

can depend upon it. Our faith need not rest upon subjective feelings or human speculations. We can depend upon the firm rock of the true Word of God.

It is too bad that the whole Christian world is not informed of the wonder of the discovery of so many portions of the Hebrew Bible from so early a time.

Although a great many of the scrolls are copies of portions of the Old Testament, there are other books as well. These include a list of regulations for the life of the community which copied the scrolls, and a number of commentaries on portions of the Bible, particularly of the Minor Prophets. In these commentaries the statements of the prophets are so interpreted as to be predictions of events in the life time of the community. Thus the comment on Hab. 1.4b reads: "And justice never goes forth, for the wicked surround the righteous -- The interpretation of this is that the righteous is the Teacher of Righteousness and the wicked is the Wicked Priest."

These two individuals are frequently referred to in the commentaries and other writings, but neither of them is ever referred to by name. Many guesses have been made as to their identity, but none of them can be proved as yet. Individuals selected as possible are scattered over a period of two hundred years. It seems quite certain that the Teacher of Righteousness was the founder of the sect.

So important are the Dead Sea Scrolls that one wishes that every Christian might know of their witness to the dependability of the Old Testament. Truly God has given His Church most wonderful added evidence of the truth of His Word.

Yet, most unfortunately, more people have heard of the Dead Sea Scrolls because of false inferences that have been drawn from them, than because of their true significance. An American journalist, Edmund Wilson, has written a romantic story of the finding of the scrolls, and has proceeded to draw from the non-Biblical scrolls all sorts of utterly unwarranted conclusions, detrimental to Christianity, and these have been widely publicized. Wilson's book has appeared in Danish, Swedish and Norwegian translations. Wilson says: "The monastery of the Essenes, more than Bethlehem and Nazareth, is the cradle of Christianity." An English