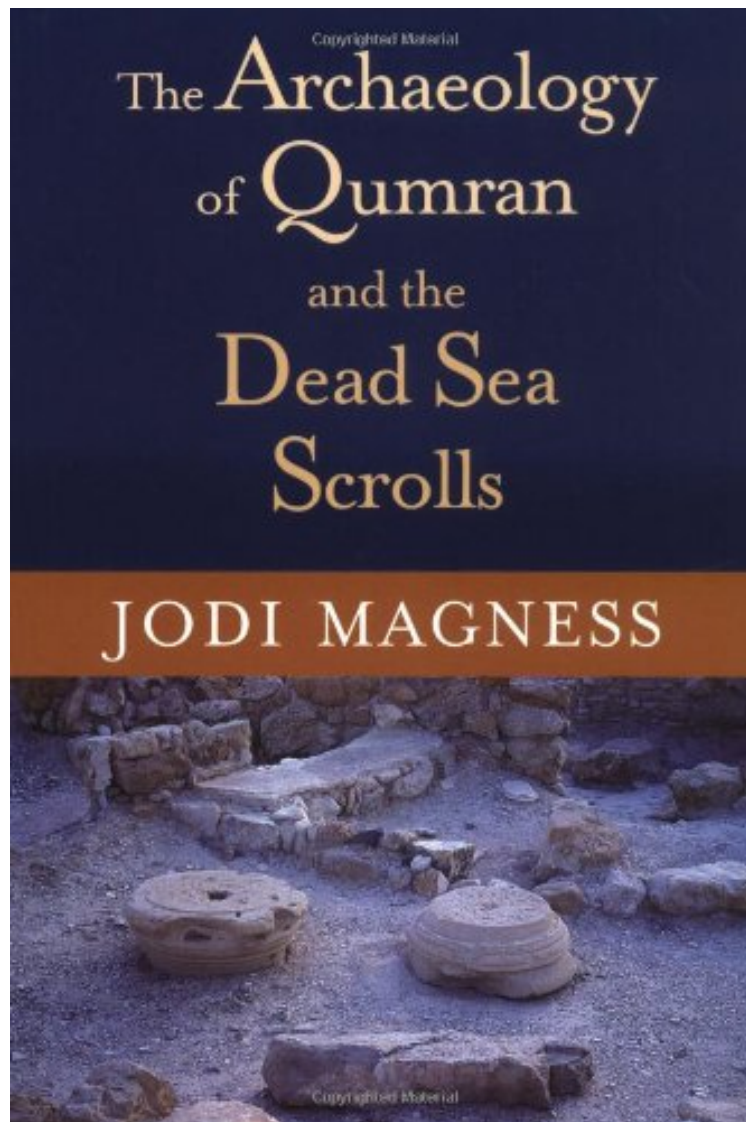


[Download ebook] The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls (Studies in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Related Literature)

The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls (Studies in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Related Literature)

Jodi Magness

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Jodi Magness : The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls (Studies in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Related Literature) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls (Studies in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Related Literature):

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well done overview of the ScrollsBy E. JohnsonEverywhere I turn, I

hear the name "Jodi Magness." She is highly respected in the field of biblical archaeology, and for good reason. She is a scholar who knows what she is talking about and generally can put her understanding into English that can be understood by the average layperson. I have studied the scrolls for many years, even walking into Cave 1 three different times. I love the stories, history, and mystery. Professor Magness lays out the details and comes to conclusions that are reasonable and honest. Perhaps this is not the first book a newbie picks up to get an introduction, but it certainly ought to follow soon after. Thus, I do recommend this book. 14 of 20 people found the following review helpful. No Fringe Theories Allowed By Virgil Brown Jodi Magness points out in the introduction to her book that there are two reasons why fringe theories about the Dead Sea Scrolls are numerous. The second is that "we tend to side with the underdogs." The first reason is that controversy sells. Magness shows why the available archaeological evidence supports the basic conclusions of Roland de Vaux. The scrolls and the Qumran settlement are related. The scrolls were owned by a sectarian group. The settlement is not a villa rustica. Etc. Yet Magness does not rubber stamp the work of de Vaux. For example she sets forth her own chronology of the settlement. This book is not for people who subscribe to fringe theories. There are no Christian writings found among the scrolls. Nor are the scrolls a depository of the Temple either in 62 BCE or 68 CE. There used to be a sect known as the Essenes who lived at Khirbet Qumran... 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. High Quality Work By J.B. Hughes Since this is only the second work concerning Qumran that I have read I am not sure how helpful this review will be. However, I found this book to be a great read for the most part and informative concerning the matters surrounding Qumran. The first thing that I noticed about this book was the accessibility of it. Although, I have not studied Qumran in detail I minored in anthropology and this gave me an edge into the language used in the field. Most people reading this book may not have the same background but Dr. Magness takes time to explain a few things about dating methods and always tries to make sure that she explains archaeological terms in clear non-technical language. In other words, Dr. Magness is not merely interested in talking to academics, or hearing the sound of her own voice, but she wants to talk to general audiences. The work that she does here surveys the archaeological findings of De Vaux who excavated the site but did not publish a detailed analysis of his finds. She examines his findings and attempts to interpret what this community looked like. She makes a very good case for the idea that Qumran was not a military fort or a private villa. There seems to have been a community there and like Stegemann she thinks that this community was responsible for the production of the scrolls themselves. Her history of the finding of the scrolls by the Bedouins was scant compared with Stegemann who gave more detail to the matter. This is of course a trivial matter as her main goal had nothing to do with providing the background to the finding of the scrolls. I think she does well interacting with historical texts such as "The Community Rule" and established a solid case for the unique style of pottery assemblages at Qumran. She explains the strange purification rituals of the Essenes showing that many of the finds such as the "miqva'ot" (bath) and the style of the pottery lend themselves as evidence for Essene occupation. I found the purification process and the community meal to be interesting and especially in comparing with Biblical texts. Many of the habits described seem to resemble (imperfectly) some of the statements and ideas found in the writings attributed to the Apostle John. It certainly raises questions as to what kind of contact the biblical writer might have had with the Essene population. I also thought she gave a fair argument for the dating issue which I cannot say is necessarily correct without further study. De Vaux thought there were 4 periods of occupations. Period IA ca. 130-100 B.C.E. was thought to be the first occupation but due to a number of problems such as almost complete lack of coinage and pottery shards (among others) Magness believes this period did not exist. Period Ib De Vaux dated from ca. 100-31 B.C.E. but Magness suggests that the community was inhabited 100-50 B.C.E. and after the a massive Earthquake was uninhabited till 31 B.C.E. After this period both scholars agree on Period III and IV. Overall, I think the book was well done. She made a fair argument for women as part of the Qumran community but it was not necessarily quite convincing (Although, I am inclined to agree.) Despite some boring spots the book was overall very engaging and enlightening.

