

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-28552-0 - The Qumran Community
Michael A. Knibb
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE QUMRAN COMMUNITY

MICHAEL A. KNIBB
Professor of Old Testament Studies
King's College London



Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-28552-0 - The Qumran Community
 Michael A. Knibb
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

© Cambridge University Press 1987

First published 1987
 Reprinted 1988, 1994

Printed in Great Britain by
 Athenæum Press Ltd, Newcastle upon Tyne

British Library cataloguing in publication data

The Qumran community. – (Cambridge
 commentaries on writings of the Jewish
 and Christian world 200 BC to AD 200; v. 2)

1. Dead Sea scrolls – Commentaries

I. Knibb, Michael A.

221.4'4 BM487

Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data

Knibb, Michael A. (Michael Anthony), 1938–

The Qumran community.

(Cambridge commentaries on writings of the Jewish and
 Christian world 200 BC to AD 200; v. 2)

'Provides a new translation of substantial extracts
 from the Qumran writings together with an exegetical
 commentary' –

Includes index.

1. Dead Sea scrolls – Criticism, interpretation, etc.

2. Qumran community. I. Dead Sea scrolls. English.

Selections. 1987. II. Title. III. Series: Cambridge
 commentaries on writings of the Jewish and Christian
 world 200 B.C. to A.D. 200; v. 2.

BM487.K6 1987 296.1'55 86-24450

ISBN 0 521 28552 6 paperback

**Transferred to
 Digital Reprinting 1999**

**Printed in the
 United States of America**

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-28552-0 - The Qumran Community
Michael A. Knibb
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

General Editors' Preface	<i>page</i> vii
List of Abbreviations	ix
Chronological Table	xi
Introduction	i
The Damascus Document	13
The Community Rule	77
The Rule of the Congregation	145
The Hymns	157
The Genesis Apocryphon	183
The Prayer of Nabonidus	203
The Commentaries	207
The Commentary on Nahum	209
The Commentary on Habakkuk	221
The Commentary on Psalms	247
Florilegium	257
Testimonia	263
Index	267

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-28552-0 - The Qumran Community
 Michael A. Knibb
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

General Editors' Preface

The three general editors of the Cambridge Bible Commentary series have all, in their teaching, experienced a lack of readily usable texts of the literature which is often called pseudepigrapha but which is more accurately defined as extra-biblical or para-biblical literature. The aim of this new series is to help fill this gap.

The welcome accorded to the Cambridge Bible Commentary has encouraged the editors to follow the same pattern here, except that carefully chosen extracts from the texts, rather than complete books, have normally been provided for comment. The introductory material leads naturally into the text, which itself leads into alternating sections of commentary.

Within the severe limits imposed by the size and scope of the series, each contributor will attempt to provide for the student and general reader the results of modern scholarship, but has been asked to assume no specialised theological or linguistic knowledge.

The volumes already planned cover the writings of the Jewish and Christian World from about 200 BC to AD 200 and are being edited as follows:

- 1 i *Jews in the Hellenistic World: Josephus, Aristeas, the Sibylline Oracles, Eupolemus* – John R. Bartlett, Trinity College, Dublin
- 1 ii *Jews in the Hellenistic World: Philo* – R. Williamson, University of Leeds
- 2 *The Qumran Community* – M. A. Knibb, King's College London
- 3 *Early Rabbinic Writings* – H. Maccoby, Leo Baeck College, London
- 4 *Outside the Old Testament* – M. de Jonge, University of Leiden
- 5 *Outside the New Testament* – G. N. Stanton, King's College London
- 6 *Jews and Christians: Graeco-Roman Views* – Molly Whittaker, University of Nottingham

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-28552-0 - The Qumran Community
Michael A. Knibb
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

viii

General Editors' Preface

A seventh volume by one of the general editors, A. R. C. Leaney, *The Jewish and Christian World 200 BC to AD 200*, examines the wider historical and literary background to the period and includes tables of dates, relevant lists and maps. Although this companion volume will preface and augment the series, it may also be read as complete in itself and be used as a work of general reference.

P.R.A. A.R.C.L. J.W.P.

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-28552-0 - The Qumran Community
 Michael A. Knibb
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Abbreviations

JOSEPHUS

War

The Jewish War

Ant.

Antiquities of the Jews

PHILO

Omn Prob Lib

Quod Omnis Probus Liber sit

Spec Leg

De Specialibus Legibus

Vit Cont

De Vita Contemplativa

PSEUDEPIGRAPHA

1 En.

1 (Ethiopic) Enoch

Jub.

Jubilees

Pss. Sol.

Psalms of Solomon

Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs

T. Asher

Testament of Asher

T. Benj.

Testament of Benjamin

T. Dan

Testament of Dan

T. Jud.

Testament of Judah

T. Levi

Testament of Levi

T. Reub.

Testament of Reuben

T. Sim.

Testament of Simeon

T. Zeb.

Testament of Zebulum

QUMRAN DOCUMENTS

See the list of Qumran writings with accompanying abbreviations on pp. 2–3.

RABBINIC WRITINGS

Mishnah

Ab.

Abot

Ber.

Berakot

Meg.

Megillah

Sanh.

Sanhedrin

Šeb.

Šebiit

Ta'an

Ta'anit

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-28552-0 - The Qumran Community
 Michael A. Knibb
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

x *List of Abbreviations*

Babylonian Talmud
 b.Pes. Pesahim

Note on brackets used in the texts

- () The words so enclosed are not in the Hebrew or Aramaic texts, but have been supplied for the sense.
- [] The words or letters so enclosed have been supplied to restore gaps in the manuscript.
- < > The use of these brackets indicates that insertions or corrections have been made in the text.

Note on the bibliographies

Books and articles in the bibliographies have been listed in the following order: (1) editions of the text; (2) translations and commentaries; (3) other studies.

Chronological Table

175–164 BC	Antiochus IV Epiphanes
167	Desecration of the temple and proscription of Jewish religion. Jewish revolt led by the family of Mattathias
166	Judas assumes leadership of the nationalist forces
164	Rededication of the temple
161–159	Alcimus high priest
160	Death of Judas
160–152	Jonathan leader of the nationalist forces
152–143	Jonathan high priest
143	Jonathan captured by Trypho
143–134	Simon high priest and ethnarch
142	Murder of Jonathan
140	Legitimation of Simon's position by the Jewish people
134–104	John Hyrcanus I high priest and ethnarch
104–103	Aristobulus I high priest and king
103–76	Alexander Jannaeus high priest and king
76–67	Alexandra queen; Hyrcanus II high priest
67	Hyrcanus II king and high priest. Deposed by his brother Aristobulus II
67–63	Aristobulus II king and high priest
63	Intervention of Pompey
63–40	Hyrcanus II high priest
40–38	Parthian invasion
40–37	Antigonus king and high priest
37–4	Herod the Great
4 BC–AD 6	Archelaus ethnarch of Judaea and Samaria
AD 6–41	Judaea ruled by Roman prefects/procurators
41–44	Herod Agrippa I king
44–66	Judaea ruled by Roman procurators
66–74	Jewish Revolt
70	Fall of Jerusalem
74	Fall of Masada
132–135	Second Jewish Revolt