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### The Bible and Biblical Interpretation in Qumran

The DSS fall into two main categories: (1) The biblical text and Apocrypha, and (2) special writings of the Dead Sea sect. The interpretation of the biblical portion is discussed below.

Scrolls or fragments thereof have been found of all OT books with the exception of the book of Esther.

#### Importance and New Problems:

##### 1. Importance (i.e. Isaiah):

Provides irrefutable proof that the transmission of the biblical for more than 1,000 years by Jewish copyists was extremely faithful and accurate.

This destroys liberal thesis that errors upon errors were made throughout the centuries, hence we do not have an accurate Scripture.

Of all the OT books, this one is the critical one, as it is foundational in messianic prophecies.

##### 2. Today's Problem:

Explaining the differences between various texts discovered.

Some have errors and therefore were placed out of circulation, to be discovered later by archaeologists.

Some were part text and part commentary.

One scroll was a compilation of commentaries on verses from Gen 49, II Sam 7, and Psm 2-3.

Some writings were unknown prior to 1946.  
i.e. Genesis Apocryphon written in Aramaic.

Some are accurate and true with no particular identification of being such, as the Essenes knew the differences.