

Prayer Texts in the Bible

**The Bible in the Life of the Church Colloquium
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1. The Dead Sea Scrolls: approximately 900 manuscripts, most only preserved in very fragmentary and damaged state, found 1948–1956 in caves near the Dead Sea

The “library” of a Jewish sect, perhaps the Essenes described by Josephus, Philo and Pliny:
Manuscripts were written *c.* 150 BC –70 CE (site of Qumran destroyed in Jewish Revolt)

A large part of this collection is prayers and psalms; over two hundred texts, many of them that we had never known before. There are also many copies of the biblical Psalter.

2. **Psalms:**

Prayers for each day of the week (4Q504)

Rubrics: 'Prayer for the fourth day.' 'Prayer for Sabbath'

Beginning: 'Remember, O Lord'

Narrative retelling: over the seven days, goes from Adam to the exile

e.g. 'Adam, our father, you fashioned in the image of your Glory . . . the breath of life you blew into his nostrils and intelligence and knowledge . . . in the Garden of Eden'

Petition: 'have pity on us ... forgive our iniquity and our sin ... strengthen our heart to do ...'

Blessing: '**[Blessed be] the Lord who taught us ...**' Communal response 'amen, amen'

(Prayers for each day of the month: morning and evening (4Q503)

Rubrics: "On the x-

