

James the Brother of Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls II: The Damascus Code, the Tent of David, the New Covenant, and the Blood of Christ

Robert Eisenman



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In this concluding volume of James the Brother of Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls II: The Damascus Code, the Tent of David, the New Covenant, and the Blood of Christ, renowned biblical scholar Robert Eisenman compresses in a more reader-friendly format the results of previous work, creating a more comprehensive picture of Jesus' brother James as "the pivotal Opposition Leader" of the time leading up to the War against Rome (66-70 CE).

Is there an interconnecting code between the New Testament and the Dead Sea Scrolls? Eisenman – who broke the Scrolls monopoly and was the first to identify the so-called "James Ossuary" as fraudulent – shows that there is. Moreover, in this newly-revised volume, he 'decodes' many beloved and famous sayings of the Gospels, such as "Every plant which My Heavenly Father has not planted shall be uprooted," "A man shall not be known by what goes into his mouth but by what comes out of it," "Do not throw Holy Things to dogs", etc. including chapters like "The Dogs who Licked Poor Lazarus' Sores" or "Rabbi Eliezer's Bad Breath and Lazarus' Stinking Body".

In identifying the Scrolls as the literature of "the Messianic Movement in Palestine"; he not only connects "James the Brother of Jesus" to the Leadership of 'Early Christianity' in Palestine, but also to "the Righteous Teacher" in the Scrolls.

Offering a point-by-point analysis of James' relationship to the Habakkuk Commentary, The Damascus Document, The War Scroll, etc., he also illumines the subjects "the Pella Flight and raising the Fallen Tent of David", "Paul as an Herodian," "the Wilderness Camps," and "Peter"'s role as "a prototypical Essene" but in Acts as a mouthpiece for anti-Semitism. In doing so he, not only clarifies the true history of Palestine in the First Century, but deciphers the way 'the picture' of "Jesus" was put together in the Gospels and, as a consequence, what can be known about the real "Jesus".

He also covers subjects like "the New Covenant in the Land of Damascus" and Paul's attack on James on the Temple steps, extending it to the competition between Paul and "the Party of James" over "Circumcision" in Antioch and the conversion of Queen Helen Adiabene and her sons in Northern Syria, who led the "famine relief" effort ascribed to Paul in Acts. Moreover, he will show the figure of James to have been so influential and highly-regarded in the Jerusalem of his day that his death was the capstone event leading up to the Jewish Revolt against Rome.

In making these arguments and exposing actual 'overwrites', a crucial new point that emerges is his identification of the Qumran document called by scholars "MMT" as a 'Jamesian' Letter to "the Great King of the Peoples beyond the Euphrates." At the same time, he unravels the real "code" behind the pivotal New Testament allusion: "This is the Cup of the New Covenant in My Blood," connecting it to "the New Covenant in the Land of Damascus" and "giving the Cup of the Right Hand of the Lord ("the Cup of Divine Wrath") to drink" in both the Damascus Document and Habakkuk Pesher in the Scrolls.

Did Paul know the meaning of the famous Damascus Document (discovered in Cairo in the Nineteenth Century) "to set the Holy Things up according to their precise specifications" – or the reverse of it, as Peter is presented as being made to understand by "a Voice out of Heaven" and "a Tablecloth" descending out of it – "to make no distinctions between Holy and profane" – on a rooftop in Gaza?

In this series, Eisenman's revelations will extend far beyond these examples. James the Brother of Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls, both I and II, will complete the task of rescuing James from the oblivion into which he was cast, either intentionally or via benign neglect. His conclusion will, therefore, definitively bear on the problem of "the Historical Jesus": "Who and whatever James was, so was Jesus." Eisenman's many readers will not be disappointed.

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