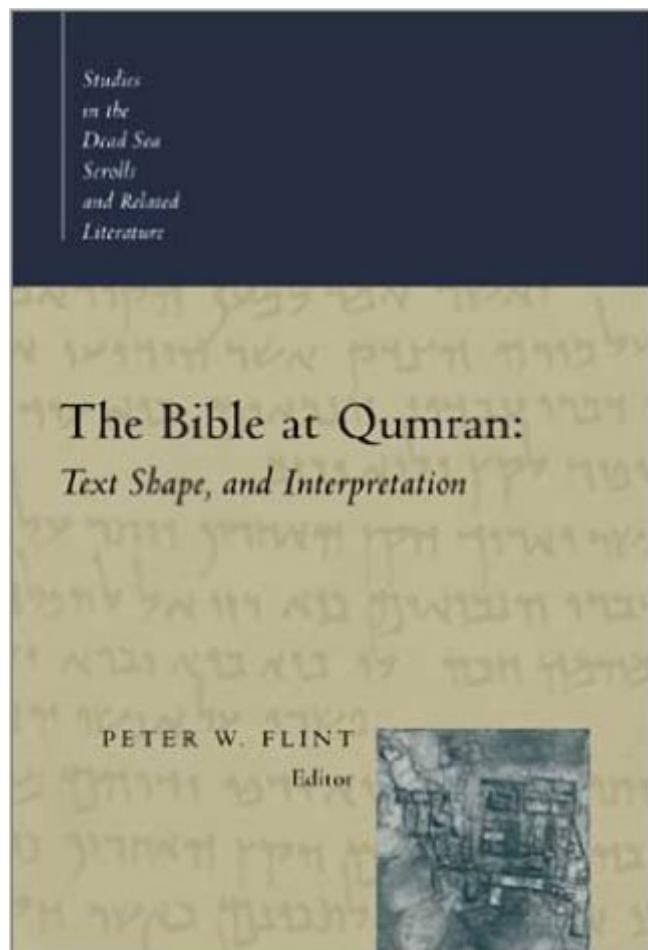


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The Bible At Qumran: Text, Shape, And Interpretation (Studies In The Dead Sea Scrolls And Related Literature)



Synopsis

The Bible at Qumran puts the Dead Sea Scrolls to use in exploring two principal themes: the text and shape of the "Bible" at Qumran and the interpretation of these scriptures in this fascinating Jewish community. Written by leading scholars in the field, these informed studies make an important contribution to our understanding of the biblical text at a pivotal period in history. Contributors: Martin G. Abegg Jr. James E. Bowley Craig A. Evans Peter W. Flint James A. Sanders James M. Scott Eugene Ulrich James C. VanderKam Robert W. Wall Bruce K. Waltke

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is part of a series on 'Studies in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Related Literature.' I've read several books from this series and they're all great stuff. This one is a work of some world-renown DSS and OT scholars -- a collection of articles edited by Peter W. Flint. It has two parts, the first part deals with the scriptures, canon and the scrolls. The gist of this section is examining textual evidence from Qumran regarding the scriptures and canon. And the evidence from Qumran and DSS seems to point very clearly to the fact that as of the writing of the scrolls (between cca. 250 B.C.E. and 70 C.E.) there were multiple textual traditions (literary traditions) besides MSS among the various Jewish sects of the time. It also provides some interesting insights on the process of canonization of scriptures. This point is particularly made clear in Ulrich's article "The Bible in the

Making: the Scriptures Found at Qumran" -- he also edited a book on "DSS and the Origins of the Bible," which is likewise very interesting and which was published as part of the same series. The second part has six articles that deal with biblical interpretation and DSS. Three articles in this section examine how Qumranites viewed and interpreted various events in Hebrew history through stories of Enoch, Abraham and Moses. Another article examines the possible impact DSS on the NT, Galatians to be specific. Both 4QMMS and Galatians discuss the phrase the "works of the Law," and Martin Abegg explores their possible theological connections. Since the book isn't a work of a single author, it presents multiple views and angles on the topics of scriptures at Qumran and interpretation. It is a good read and good scholarship that challenges some deeply entrenched, yet poorly attested notions about the development of canon and the use of scripture in the late Second Temple period. I highly recommend this book.

The Kindle version did not either download properly or there is something wrong with the set up. I am sure the book is fantastic. So, this is not a critique of the book itself, just the platform for which it came to me.

This collection of essays explores both the presence and interpretation of the canonical works found among the Qumran library. In general the essays are highly readable and useful. The glaring deficiency of the volume is the first essay by James Sanders which is a convoluted and off topic discussion of dialogue in the canon. Why Flint saw fit to include this essay in the volume is a mystery. All of the other essays in the volume provide valuable scholastic insights for those already well versed in Dead Sea Scrolls material and quality introductory information for curious readers unfamiliar with the shape, content, and interpretation of the canon at Qumran.

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