

slightest evidence that he or anyone else attached any atoning significance to his death.

What a great number of differences between Christ and the Teacher of Righteousness! None of the really distinctive points of Christianity are found in the beliefs of the Qumran sect!

It is true, of course, that some of the teachings of Jesus can be paralleled by statements in the scrolls. For that matter, many of them can be paralleled in the teaching of the Rabbis, preserved in the Talmud. Along with the similarities are also found very considerable differences. Such parallels may in some cases enable us to understand His meaning better, but they do not in any way detract from His claims about Himself. He was the Son of God, come down to die for our sins. Through faith in Him we can be saved. The beginning of Christianity was a miraculous interposition of God into human life, opening the way for lost humanity to find eternal life.

The Dead Sea Scrolls give remarkable evidence of the dependability of our Old Testament text. They tell us some previously unknown facts about life in Palestine in the first century A.D. and before. But they neither add to nor detract from the unique achievements of the Son of God, who died that we might live.

VII. New Testament Archeology of Countries Outside of Palestine.

A. The General Situation.

The majority of the events described in the New Testament occurred in Palestine. However, a substantial portion of the rest of the ancient world is touched upon in the last half of the book of Acts, which describes Paul's missionary journeys. It is therefore of great interest to the Bible student to ascertain the location of these cities, to learn something of their life and culture, and to find whatever light can be thrown upon specific statements about them in the