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3.01 THE BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGIST for Sept., 1951, is devoted to a technical discussion of the "Dead Sea Scrolls". These were found in a cave near Jericho, at the northwest corner of the Dead Sea, in 1947, and were finally turned over to the American Schools of Oriental Research for translation and publication. This newsletter has been prepared by Bruce W. Warren as an aid to Society members in understanding the significance of the scrolls.

The "Conventers" spoken of in the DSD (Dead Sea Scrolls of Discipline) have been connected with a Jewish acct called the "Essenes." (See Bibl. Arch., Sept., 1950.)

Following are some teachings of the DSD of special interest to the Latter Day Saints:

I REVELATION AND DISPENSATIONS. "All who dedicate themselves to do God's ordinances shall be brought into the covenant of friendship, to be united in God's counsel, and to walk before him perfectly in all things that are revealed according to their appointed seasons..." (pp. 7 8)

"That means studying the Torah which He commanded through Moses, so as to do according to all that was revealed time after time and according to that which the prophets revealed through his Holy Spirit." (p. 32)

II PURPOSE OF THE COVENANTERS, AND CHRIST'S FIRST COMING. "Now when these things come to pass in Israel to the community, according to these rules, they will separate themselves from the midst of the session or habitation or perverse men to go to the wilderness to clear there the way of Huha (a synonym for Yahweh), as it is written: 'In the wilderness clear the way of (Yahweh): level in the desert a highway for our God.'" (p. 32)

"Only the sons of Aaron shall have authority in matters of law and property; and according to their judgment the decision shall be reached in regard to every rule of the men of the community and in regard to all the property of the holy men who walk in perfection.... and they shall not depart from the whole counsel of the Torah to walk in all their hardness of heart, but they shall be ruled by the first laws with which the men of the community began to be disciplined until the coming of a 'Prophet' and the 'Anointed ones' of Aaron and Israel." (p. 34) (Footnote 19, p. 35 says, "The 'Prophet' is doubtless the Messiah, whose followers ('anointed ones') will consist of two classes.")

III REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM. "He cannot be justified while he conceals his stubbornness of heart and with darkened mind looks upon the ways of light. While in iniquity, he cannot be reckoned perfect. He cannot purify himself by atonement, nor cleanse himself with water (-) for (-) impurity, nor sanctify himself with seas or rivers (the Cairo-Damascene Covenant Fragments found in 1896, in X, 11-13. forbids 'baptism in bodies of water insufficient for immersion.')...Unclean! Unclean! shall he be as long as he rejects God's laws." (p. 12)

IV HOLY SPIRIT. "Must have his Holy Spirit to get life-

giving light." (p. 8)

V THE UNITED ORDER. (?) "All who dedicate themselves to His Truth shall bring all their mind and their strength and their property into the community of God..." (p. 9).

VI PRE-EXISTENCE. "For the wise man's use, that he may instruct and teach all the sons of light in the succeeding generations of all mankind with regard to all the varieties of their spirits with their traits, with regard to their works in their respective societies, and with regard to the visitation of their afflictions as well as their times of well-being. From the God of knowledge exists all that is and will be. Before they existed, He established all the design of them." (pp. 10-11).

VII RESURRECTION. "He has not held fast to the Rejection of his life....." (p. 12).

VIII ETERNAL LIFE AND MARRIAGE. "These are the counsel of the spirit for all the sons of truth in the world; and the visitation of all who walk by it (spirit of Truth) consists in healing and abundant peace during length of days, and to bear seed with all everlasting blessings, and eternal rejoicing in the victorious life of eternity, and a crown of glory, together with raiment of majesty in eternal light." (p.16). (Footnote 18, p. 17: 'The mention of "Crown" just before favors the meaning "garment." Cf. "garments of glory," Apocrypha, Enoch 62:15, II Enoch 22:8).

IX TWO OPPOSING FORCES, DEGREES OF GLORY, AND MESSIAH'S SECOND COMING. "Now, He created man for dominion over the world and assigned him two spirits by which they walk until the season of His visitation. They are the spirits of truth and perversion. ...And it is because of the angel of darkness that all the sons of men go astray...and all the spirits allotted to him strive to trip the sons of light." (p.14).

"Now God through the mysteries of His understanding and through His glorious wisdom has appointed a period for the existence of wrong-doing; but at the season of visitation, He will destroy it forever; and then the truth of the world will appear forever." (p.16).

".....For God has set them in equal parts until the last time, and He has put eternal enmity between their divisions.....so as to give the upright insight into the knowledge of the Most High and into wisdom of the sons of Heaven, to give the perfect way of understanding. For God has chosen them for an eternal covenant so that theirs is all the glory of Adam, and there will be no wrong-doing, and there be put to shame all works of fraud....For God has set them (two spirits) in equal parts until the period of the decree and making of the New; and He knows the action of their deeds for all periods of their striving; and He apportioned them to mankind that man may know good and evil, and that he may allot the portions to every living being according to his spirit within him until the season of visitation." (pp. 16-18).

X INTERESTING NAMES. Elohim -- p. 33; Yahweh (Jehovah) -- pp. 33, 49; Messiah -- p. 51; Michael, prince of lights -- p. 50.

(NOTE: A date of the first century B. C. is now well

established for the DSD, hence these teachings were known even  
before Christ's time. See Bibl, Arch., Feb., 1951)