Implicit throughout this book is the assumption that Paul’s attitude towards the Scriptures was essentially the same as that of his fellow Jews at Qumran. In fact, of course, it was very different. The Qumranians were totally committed to the perfect observance of the exact interpretation of the law enshrined in the Scriptures. Paul, for his part, was radically antinomian. He flatly repudiated the demands of the law; it had no authority as far as he was concerned. How then did Paul view the Scriptures from which he quotes? Did he continue to regard some parts as the word of God, a character that he denied to other portions? These questions are never raised by Lim even though the answers are of fundamental importance for any understanding of Paul’s hermeneutics. Lim touches the fringes of the issue by rightly insisting that Christ is the key to the way Paul handled the Scriptures, but fails to penetrate to any depth because he makes no attempt to spell out precisely how this key functioned.

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While scholars debate the fine points of Scrolls research, tabloids trumpet yet another Scroll prediction of extraterrestrials invading the Earth in the early twenty-first century. Who will bring the results of Dead Sea Scrolls studies to specific lay constituencies in a responsible manner? Randall Price has set out to do this very thing for evangelical Christians.

The author is president of World of the Bible Ministries, Inc., a non-profit, educational ministry based in Texas. Though not a specialist in DSS studies, Price is no backwoods preacher; he studied Semitic languages and archaeology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and holds a Ph.D. in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. He has authored several books on biblical “prophecy” (more on this later) and has produced a video version of this one.

Price covers all of the basics that one might expect in an introduction to the Scrolls—the geography of the Qumran region (Ch. 1), the
discovery of the Scrolls (Ch. 2), the delay in publication and the
"scandal" that eventually emerged, culminating in the climactic events
of 1991 (Ch. 3), the contents of the Scrolls (Ch. 4), the identity of
the community that preserved them (Ch. 5), the significance of
the Scrolls for understanding early Judaism (Ch. 6), the Scrolls and the
Old Testament (Chs. 6 and 7), the Scrolls and the New Testament
(Ch. 8), the main ideas set forth in the sectarian Scrolls (Chs. 9-13),
questions concerning the relationship between the Christian under-
standing of the Messiah (Ch. 14) and the historical Jesus (Ch. 15) with
the Scrolls/Qumran community, the proposals of "sensationalistic"
scholars—i.e., Allegro, Thiering, and Eisenman (Ch. 17), the current
political situation and its implications for Scroll research (Ch. 19),
and new searches and excavations (Ch. 20). The scholar might be sur-
prised to find chapters on self-styled "archaeologist" Vendyl Jones
(Ch. 16) and the Scrolls and "cults," specifically Mormonism and the
New Age movement (Ch. 8), but such topics are not altogether out of
order, given Price's audience. Jones recruits both money and volun-
teers from among those whom Price calls "undiscerning Christians,"
and evangelicals take seriously the importance of maintaining the truth
of the Gospel in the face of what are perceived to be modern day aber-
rations, including those who would attempt—wrongly, Price argues—
to use the Scrolls to promote their beliefs.

Price spares no effort in his attempt to bring clarity to his presen-
tation. First, he includes numerous aids for the reader. In addition to
photographs, the reader finds maps (of the Dead Sea region, of the
cave discoveries, of the Copper Scroll locations, of the Qumran pla-
tau), charts (of Old Testament MSS among the Scrolls, of Mk. 6:52-
53 and 7Q5, of the prophetic and the eschatological perspectives of
the Scrolls, of differences between Jesus and the Essenes, and of the
history of the Second Temple period), and artists' reconstructions (of
the Qumran community, of the "Scriptorium," of the Temple City and
the Temple of the Temple Scroll). There is also a 20-page chronological
history of the Scrolls (which includes a history of the sect, discov-
eries, research, and excavations), a 13-page glossary of technical
terms, and a 2-page bibliography of suggested readings. Second, Price
makes extensive use of interviews with major Scrolls scholars, whom
he quotes frequently at key points in his discussion; this serves to
reduce the distance between scholar and lay reader. A more reader-
friendly introduction to the Scrolls would be difficult to find.

Overall, Price's treatment of Scroll research is quite balanced. He