



# **The Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls**

New Covenant Lutheran Church  
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# The Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls

## Course Outline

### 🌟 Sessions

1. Dead Sea Scrolls Archaeology
2. The Essenes
3. The Rabbit Hole
4. Messiah's
5. Celibacy, Marriage & Priesthood
6. John the Baptist
7. John the Apostle
8. Communion
9. Summary

### 🌟 Readings

1. Intro & Ch 1 pg. 3-4. 9-14
2. Ch 1 pg. 4-15; Ch 9 pg. 129-137; Handouts
3. Intro xii-xiii; Ch 4 pg. 45 & Ch 7.8.14.15
4. Ch 2
5. Ch 9-13
6. Ch 3 & 5
7. Ch 4
8. Ch 6
9. Ch 16



# The Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls

Revealing the Jewish Roots of Christianity

John Bergsma

## Session 1

### Introduction for Webcast listeners

**NOTE:** light font is not a bad copy, explanatory note. It's missing text in the scrolls/fragments.

### Disclaimers

- 1. Scholarly debate—Archaeology and Essenes**
- 2. Certainty verses Probability—Throughout this presentation--  
Although what I am going to present cannot finally be proven,  
these details fit the available evidence.**
- 3. Christianity did NOT derive from Essenism, nor vice versa**



# Scholarly Debate



## Opinions:

1. Qumran was a fortress/villa/commercial center/seasonal tanner and pottery production facility
2. Water system was for cisterns/Mikva'ot ritual baths/both
3. Scriptorium/Dining hall/Pottery works
4. Dead Sea Scrolls were Qumran library/Jerusalem Temple library/from multiple libraries/combination
5. Single scribe or 500 different scribes wrote the scrolls
6. Essenes/not Essenes/other
7. Connection between Qumran ruins and Essene community
8. Author's or my view of connections between Essenes and early



# The Dead Sea Scrolls Archaeology

- ❖ **The Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls**

- ❖ **Archaeology of the Qumran Site**

- ❖ **Archaeology of the Dead Sea Scrolls**



# The Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls



**“My heartiest congratulations on the  
greatest MS discovery of modern  
times!”**

**Wm. Albright to John Trevor, 1948**



# The Discovery

- 1. 1947 – shepherd story**
- 2. 10 years of discovery – 1947-1956**
- 3. Ta'amireh Bedouin – caves 1, 2, 4, 6, 11 (i.e. all the significant caves)**
- 4. Professional archaeologists – caves 3, 5, 7-10**
- 5. Archaeologists never discovered a full scroll in a jar**
- 6. Archaeologists sifted through the soil in all caves for fragments**
- 7. 5 caves in the cliffs, 6 in the marl terrace near the buildings of Qumran**

# The Discovery

## ❖ Cave 1 – Seven Original Scrolls

2 Isaiah scrolls, Community Rule (Manual of Discipline), Habakkuk commentary, Thanksgiving hymns, War scroll & Genesis Apocryphon

