

NEW TESTAMENT ABSTRACTS

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S. PAGANINI, *Qumran le rovine della luna. Il monastero e gli esseni, una certezza o un'ipotesi?*, Studi biblici 61 (Bologna: Dehoniane, 2011, paper €21) 223 pp., 19 figs. Bibliography. ISBN: 978-88-10-41013-4.

Taking his title from an Arabic translation of “Khirbet Qumran” as “the ruins of the moon,” Paganini, who teaches at the University of Innsbruck, discusses the discovery, the acquisition, and publication of the manuscripts from the Judean Desert; mystics, politicians, and revolutionaries—the ancient world of the manuscripts; the ruins of Khirbet Qumran and the Essenes; why the manuscripts were hidden in the eleven caves; the relationships between the Qumran settlement, the caves, and the manuscripts; and the Jesus movement in the context of its historical setting. Paganini concludes that the Dead Sea scrolls are not simply the writings of a small group of persons who lived at Qumran but rather present a representative cross section of Jewish society in the time immediately preceding the development of Christianity.