



Timothy Schwab | Anna Zamoranos

**THE GREAT  
BIBLE TREASURE  
OF JOHN THE  
BAPTIST**

BOOK 3

ADVENTURES IN THE LIGHT SERIES

**Echo**  
**in the Desert**

# Echo

## in the Desert

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OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

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BOOK 3  
ADVENTURES  
IN THE LIGHT  
SERIES







*Parent Study Notes  
In Back.*

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## Dedication

For every child who listens  
for Yahuah’s voice.

The adventure begins...





A young shepherd boy  
chases his goat near the  
caves.

He picks up a rock and  
tosses it into the shadows.  
CRACK! — then a hollow  
sound echoes back.

“It’s like the cave is talking!”  
he laughs.

**Meet Nubi the Ibex!**

Nubi lives on the rocky cliffs  
near the Dead Sea.

He’s curious, brave, and loves exploring the  
desert where John the Baptist once walked.  
As you read, see if you can spot Nubi hiding  
on every page turn!

He might peek from a cave, peek over a  
bridge, or balance on a cliff.

**Fun Fact:**

Found in 1947  
by Bedouin  
shepherd boys.





**Fun Fact:**

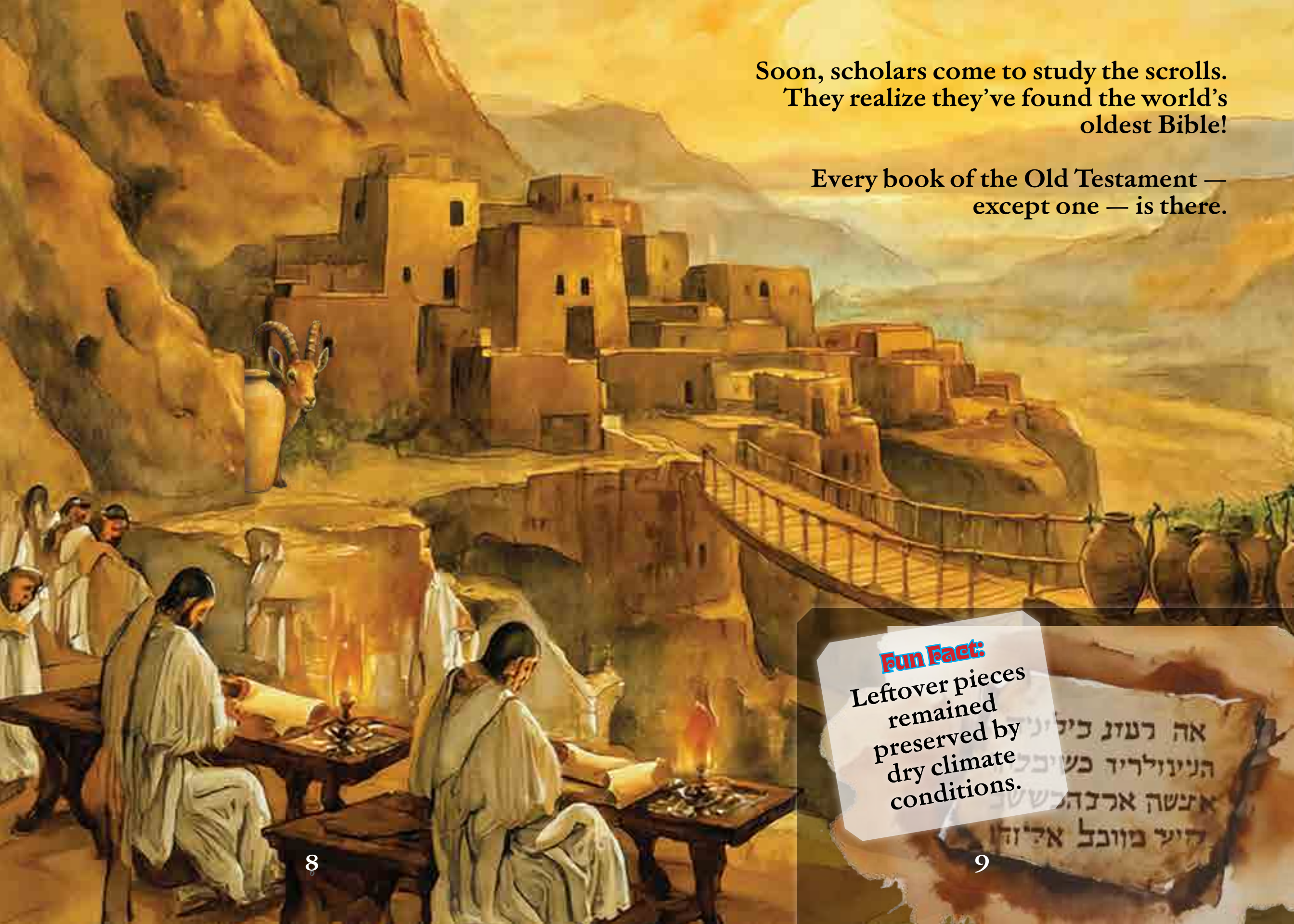
Over 900  
scrolls  
discovered  
in 11 caves,  
kept in Jars.



