



The 2021 Dead Sea Scroll Discoveries

Dating



These documents have been tentatively dated to the 1st century BCE



These new fragments are most likely part of a previously discovered scroll, known as 8HevXIIgr, which is a minor prophet scroll from cave 8 of Nahal Hever.

The "Cave of Horrors" was originally excavated in 1953-1955. The cave got its name from numerous human skeletons of women, children, and infants (as well as coins, pottery, letters, and biblical scrolls) that were found in the original archaeological investigation. The bodies came from the second Jewish uprising against Rome, known as the Bar Kokhbah revolt (132-135 CE). The cave however, contained artifacts thousands of years older than the Bar Kokhbah period. Along with the recent discovery, a mummified child from 4000 BCE and an intact woven basket from 8 500 BCE was also found.



The discovery was made in a cave hundreds of meters high known as the "Cave of Horrors," in the southern end of the dry river bed called Nahal Hever.

Nahal Hever
Bar Kokhba's Caves



Dead Sea



In March of 2021 the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced the discovery of new biblical fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

1st Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in 50 years

Contents



Zechariah 8:16-17

Nahum 1:5-6

The fragments of the newly discovered passages contains a revised edition of the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible known as the *kaige* or *proto-Theodotian* recension, and not the Septuagint. The text is not a rendering of the Greek translation of the Old Testament as much as a revision of the Greek translation of the minor prophets towards the standard Hebrew text-type. This text style exemplifies a somewhat literalistic translation philosophy that tries to agree more closely not just with the sense of the Hebrew, but its wording more specifically.



The manuscript fragments discovered are tiny. The biggest ones are not much bigger than the size of a thumbnail.

LXX

The Greek Old Testament, known as the *Septuagint* (often abbreviated in the Roman numerals *LXX*), is the earliest surviving Greek translation of books from the Hebrew Bible and a number of inter-testamental books of the biblical apocrypha. This collection is believed to have been translated somewhere between the 3rd and 2nd centuries BCE.

M

The *Masoretic Text* is the authoritative text of the Hebrew Tanakh (Old Testament). The *Masoretic Text* contains the later added vocalization and accentuation. It was primarily copied, edited, and disseminated by the Jewish Masorete scribes between the 7th and 10th centuries CE.

οὗτοι οἱ λόγοι οὓς ποιήσατε
λαλεῖτε ἀλήθειαν ἕκαστος πρὸς
τὸν πλησίον αὐτοῦ καὶ κρίμα
εἰρηνικὸν κρίνατε ἐν ταῖς πύλαις
ὑμῶν καὶ ἕκαστος τὴν κακίαν
τοῦ πλησίον αὐτοῦ μὴ λογίζεσθε
ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν καὶ ὄρκον
ψευδῆ μὴ ἀγαπάτε διότι ταῦτα
πάντα ἐμίσησα λέγει ὁ
παντοκράτωρ



The words of the new fragments are in Greek, except for the single divine name of YHWH, conventionally referred to as the Tetragrammaton, which is written in Paleo-Hebrew script.