

The answer is that this was the region of the Decapolis. Since these were pagan cities, it was quite natural to find swine in the area. Thus archeology can help us to understand the local customs and the general geographical situation, and may at various points give us a better understanding of the meaning of particular words or particular situations.

F. Derivation.

There have been many attempts to prove that Christianity is merely a development from some pagan cult or other ancient belief. None of these has been more effective in reaching a great number of people than the one that has based itself upon the Dead Sea Scrolls. An American journalist, Edmund Wilson, has written a romantic story of the finding of the scrolls, and has proceeded to draw from the non-Biblical scrolls all sorts of utterly unwarranted conclusions, detrimental to Christianity, and these have been widely publicized. Wilson's book has been translated into many languages. In it he says: "The monastery of the Essenes, more than Bethlehem or Nazareth, is the cradle of Christianity." An English scholar, J. M. Allegro, has declared over the radio that Christian ideas about Christ were derived from the Qumran sect's ideas of their own teacher, who, he says, they thought of as "persecuted and crucified, and expected to rise again as priestly Messiah." A French scholar, Professor Dupont-Sommer, says that "the Galilean Teacher, as he is presented to us in the New Testament writings, appears in many respects as an astonishing re-incarnation of the Teacher of Righteousness." A Swedish journalist has concluded as follows: "Christianity has come into existence in a completely natural way, as a Jewish sect. It is not necessary to believe in the miracle that God has interfered by a special act of mercy in order to save humanity."