

places that are not specifically named and archeology can do nothing to prove where they occurred. Jerusalem of the time of Christ is buried under debris and later occupation is above it. The present city (or rather two cities) has spread out over quite a wide area. Extensive excavation within the city is very difficult. However, investigation of neighboring places such as Bethany, or particular areas in Jerusalem, like the Tower of Antonia, is possible. Also searching for a definite objective, such as the location of the various walls of ancient Jerusalem, can often be carried on with very good results. Herodian Jericho, about a mile ~~and a half~~ from Old Testament Jericho, was excavated in 1950-51. Herod erected the Jerusalem temple in strict accord with Hebrew specifications, but at Jericho he built a sumptuous palace that is like a bit of first-century Rome, transported to Palestine.

B. The Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Undoubtedly the most important discovery that has ever been made in relation to New Testament times, and also the most unexpected, was the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. In 1947 a Bedouin shepherd came by accident upon some leather scrolls wrapped in jars and hidden in a cave. Eventually half of the group of scrolls that he found came into the possession of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem, and the other half into the possession of the Syrian archbishop. Later the archbishop's scrolls were purchased by the Jews, so the whole set of material from Cave One is now in Jewish hands.

For a time heated discussion was waged about the date when these scrolls were written. Most scholars are convinced that it has now been conclusively demonstrated that all of the Qumran scrolls were written during the two or three centuries preceding the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

The first discovery included the only complete Bible book of any length