Curious, the boys climb in.  
They find tall clay jars,  
sealed for thousands of  
years.

Inside — old rolled scrolls  
of leather and parchment!  
“Treasure!” Juma shouts.



A painting depicting a desert city with scholars studying scrolls. In the foreground, two men in white robes are seated at wooden tables, writing on long scrolls. They are illuminated by small lamps. In the background, a city with terraced buildings is built into a desert landscape. A goat is visible on the left, and a bridge spans a chasm in the middle ground. The sky is a warm, golden color.

Soon, scholars come to study the scrolls.  
They realize they've found the world's  
oldest Bible!

Every book of the Old Testament —  
except one — is there.

**Fun Fact:**  
Leftover pieces  
remained  
preserved by  
dry climate  
conditions.



“Once, long ago, this place was full of people called the Sons of Light.”  
They loved Yahuah’s Word so much that they copied every scroll by hand.

**Fun Fact:**

They ate locusts with honey.

**E-W-W-W!**

John’s diet of locusts and honey is described twice in their writings.



But some priests in the Temple had become proud. They were called the Wicked Priests. They stopped teaching truth and started serving themselves.

So the faithful priests left Jerusalem. They came to the desert to keep the Scriptures safe.



**Fun Fact:**



The Dead Sea is so salty you can float like a cork!  
**WOW!**





**Fun Fact:**

Written by  
priests called  
Sons of Light.

In their stone compound by the  
Dead Sea, they built homes,  
gardens, baths, and libraries.  
Bridges reached out to the  
caves, where they stored the  
precious scrolls.





They studied, prayed, and  
waited for the Savior Yahuah  
promised.  
And one day, a boy was born in  
their family line —  
his name was John.

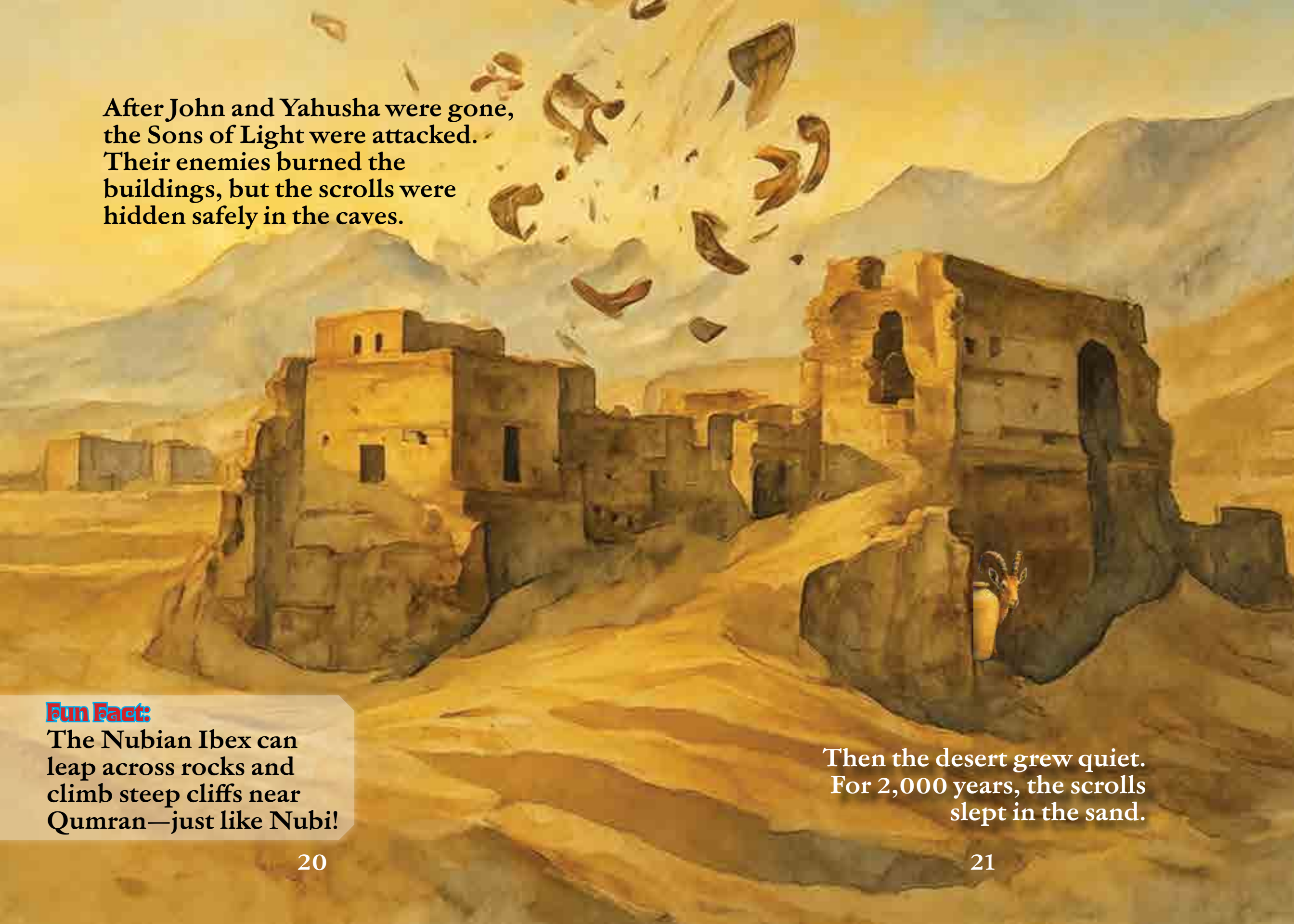
When John grew up,  
he lived in this desert.  
He ate locusts and  
honey (ewww!) just  
like the old scrolls  
described!  
He shouted,  
“Make straight the  
way of Yahuah!”