## ❖ Cave 3 – Copper Scroll – 64 “treasures”

## ❖ Cave 4 – 520 texts, 15,000 fragments

## ❖ Cave 7 – 19 Greek text fragments

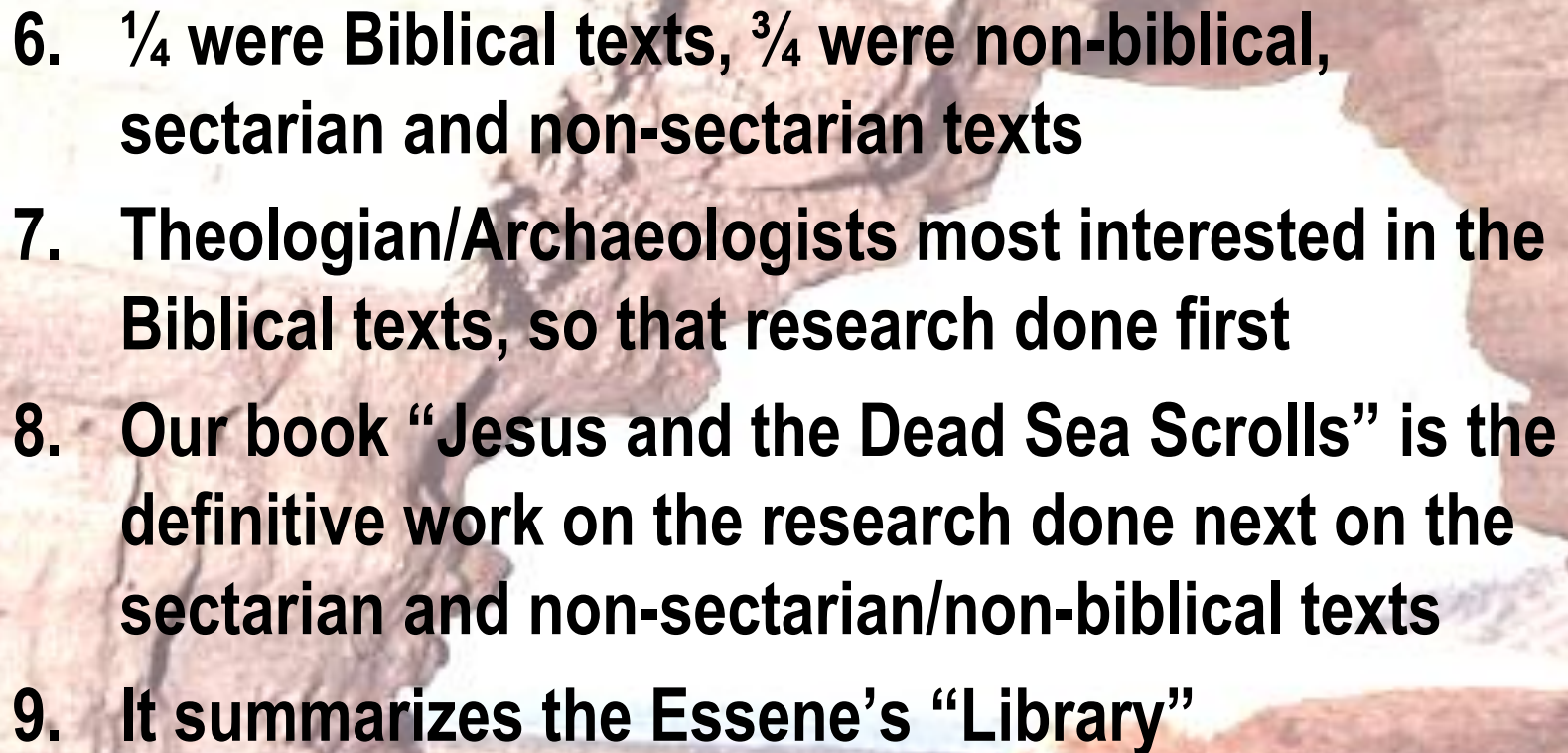
## ❖ Cave 11 – Temple & Psalms Scrolls

# Qumran & The Dead Sea Scrolls





# The Dead Sea Scrolls-2

6.  $\frac{1}{4}$  were **Biblical texts**,  $\frac{3}{4}$  were **non-biblical, sectarian and non-sectarian texts**
  7. **Theologian/Archaeologists most interested in the Biblical texts, so that research done first**
  8. **Our book “Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls” is the definitive work on the research done next on the sectarian and non-sectarian/non-biblical texts**
  9. **It summarizes the Essene’s “Library”**
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# This is What Survived

