

Qumran



- Located about one-half mile from the northwest shore of the Dead Sea.
- The ruins comprise a main building about 111 feet long and 90 feet wide, constructed of large stone squares coated with plaster. There has evidently been a dining room, kitchens, cisterns, a dormitory, work shops, lavatory, two swimming pools and a scriptorium. Dried ink was found in one of the ink wells.
- Believed by some that John the Baptist was a member of the Qumran community.
- Essenes — Monastic life, communal type of living. Their energies were directed toward studying the law.
- The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in caves near here. Eight large jars, probably put there during the time of the Jewish revolt (66-70 A.D.).
- Discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls occurred one day in the spring of 1947 when Mohammed Dib, a Bedouin shepherd in his late teens, was combing the rocky ravines on the north slope of the Dead Sea in quest of a lost lamb. Thinking that the lamb could be hiding in a cave, he threw a stone inside thinking that the noise would scare the lamb out of hiding. Instead of the lamb being in the cave, he hear a loud crack. The stone had struck one of the large clay pots or jars.
- Thus far the total number of manuscripts discovered at the Dead Sea amounts to over 400, including 100 Biblical manuscripts. Apart from the

Book of Esther, every book of the Old Testament is represented in the findings. The best known is the complete scroll of the Book of Isaiah. The Isaiah scroll is 25' long. The various scrolls date from about 200 B.C. to A.D. 68.