The Dead Sea Scrolls are among the most interesting and important archaeological discoveries ever made, and the excavation of the Qumran community itself has provided invaluable information about Judaism and the Jewish world in the last centuries B.C.E. Like the Dead Sea Scrolls, however, the Qumran site continues to be the object of intense scholarly debate. In a book meant to introduce general readers to this fascinating area of study, veteran archaeologist Jodi Magness here provides an overview of the archaeology of Qumran and presents an exciting new interpretation of this ancient community based on information found in the Dead Sea Scrolls and other contemporary documents. Magness's work offers a number of fresh conclusions concerning life at Qumran. She agrees that Qumran was a sectarian settlement but rejects other unconventional views, including the view that Qumran was a villa rustica or manor house. By carefully analyzing the published information on Qumran, she refines the site's chronology, reinterprets the purpose of some of its rooms, and reexamines the archaeological evidence for the presence of women and children in the settlement. Numerous photos and diagrams give readers a firsthand look at the site. Written with an expert's insight yet with a journalist's spunk, this engaging book is sure to reinvigorate discussion of this monumental archaeological find.

Biblical Archaeology Society, Publication Award for Best Popular Book on Archaeology (2003) Choice Magazine, Outstanding Academic Book (2003) Archaeology "The latest and best discussion of Qumran. . . This book is essential reading for specialists and general readers alike." Harper's Magazine "An admirably clear and concise progress report on what is known about this spectacular discovery." Choice "There's plenty of life left in the Dead Sea Scrolls, as amply demonstrated in this superb volume. . . A work of wide appeal." Magen Broshi "In the half century since Roland de Vaux excavated Qumran, the most important contributions to its archaeology have undoubtedly been made by Jodi Magness. Her erudite, painstaking, and levelheaded research has solved many of its problems. This book of hers is at once a first-rate scholarly work and a delightful read." Lawrence H. Schiffman "This book represents the most up-to-date study of the archaeological evidence from Qumran, the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Jodi Magness has reexamined the archaeological record in great detail and has made judicious use of textual and historical sources to provide a sustained analysis of the highest quality. Finally we have a new study by a highly qualified archaeologist that will put to rest much of the amateurish discussion that surrounds Qumran while also making available to experts the material they need to debate the scholarly issues." Emanuel Tov "This volume offers an excellent analysis of the most burning questions related to the archaeology of Qumran and the neighboring sites, and it suggests well-considered and original answers. Written in an extremely attractive way, with both specialists and nonspecialists in mind, it whets the appetite for further study. The illustrations and indexes add much to the clarity of the discussion." Eugene Ulrich "Jodi Magness here provides the most up-to-date and balanced archaeological profile of the site connected with the Dead Sea Scrolls. With numerous theories floating around, it is refreshing to have available at last a well-researched analysis that is as well-written as it is authoritative. The nonspecialist will find this book easily readable, with all terms clearly explained, while the specialist will find a solid, comprehensive analysis such as we have long desired." James C. VanderKam "In The Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls Jodi Magness, the authority on Qumran archaeology, has supplied her most extended statement on the subject. Her analyses of the material evidence and the relevant literary sources are both definitive and a pleasure to read." Geza Vermes "A very learned, sensible, and readable account of Qumran archaeology written by a recognized expert. It will be a most welcome addition to the essential literature on the Dead Sea Scrolls."