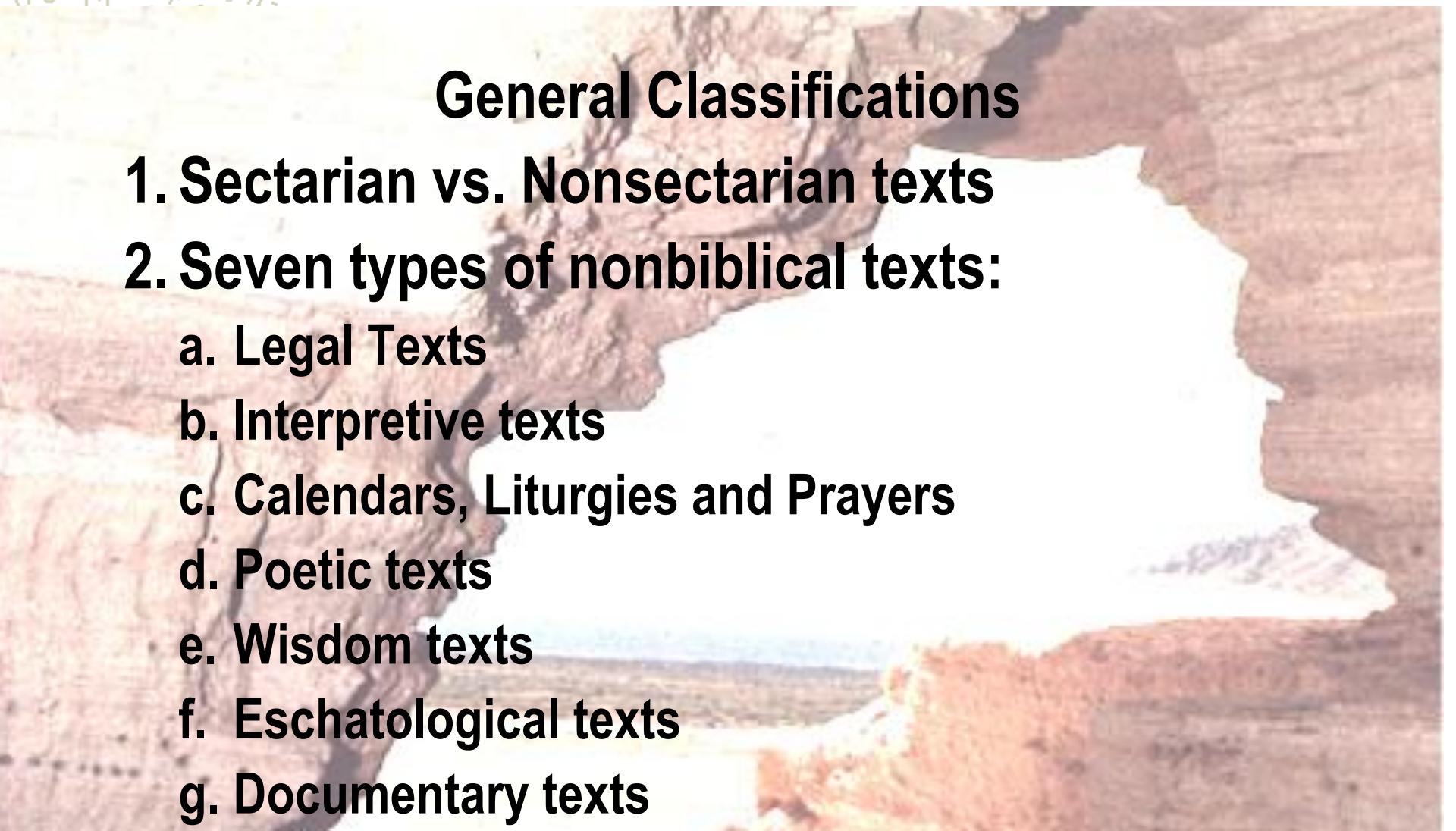
## Leather & Papyrus “fragments”





