

0. THE HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT - Story Preface

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2. THE HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT

3. THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

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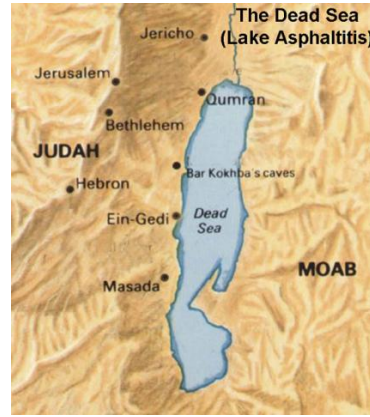
6. THE LATIN BIBLE

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

The story of the Ten Commandments is a familiar one. Moses received 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 caves of Qumran (near the Dead Sea) yielded a long-lost treasure. A young Bedouin shepherd, looking for a lost goat, found ancient manuscripts which had been buried 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-Journey-Through-Centuries)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-HEBREW-OLD-TESTAMENT-Protestant-Bible-A-Journey-Through-Centuries)

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Media Stream



Caves of Qumran

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Dead Sea Shoreline Near Qumran

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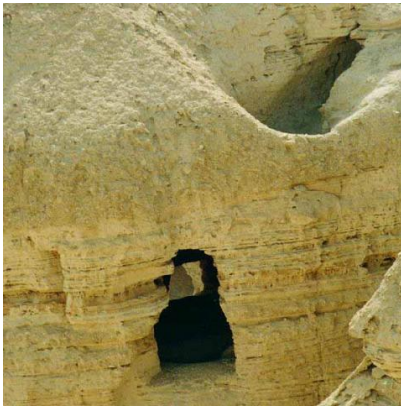


Panoramic View of Qumran

Image online, courtesy christusrex.org website.

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View of the Qumran Caves

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