



The Story of the Scrolls: The Miraculous Discovery and True Significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls

Géza Vermès

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From the world's leading Dead Sea Scrolls scholar, Geza Vermes' *The Story of the Scrolls: The Miraculous Discovery and True Significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls* is an ideal introduction to understanding these ancient documents.

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in Qumran, between 1947 and 1956, was one of the greatest archaeological finds of all time. Written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, and hidden in caves by an ancient Jewish sect, these mysterious manuscripts revolutionized our understanding of the Bible, of Judaism and the early Christian world.

Geza Vermes's English translations brought these extraordinary documents to thousands, and his life has been inextricably interwoven with the scrolls for over sixty years.

In *The Story of the Scrolls*, Vermes relates the controversial story of their discovery and publication around the world, revealing cover-ups, blunders and academic in-fighting, but also the passion and dedication of many of those involved. He shares what he has learned about the scrolls and, evaluating passages from them, gives his views on their true significance and what they can teach us, as well as those areas where scholarly consensus has not yet been reached.

'The world's leading Gospel scholar'

The Times

'Vermes has the rare gift of wearing his immense scholarship lightly'

David Goldberg, *Independent*

Geza Vermes is director of the Forum for Qumran Research at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. His books, published by Penguin, include *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English* and *The Changing Faces of Jesus* as well as the 'Jesus' trilogy: *Nativity*, *Passion* and *Resurrection*.

The Story of the Scrolls: The Miraculous Discovery and True Significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls Details

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From Reader Review The Story of the Scrolls: The Miraculous Discovery and True Significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls for online ebook

Delson Roche says

Well, learnt a lot about the scrolls. There is so much of speculation and so much of misunderstanding about the scrolls. Mostly because people don't know about it. Well, truly an eyeopener.

Jared says

Interesting but dry

Ben Sloan says

Not bad, just dry and uninteresting.

Heather says

very informative and readable despite the scholarly tone. good preface to reading the scrolls themselves.

Meriam Kharbat says

In 1946, a Shepperd named Muhammed Edh-Dhib, found 7 scrolls inside jars, in the Khirbat of Qumran, near the dead sea. Ever since, research has been conducted, and more scrolls have been found, with total of 972 texts.

Written in Hebrew, The scrolls contained religious text, and associated information, such us non biblical poems and that sort of things.

I started reading this book, in the hope of finding more information about one particular set of scrolls, known as The copper scrolls.

The copper scrolls, are one of the dead sea scrolls that have been found in cave 3, in the Khirbat of Qumran. These ones are significantly different from the other, in fact they are written in Metal. And they seem to have information about a Gold and Silver treasure of the Jewish temple.

Unfortunately the book doesn't say much about them.

Iris AE says

Excellent, finally clears all the rumours that are spread about the Scrolls, and all the myths that recently have been created. Tells the truth, and doesn't look for sensation or revelation, just tells a story about what the Qumran community may have looked like.

thom says

Fascinating insight into the discovery and investigation into the Dead Sea Scrolls. This short but engaging book Includes information about the scrolls themselves, their discovery, the lengthy process from their discovery in 1947 to their immensely slow publication, all told reasonably clearly by Vermes, possibly the man in the best position to know. If you have any interest in the scrolls, the history of Judaism and an insight into a sect that was around at the time of Jesus, this is well worth investigating.

Marco says

Very interesting book, but too complex structure. It seemed dedicated to a group of experts in its first part. Much better the second part, where the author summarizes the findings

Josue Manriquez says

This book, written by a very qualified man, is a sweet, historical record of the discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls, and their significance with regard to Judaism and Christianity.

Beniamin says

A great book for those that want to know the story of the discovery of the Qumran Scrolls and how the process of revealing them to the normal guys like us happened. Geza Vermes also presents the importance of the scrolls and goes through different theories about the Qumran community. Although not a conservative, I really enjoyed his references to the Bible and his down to earth arguments. Great for those interested in textual criticism as well.

Patrice says

Vermes is the world expert on the Dead Sea Scrolls. He translated the scrolls himself and published them in a separate book. I find the subject fascinating but his style of writing rather dry. He also inserts Christian language when the scrolls, everyone agrees, were pre-Christian. At one point he called the ritual baths of the

Essenes "baptisms". Lots of little errors like that confuse a very confusing story. I hope to read other sources in the hope that I can clarify my understanding. Still, this book is definitely worth reading.

Danny Daley says

I've read a few different popular level books on the scrolls, as well as some of the scrolls themselves, and I find the topic fascinating. This book is more narrative driven and far less technical than Timothy Lim's Oxford Short Intro, and better for it, but not quite as engaging as JJ Collins DSS biography.

Vermes covers the discovery, publication, media coverage and controversies of the scrolls very well, but there is where Collins' book is unbeatable. The latter half of Vermes' book, covering the content of the scrolls themselves, is probably the best popular level treatment, so alongside Collins' book this is still required reading for any reading who desires to have a fuller understanding of this important subject. Overall a very good, readable book.

Greg Franklin says

I bought the book having read a review on the Economist's website. I remembered seeing a flurry of books come out on the subject in the early 90s, but never read any of them. After reading this book, I know why there was a "Scrolls fever" in the 90s! You'll have to read it to find out. It's a pretty short read, but covers the history of scrolls discoveries, the obstacles that prevented the free flow of information to the public, and conclusions about what's actually in the scrolls themselves, including some widely accepted, and not-so-widely-accepted theories about what sort of people collected and wrote the scrolls. The reading is a little dry, especially near the beginning when the author covers the history of scrolls discoveries. But it picks up when he gets into their interpretation. Overall, a nice quick read on the dead sea scrolls, great for someone who like me knew next to nothing about them.

Stephen says

<http://www.economist.com/node/1554390...>

Mike Davis says

I read this as an amateur student of religious history. The Dead Sea Scrolls have been studied for over 50 years now and although they do not "change" much of what we know about the bible itself, they do offer much insight into the background of the origin of Judeo-Christian texts. Author Vermes was in his 80's when this was written, and as one of the original experts allowed access to the scrolls, his insights and comments are very interesting. Recommended for students of biblical history.
