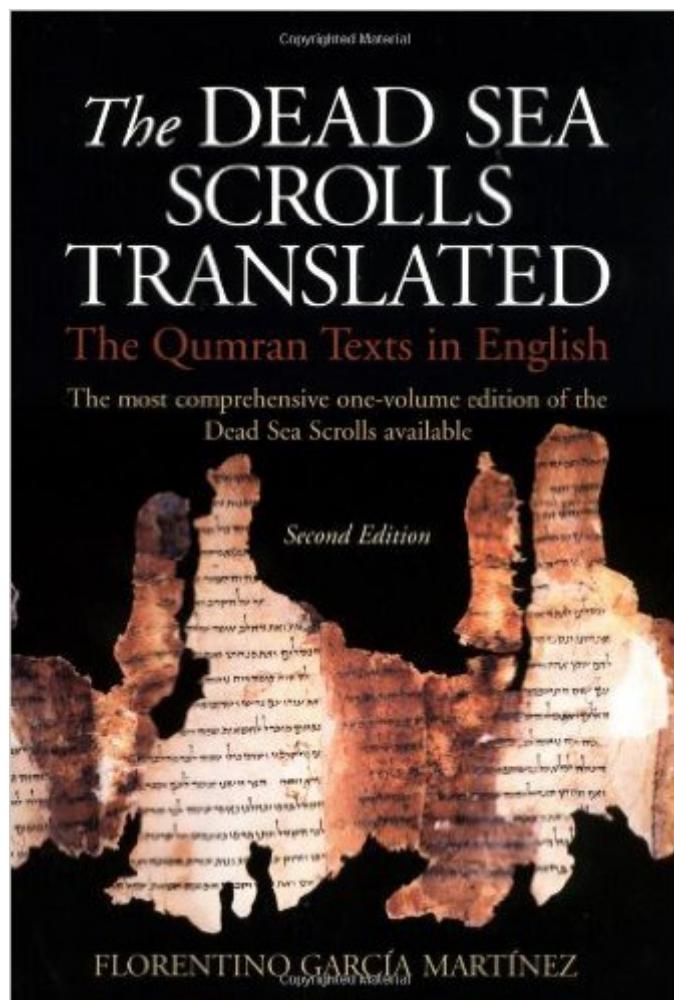


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The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated: The Qumran Texts In English



Synopsis

One of the world's foremost experts on the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Qumran community that produced them provides an authoritative new English translation of the two hundred longest and most important nonbiblical Dead Sea Scrolls found at Qumran, along with an introduction to the history of the discovery and publication of each manuscript and the background necessary for placing each manuscript in its actual historical context.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated" by Florentino Garcia Martinez is the best version of translated Scroll material that I have come across, and there are "others." What makes this translation excellent is the unbiased, scholarly critique. Martinez does a superb job here! There is no "religious" leaning that I can see. This translation is not prejudged in any way, shape or form. This is an excellent reference book for anyone desiring to research the scrolls. There has been an argument made against Martinez' translation. That argument says that since this translation was first put into Spanish, then into English something was lost in the translation. Not so! Florentino Garcia Martinez is a Professor at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands- a well renowned scholar. If anything, his multiple translations just go to show his intelligence and ability at what he does (he runs the Qumran Institute). This is a reliable and very well written translation!

This book needs to be considered alongside The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation edited by Michael Wise et al. Readers who find a commentary advantageous will want to seek out Wise's

book. Readers who are ready to look at the texts and make their own comparisons are ready for Garcia-Martinez's book. Garcia-Martinez begins his book with a short history of the DSS and addresses a couple of the key issues of the DSS such as whether they are a part of a sectarian library. Next comes a thematic approach to the Scrolls. The Rule of the Community and the Damascus Document come at the beginning of the book, but the rest of the un-numbered manuscripts are grouped with other manuscripts of a similar theme. There are no biblical manuscripts nor are there any Hebrew texts. However at the end of the book are lists of all of the manuscripts and the caves in which they were found. There lies the real advantage of this book: each manuscript is accompanied by an authoritative bibliographical reference(s) for those who want to know more.

These comprehensive translations are of the non-Biblical texts found from the caves at Qumran, and are useful for anyone interested primarily in the *content* of the scrolls. The Hebrew texts are not given in this work (those interested in such should search under title = "Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition", published both by Brill/Eerdmans), and the Biblical texts are not given (bibliographies are given for these texts-- most often the Oxford series *Discoveries in the Judaean Desert* is the primary source for Biblical texts). Serious students of Qumran literature will need more than this work, of course, given that some of the renderings given in the book are disputed (debate over the particulars of any given text can be consulted in academic journals and monographs). The book is a solid compilation of translations of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Due to its superior alphanumeric notational system "The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated: The Qumran Texts in English (Paperback) by F. Garcia Martinez (Editor), W. G. E. Watson (Translator)" is a must for every researcher of these texts. As one of the editors of the cross references for "The Comprehensive New Testament," I greatly appreciated the superior alphanumeric notational system in this book. The notational system incorporates previously used systems and creates the most universal identification in existence for the Dead Sea Scrolls. Each work is also accompanied by reference information identifying the cave where it was found. The Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) consist of about 800 scrolls of which 225 are copies of various biblical books and approximately 300 manuscripts texts that are by and large did not survive preservation over two millennia. The scrolls were discovered between 1947 and 1956 in eleven caves in the Wadi Qumran area on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea. According to carbon dating, the documents were written prior to the 1st century C.E. The 200 longest and most important surviving manuscripts are contained in the

"The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated." The Dead Sea Scrolls contain parallels to the Gospels and the book of Revelation - including references to the Messiah and the fishermen, the New Jerusalem, and the Apocalypse. The administrative hierarchy outlined in the Dead Sea Scrolls has parallels to the one outlined in the New Testament including the Messiah, Overseers, and similarities between the office of Maskil and Apostle (compare the use of the word Maskil in Daniel 12:3 to Acts 26:18). Dead Sea Scroll 4Q Enoch (4Q204[4QENAR]) COL I 16-18 and Jude 1:14-15 are direct parallels.

This review is of the Kindle version. I use the Kindle app on my iPad which gives me access to a much larger corpus of digital books than that offered by Apple. I got this book because I'm using the google Dead Sea Scrolls program to work out my own translations and I wanted a good English translation to reference. I'm very pleased with this edition. The translations flow nicely, and they are academically trustworthy. The book begins with a helpful introduction of various aspects of the history, compilation, and meaning of the DSS. The translations themselves follow the actual scrolls and are numbered according to the column and the line on the scrolls. This digital version is a valuable resource, and I'm quite happy with it. It's worth your money and your time.

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