



The Dead Sea Scrolls and the First Christians: Essays and Translations

Robert Eisenman

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By the author of the best-selling Dead Sea Scrolls Uncovered and the James the Brother of Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls series, fascinating to beginner and scholar alike, this book provides further delineation of the relationship between the Dead Sea Scrolls and Christianity's formative years in Palestine. Included in this volume are Prof. Eisenman's first two ground-breaking works: Maccabees, Zadokites, Christians and Qumran and James the Just in Habakkuk Peshar. The foundation pieces of his new approach to the Scrolls and "Palestinian Christianity", they triggered the debate over their relationship to Christian Origins generally ultimately leading to the freeing of the Scrolls early in the 1990's - a struggle in which he played a pivotal role. Also included in this volume are unpublished papers and essays, written and presented by him at international conferences in the past. These include "Paul as Herodian", "Rain Imagery at Qumran", and "The Final Proof that James and the Righteous Teacher are the Same" altogether providing a thorough and even more challenging presentation of the link of the Scrolls to early First-Century Christianity in Palestine. This volume also contains new translations of three key Qumran Documents: the Habakkuk Peshar, the Damascus Document, and the Community Rule, all almost only available in the sometimes inaccurate and often inconsistent renderings of Consensus 'Scholars' missing the electric brilliance of the writers of the Scrolls. Now, for the first time, the reader will have a chance to see the difference between these and a translation that grasps the apocalyptic mindset of the authors of the Scrolls. Subjecting the archaeology, paleography, and other external dating tools of Qumran research to rigorous criticism, Prof. Eisenman presents a fascinating and compelling picture of a nationalistic, xenophobic, and militant "Messianism" very different from the way we currently view Christianity - in fact, the literature of "the Messianic Movement in Palestine" itself. Not only does this book challenge preconceptions, it sets forth the detailed arguments necessary to connect "the Righteous Teacher" at Qumran to "the First Christians" and even the family of Jesus itself. In so doing, it connects the ideological adversary of this Teacher, "the Spouter of Lying" - in some cases even denoted "the Joker" - with Paul.

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