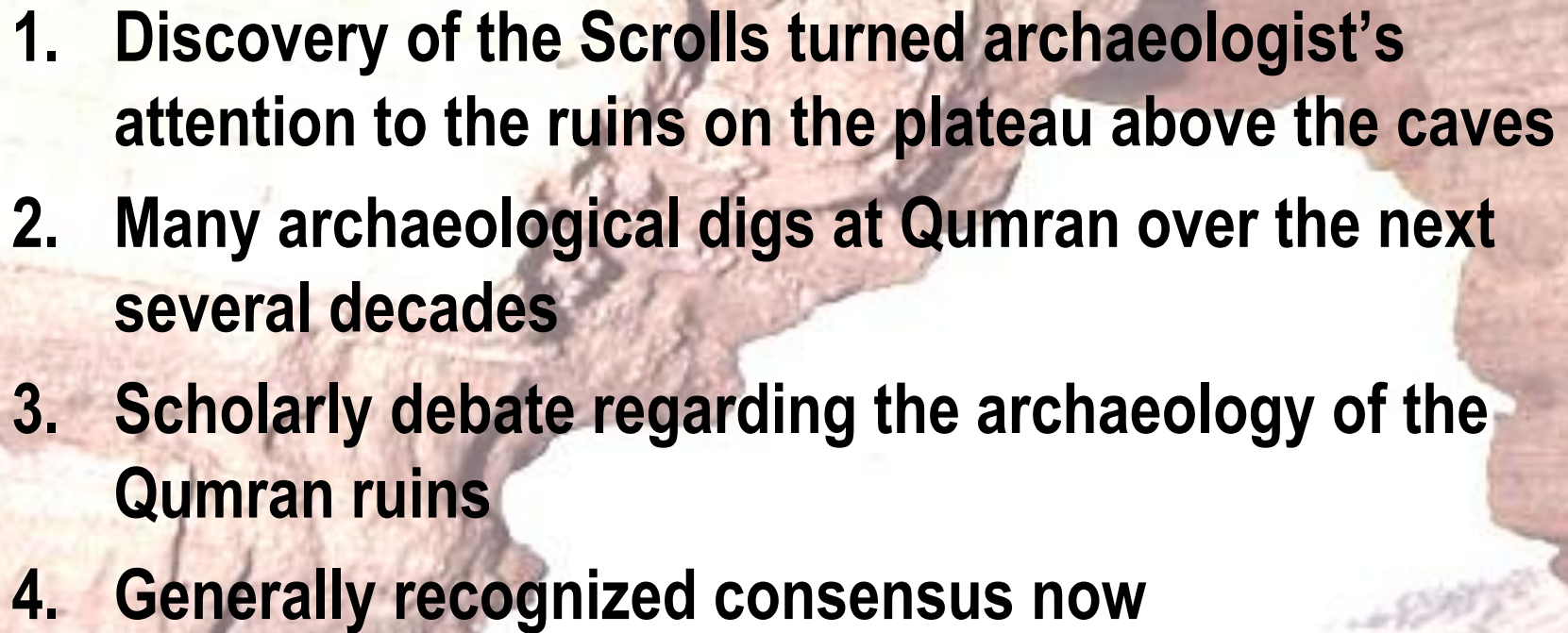
# The Nonbiblical Scrolls

## General Classifications

1. **Sectarian vs. Nonsectarian texts**
  2. **Seven types of nonbiblical texts:**
    - a. **Legal Texts**
    - b. **Interpretive texts**
    - c. **Calendars, Liturgies and Prayers**
    - d. **Poetic texts**
    - e. **Wisdom texts**
    - f. **Eschatological texts**
    - g. **Documentary texts**
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# Qumran Archaeology

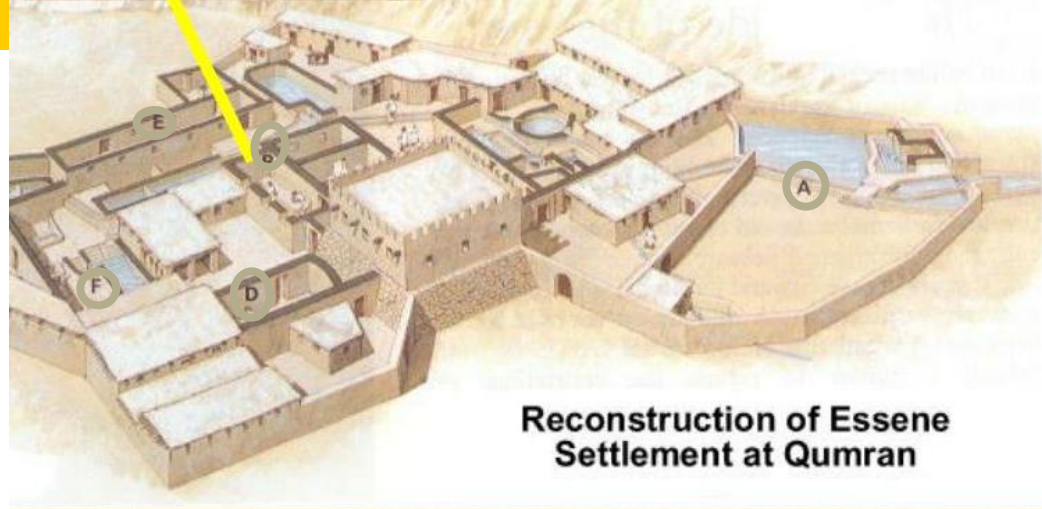
1. **Discovery of the Scrolls turned archaeologist's attention to the ruins on the plateau above the caves**
  2. **Many archaeological digs at Qumran over the next several decades**
  3. **Scholarly debate regarding the archaeology of the Qumran ruins**
  4. **Generally recognized consensus now**
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# The Dead Sea Scrolls



