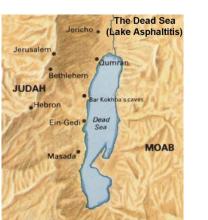


## THE HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT

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The caves of Qumran are located near the northern shore of the Dead Sea, in the Judaean Desert of the West Bank. The <u>closest city is Jerico</u>, reportedly the oldest continuously inhabited village (or city) in the world (thanks to a perennial water source known both as <u>Elisha's Spring</u> and as <u>Ain es-Sultan</u>).

The story of <u>the Ten Commandments</u> is a familiar one. Moses <u>received</u> them on top of Mt. Sinai. (The link takes you to Rembrandt's 1659 depiction.) Two tablets of stone set forth ten clear lessons on how to live a good life.

What about the rest of the Bible? How did it come to people living in the 21st century?

As far as anyone knows, none of the original material exists anymore. We are left with manuscript copies. Since we don't have original documents, how do we know those manuscript copies are accurate?

Long before the days of the printing press, Hebrew scribes copied the Scriptures by hand. Their task was sacred; their standard was zero errors. If a single mistake was made, the scroll could not be used.

Before 1947, copies of Hebrew scrolls dated from about the 10th century. But in 1947, the <u>caves</u> of <u>Qumran</u> (near the <u>Dead Sea</u>) yielded a long-lost treasure. A young Bedouin shepherd, <u>looking for a lost goat</u>, found ancient manuscripts which had been <u>buried</u> for nearly 2,000 years.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-HEBREW-OLD-TESTAMENT-Protestant-Bible-A-Jou rney-Through-Centuries

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-HEBREW-OLD-TESTAMENT-Protestant-Bible-A-Jour nev-Through-Centuries

## Media Stream



<u>Caves of Qumran</u> Image online, courtesy christusrex.org website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Caves-of-Qumran</u>





## Dead Sea Shoreline Near Qumran Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 2.0. View this asset at:

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## Panoramic View of Qumran Image online, courtesy christusrex.org website. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Panoramic-View-of-Qumran



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