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## Collins' "Scriptures and sectarianism: Essays on the Dead Sea Scrolls" (Book Review)

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# Book Reviews

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Collins, J. J. (2016) *Scriptures and sectarianism: Essays on the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans. 341 pp. \$45.00. ISBN 9780802873149

This work consists of seventeen, previously-published essays conveniently collected into a single volume, representing the author's views of a variety of issues surrounding the Dead Sea Scrolls and the sectarian communities that produced them. Collins has written prolifically on these subjects and is a reputable scholar in the field. After a helpful introductory essay summarizing what has been gleaned from studying the Scrolls, the essays are divided into three categories: Scripture and interpretation, history and sectarianism, and the sectarian worldview. The final chapter addresses the oft-discussed relationship between the Scrolls and the New Testament by discussing how they treat the Suffering Servant song in Isaiah. He concludes that they share "a common reliance on a corpus of authoritative scriptures" but that they contextualize these in different ways.

For the most part, these essays assume familiarity with the documents found at Qumran, including the biblical and sectarian writings. Collins writes with and assumes understanding of the larger movements within the study of the Hebrew Bible. Although the one most benefited by the volume will have some familiarity with the secondary literature on the subject, the author provides enough context for the reader to understand his conclusions. Since the essays are collected into three groups and are individually self-contained, the volume will prove to be a valuable resource for students and faculty when they are searching for expert commentary on a specific topic regarding the scrolls (e.g. the relationship between the Qumran community and the Essenes, the reasons why the community broke with the Judaism of its day, the community's response to its received authoritative texts, etc.). While this volume would need to be supplemented by resources such as surveys of what was found, Collins's work makes an invaluable contribution to a library's resources on early Judaism, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and biblical interpretation.

## **Reviewer**

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