## Khirbet Qumran

- A. Aqueduct
- B. Scriptorium
- C. Potter's kiln
- D. Kitchens
- E. Assembly Hall and Refectory
- F. Laundry
- G. Scroll Caves



Reconstruction of Essene Settlement at Qumran

# The Dead Sea Scrolls

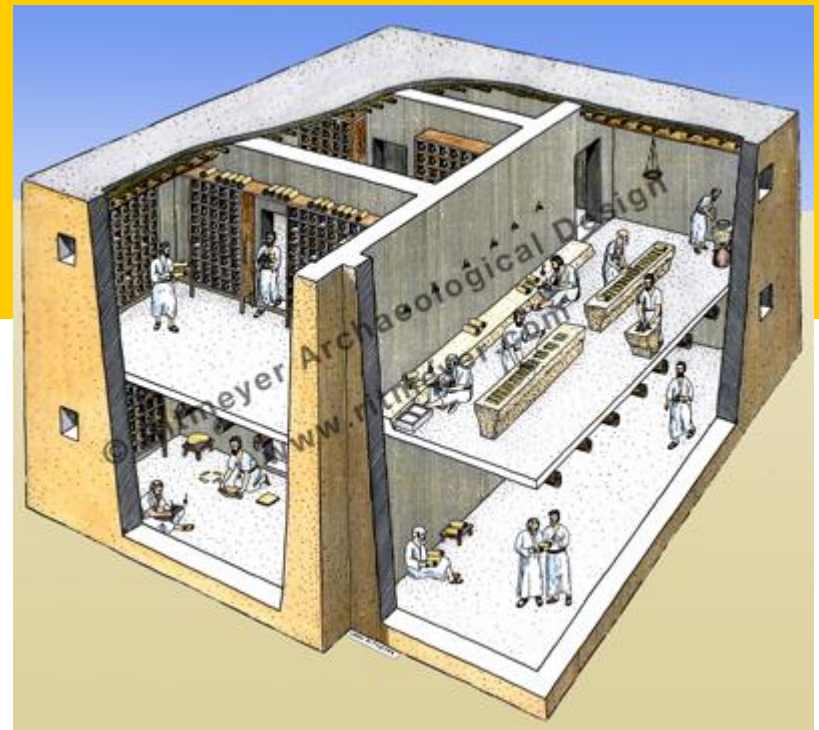
## Caves in the Marl Terrace

## Mikvah/Cistern?



# The Dead Sea Scrolls

## Scriptorium?



# The Dead Sea Scrolls

Pottery Kiln



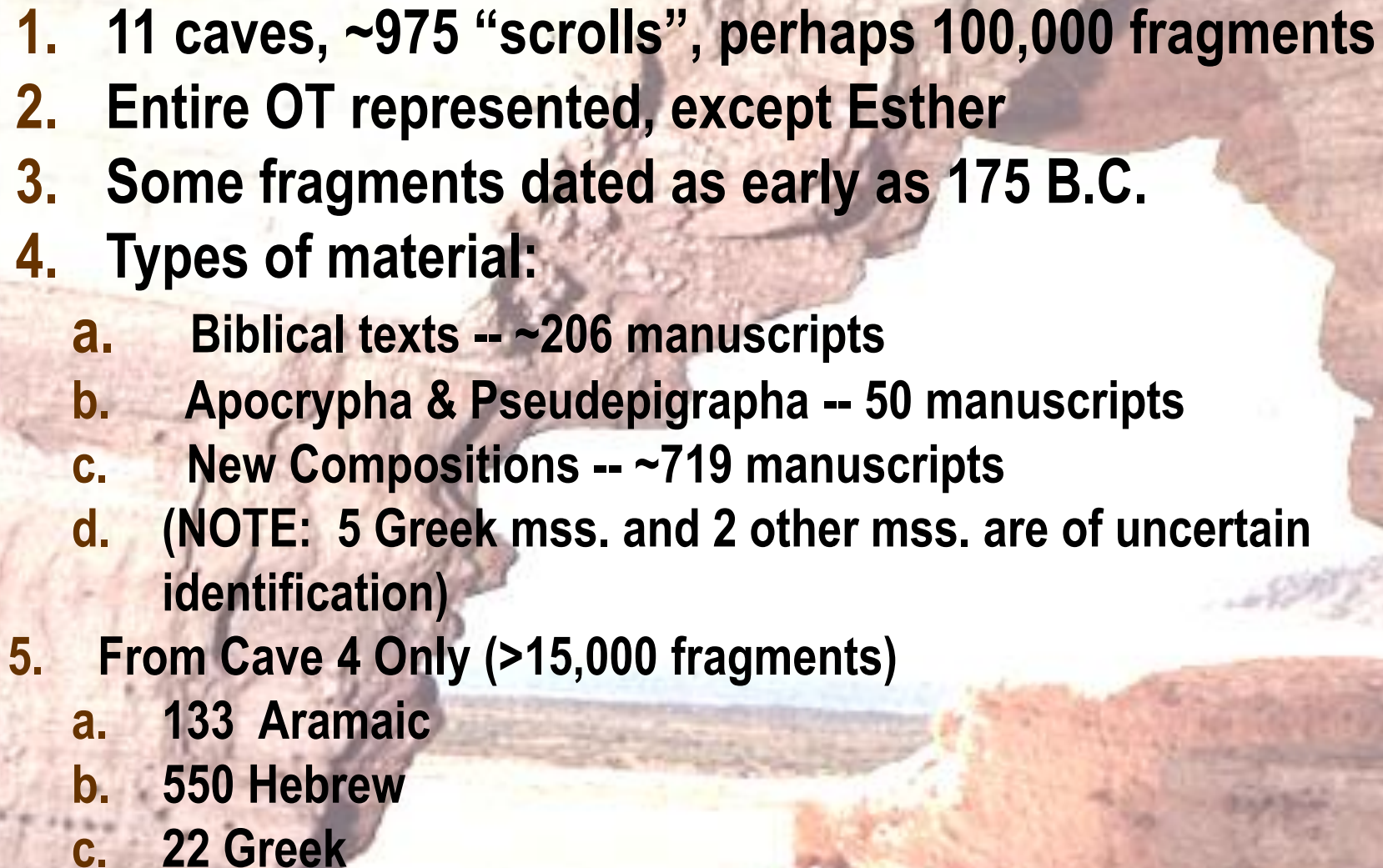
Aqueduct

Aqueduct





# The Dead Sea Scrolls Archaeology

- 1. 11 caves, ~975 “scrolls”, perhaps 100,000 fragments**
  - 2. Entire OT represented, except Esther**
  - 3. Some fragments dated as early as 175 B.C.**
  - 4. Types of material:**
    - a. Biblical texts -- ~206 manuscripts**
    - b. Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha -- 50 manuscripts**
    - c. New Compositions -- ~719 manuscripts**
    - d. (NOTE: 5 Greek mss. and 2 other mss. are of uncertain identification)**
  - 5. From Cave 4 Only (>15,000 fragments)**
    - a. 133 Aramaic**
    - b. 550 Hebrew**
    - c. 22 Greek**
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# DEAD SEA SCROLLS

- ❖ **Significance as amazing as the story of their discovery**
- ❖ **Before their discovery, so called scientific textual critics theorized that the OT had gradually changed over centuries, and primitive superstitions were upgraded to more contemporary theology**
- ❖ **Today scholars are continually amazed at the accuracy of the ancients in copying important manuscripts precisely without the aid of our modern machines**
- ❖ **Significance of the fact that virtually all parchments destroyed out of reverence = best haven't survived!**



# Primary Sources

## ❖ Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls

Revealing the Jewish Roots of Christianity

John Bergsma

## ❖ The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls

James Vanderkam & Peter Flint

## ❖ Internet searches--“Dead Sea Scrolls”



# Your Thoughts?

**Origins of the Bible**

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