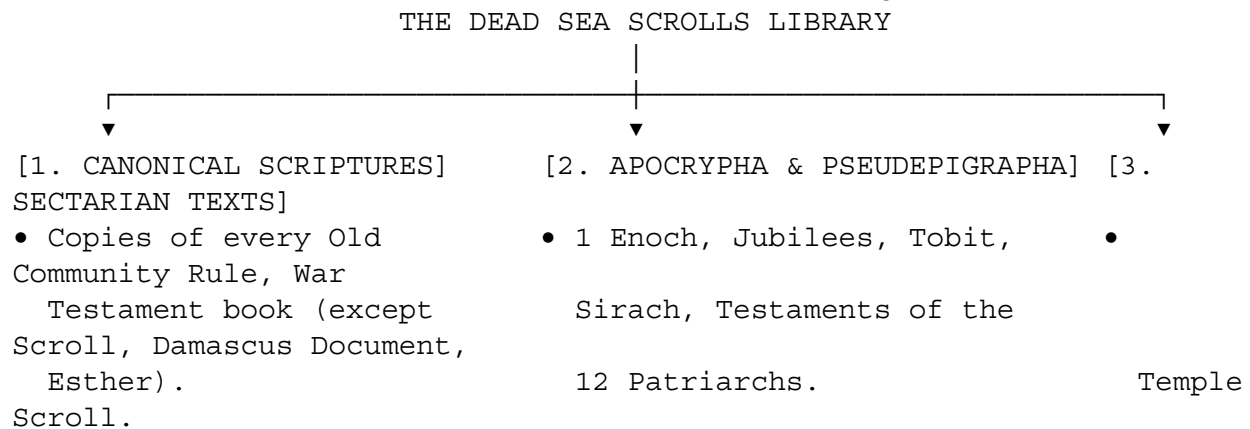


The discovery of the **Dead Sea Scrolls** at Qumran between 1947 and 1956 is widely considered the most significant archaeological find of the 20th century. Containing over 900 manuscripts, the scrolls revolutionized biblical scholarship by providing Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts dating from roughly **300 BCE to 68 CE**—predating the oldest previously known Hebrew manuscripts (the Masoretic text) by over a thousand years.

1. What Was Found in the Dead Sea Scrolls?

The contents of the Qumran caves are divided into three main categories:



1. **Biblical/Canonical Texts (~22%):** Copies of Hebrew scriptures found in modern Old Testaments. The most abundant were Psalms, Deuteronomy, and Isaiah (including the complete, intact Great Isaiah Scroll).
2. **Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha (~8%):** Non-canonical or deuterocanonical texts that were heavily preserved by the Qumran community, notably **1 Enoch** and **Jubilees**.
3. **Sectarian Texts (~70%):** Rules, commentaries (*Pesharim*), liturgies, and apocalyptic manuals specific to the Essene-like community that lived at Qumran.

2. Alignment with the Ethiopian Scriptures (81-Book Canon)

The Dead Sea Scrolls provided the most dramatic vindication for the **Ethiopian Orthodox Canon** (*Metsehafe Qeddus*). Prior to 1947, many Western scholars argued that books like *1 Enoch* or *Jubilees* were medieval fabrications or late Christian additions.

- **1 Enoch & Jubilees in Original Languages:** Multiple Aramaic copies of *1 Enoch* and Hebrew copies of *Jubilees* were discovered in the caves. This proved that these books were ancient, Jewish, revered as authoritative scriptures prior to the time of Christ, and preserved accurately in Ge'ez (Ethiopic) for over two millennia.
- **The Enochian Solar Calendar:** The Qumran scrolls revealed that the Essene community followed a **364-day solar calendar**, rejecting the Pharisaic lunar calendar. This exact same calendar is detailed in **1 Enoch 72–82** and **Jubilees 6**, which form core pillars of the Ethiopian tradition.
- **Messianic Titles:** Titles like "*Son of Man*" and "*The Elect One*" used in *1 Enoch* to describe the pre-existent Messiah match the Qumran fragments word-for-word.

3. Alignment with the King James Version (KJV)

The Dead Sea Scrolls served as an essential witness to the textual reliability of the Old Testament found in the **King James Version** (which was translated from the 16th-century Masoretic Text).

- **Astonishing Textual Accuracy:** When scholars compared the Great Isaiah Scroll (100 BCE) with the Masoretic Text (900 CE) used for the KJV, they found a **95%+ word-for-word textual agreement**. The remaining 5% consisted primarily of minor spelling variations or grammatical slips.
- **Prophetic Alignment:** Key Messianic passages in the KJV, such as **Isaiah 53** (the Suffering Servant) and **Psalms 22**, were found fully intact in the Dead Sea Scrolls, proving these prophecies were written centuries before Jesus' birth and were not altered by later scribes.
- **Textual Nuances:** In a few instances, the Dead Sea Scrolls aligned with the Greek Septuagint (LXX) or Ethiopic readings rather than the Masoretic text. For example, in **Deuteronomy 32:8**, the DSS reads *"according to the number of the sons of God"* (matching the DSS/LXX), whereas the Masoretic/KJV reads *"sons of Israel."*

Summary Matrix

Category	Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS)	Ethiopian Canon (Metsehafe Qeddus)	King James Version (KJV)
Old Testament Books	Contains fragments of all except Esther.	Contains all OT books plus extra canons.	Contains standard 39 OT books.
1 Enoch & Jubilees	Present: Multiple Hebrew/Aramaic copies.	Present: Fully preserved as inspired Scripture.	Omitted: Excluded from Protestant OT canon.
Calendar Alignment	364-Day Solar/Sabbatical Calendar.	Preserved in 1 Enoch & Jubilees texts.	Mentions feasts; calendar not detailed.
Messianic Prophecies	Verifies Isaiah 53, Psalm 22 centuries BCE.	Fully aligned with Messianic titles.	Fully aligned with Isaiah 53, Psalm 22.

In short, the Dead Sea Scrolls act as an ancient bridge: **they confirm the remarkable scribal preservation of the Old Testament text underlying the KJV**, while simultaneously **validating the antiquity and authenticity of the extra-canonical books preserved in the Ethiopian Scriptures**.