

International Colloquium

The Dead Sea Scrolls and Pauline Literature
« Les manuscrits de la Mer Morte et la littérature paulinienne »

Metz, June 14-16, 2011

Research Center « Écritures », Paul Verlaine University, Metz

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The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls since 1947 has deeply transformed our knowledge of the Judaism of the Second Temple Period. The possible connection of these manuscripts with the writings of the early Christian communities has been object of debate during the last 50 years. The letters of Paul have had a special place on this debate, since on the one hand they are the oldest writings of Christianity, and on the other hand its writer, Paul, is a Jew who dialogues with the Judaism of his time.

The publication of the Dead Sea Scrolls has played a fundamental role in the renewal of the studies of the Pauline writings, starting with the publication of *Paul and the Palestinian Judaism* by Ed Parish Sanders in 1977, followed by the many writings of James D. G. Dunn (particularly his *Jesus, Paul, and the Law: Studies in Mark and Galatians*, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1990; *The Theology of Paul the Apostle*, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1998, and *The New Perspectives on Paul: Revised Edition*, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2007). But in spite of that, and with the exception of the collection of articles edited by J. Murphy O'Connor in 1968 (*Paul and Qumran*, Melbourne, 1968, reprinted in New York, 1990), the studies on the relationship between the Qumran texts and the Letters of Paul are dispersed in different books dealing either with Paul or with the Dead Sea Scrolls, and a global synthesis is sorely lacking.

This colloquium, centered on the relationship of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Pauline literature, intends to fill this gap. It aims, on the one hand, to bring together the best specialists worldwide in order to produce a synthesis of the questions and the results reached during the last decades, and, on the other hand, to open new perspectives for future research, at a moment when all the Dead Sea Scrolls are finally published in the *Discoveries in the Judaean Desert Series*.

The colloquium will use a multidisciplinary approach, with the participation of epigraphists, historians, sociologists, theologians, experts on the Scrolls and on the literature of the period. The colloquium is the result of the close collaboration of the Research Center "Écritures" (EA 3943) of the Paul Verlaine University in Metz, the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgique) and the University of Zurich (Swiss).