMT (Miqsat Ma'ase ha-Torah), since being discovered in 1953. But alas, Professor Lawrence Schiffman has arrived to set the record straight. In this book, Professor Schiffman (thoroughly, simply and undeniably) demonstrates the early existence of specific Pharisaic ideas in 150BCE, that were later attributed to the Beit Hillel school of Pharisees. Thus, the claim that Pharisaic Judaism is some (post 70ce / post Temple) concoction of the Rabbis has now been reduced to the rubbish heap - where it always belonged. Thanks Professor. This is very much appreciated!!!

Content is great, but I'm not a big fan of paperbacks.

Good Reference book

We purchased this book as a gift for someone and it appeared to be greatly appreciated. This is probably the next best thing to seeing the scrolls in actuality.

Excellent!

Fantastic for twentieth century reading which revealed the hidden truth. It uncover many unknown facts since from the creation and especially it cited in a simple language easily grasp to common people. Reading this book is a treasure in my experience. Congratulate Mr.Lawrence H.Schiffman for his dedication to open the door to the history.Thanks

The book was received in good condition. The book was interesting. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the history of the Bible.

No study of early Christian or 2nd-temple Judaism would be complete without an understanding of the content of the dead sea scrolls. Professor Schiffman provides a well organized and insightful study of the 2nd-temple period. Professor Schiffman is enthusiastic and up to date in his subject matter so we come away greatly satisfied with his treatment of this topic. I especially enjoyed the lecture on the interpretation of scripture which gives great insight into how the early Christians (apostles in particular) used the Jewish scriptures in light of their understanding and witness of the resurrection event. Ideal study to strengthen understanding between the two great faiths of Judaism and Christianity. Perfect for any student of the history of the early first century and the years preceding it.

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