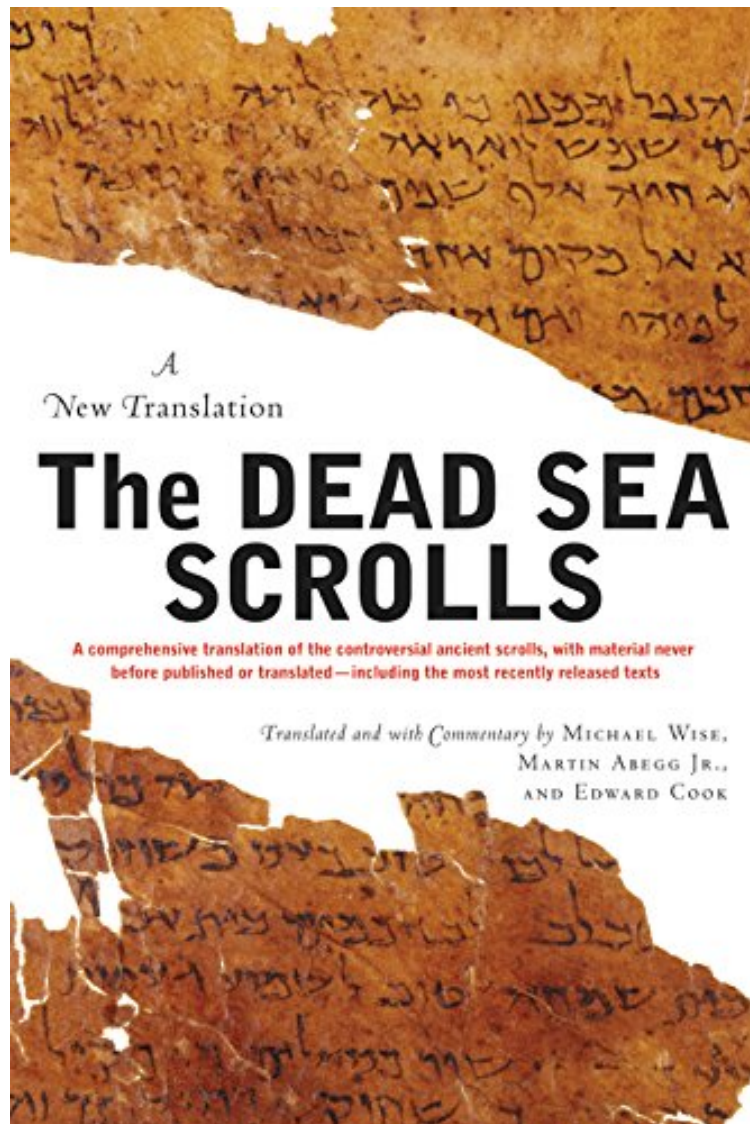


## The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation

*Michael O. Wise, Martin G., Jr. Abegg, Edward M. Cook*  
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**Michael O. Wise, Martin G., Jr. Abegg, Edward M. Cook : The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation:

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A fully revised and updated edition of our translation of the complete Dead Sea Scrolls, making it the definitive translation of the Scrolls in English. With new texts, updated introductions, a glossary of terms, and other new additions, this will become the definitive translation of the Scrolls, and the lead companion to our other Dead Sea Scrolls Guides: *The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls* and *the Dead Sea Scrolls Bible*.

From Publishers Weekly In 1946, the world of biblical studies was rocked by the discovery of several scrolls in caves around the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea Scrolls contained translations of portions of the books of the Hebrew scriptures, a manual of discipline for the community responsible for producing the scrolls and a scroll that narrated an apocalyptic battle between the sons of light, led by a figure called the Teacher of Righteousness, and the sons of darkness. These documents gave biblical scholars a tantalizing glimpse of the then relatively unknown period of first-century Judaism and of the theology of at least one of its sects. Very quickly, though, the ownership of the scrolls became a point of great political contention between the Israeli government and American scholars like Frank Moore Cross at Harvard, and, consequently, translations of the scrolls appeared very slowly, if at all. Finally, in 1991, author Martin Abegg, then a graduate student at the University of Cincinnati, published a volume of previously unreleased scrolls. Following this publication, the Huntington Library announced that it had photographs of all the unreleased scrolls and that it would allow unrestricted access to the photos. Wise, Abegg and Cook's collection is now the most complete collection of the Dead Sea Scrolls available. The authors' English translations capture the nuances of the Hebrew, and sometimes the Greek, of the scrolls, many of which are merely fragments. Also contained here is a thorough introduction to the history of the discovery of the scrolls and a theory about the community that produced the scrolls: the authors convincingly argue that the Essenes, to whom the scrolls are traditionally attributed, were likely not the community responsible for writing the scrolls. For all interested in learning from primary texts about the development of first-century Judaism, this is an essential volume Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Wise (The Dead Sea Scrolls Uncovered, LJ 2/1/93) and his team of scholars and writers occupy what might be called the minority position in scrolls scholarship: The Qumran group cannot be identified simply as "Essenes," the site itself was not a headquarters, and few if any of the scrolls were written at Qumran. The position of Wise et al., in contrast with the "Standard Model" (as they call it), is set forth in a brief introduction along with the usual information about the discovery and publication of the scrolls. One of the most helpful things these translators do for nonspecialist readers is to explain the process of manuscript reconstruction and the use of brackets and parentheses to indicate missing portions of text and the like. The translations themselves are generally more idiomatic and less stiff than those in Florentino G. Martinez's *The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated* (Eerdmans, 1996. 2d ed.). As the fruit of an alternative approach to the origins and significance of the scrolls, and as a smooth translation, this work should be in collections where there is scholarly and popular interest. ?Craig W. Beard, Univ. of Alabama Lib., Birmingham Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist As many people know, access to the Dead Sea Scrolls, a cache of 2,000-year-old Jewish writings, was long denied to the public and to most of the academic world. The scrolls were finally wrested away from the scholarly team that controlled them when one of this book's authors, Martin Abegg, used computer technology to reconstruct hundreds of texts from an extant concordance. Except for the original seven intact scrolls (held and translated promptly by the Israelis), the rest of the scrolls were in thousands of fragments. What the authors present here is quite amazing. Almost every legible portion of the texts is translated into English, and commentary is offered for each text. Perhaps only those truly interested in the subject will make their way through the texts themselves, but even the most general of readers should be fascinated by the authors' introduction. Not only do they succinctly summarize scroll history and show readers how to read the scrolls, they put forth their own theories and accessibly compare them with what have been the standard interpretations. An engaging necessity for updating Dead Sea Scrolls collections. Ilene Cooper