John baptized many people in this area.  
And one day — Yahusha came.

When John saw Him,  
he cried, “Behold, the  
Lamb of Elohim!”





After John and Yahusha were gone,  
the Sons of Light were attacked.  
Their enemies burned the  
buildings, but the scrolls were  
hidden safely in the caves.

**Fun Fact:**

The Nubian Ibex can  
leap across rocks and  
climb steep cliffs near  
Qumran—just like Nubi!

Then the desert grew quiet.  
For 2,000 years, the scrolls  
slept in the sand.




**Fun Fact:**

Almost every book of the Old Testament was found there — proof the Bible is true!

Until one day... a shepherd's stone made an echo.  
The words of Yahuah were heard again.

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but My Word stands forever."






Now the scrolls are kept  
safe in museums.  
Everyone can see that  
**Yahuah's Word never  
changed — and never will.**





A desert landscape at sunset with a large white circle in the sky and a vertical line with an arrow pointing up. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue, with scattered clouds. The desert floor is sandy and rocky, with some low-lying vegetation. In the distance, there are mountains and a body of water. A small white circle is visible in the sky to the left of the main circle. A vertical line with an arrow pointing up is drawn from the desert floor to the main circle. Another vertical line with an arrow pointing up is drawn from the desert floor to a smaller circle in the sky to the right. A small white circle is also visible in the sky to the left of the main circle.

And if you listen  
closely,  
you can still hear the  
echo in the desert —  
the cry of John, and  
**the voice of truth that  
never fades.**



“Prepare the  
way of Yahuah.  
Make His paths  
straight.” —  
Isaiah 40:3

ISAIAH  
40:3

**Fun Fact:**

This  
community  
cites this  
verse  
as their  
mission.



Can You Find Nubi the Ibex?  
*Nubi hid somewhere on each page  
turn of this book!*  
*Look closely behind scroll jars,  
palm trees, and desert caves.*  
*Did you spot him on the bridges?*  
*What about when the echo filled  
the sky?*

*Answer: See Parent Study Notes Header, p. 1.*



Answer: 14.

## PARENT STUDY NOTES:

### Why It Matters:

*This discovery shows the Bible's accuracy — John the Baptist's community guarded Scripture faithfully, and the very words they preserved were found in the Qumran caves.*

## Maps Define Qumran as Bethabara

*From the oldest surviving map (6th century) to the 20th century, historical cartography locates Biblical Bethabara in modern Qumran.*

*Yahusha was baptized there (John 1:28).*

*This is where  
Yahusha was  
baptized — not  
on the opposite  
bank of the  
Jordan  
River.*

## Bethabara: A New Testament Bible Community

*The ancient Bible was  
found in Caves nearby.*

**Bethabara**

(Greek: Βηθαβαρά)

**Beth-Arabah**

(Hebrew: בית הערבה)

**Home of the  
Exiled Temple  
Priests & John  
the Baptist**

*Modern  
Qumran*

*The Essenes lived 25 miles south in Ein Gedi.  
The exiled Temple priests settled here.*

Madaba Map (6th century) — Section labeled Βέθαβαρά τοῦ ἁγίου Ἰωάννου τοῦ βαπτίσματος (“Bethabara, the place of St. John’s baptizing”) appears west of the Jordan River, not northeast where modern tour groups are taken. (Animated recreation of Wikimedia Commons image, Public Domain.)

### Scriptural record:

*Yahusha was baptized by John in “Bethabara beyond Jordan,” a phrase describing the Jordan Valley region as a whole. Coming from the north, He passed southward to Qumran. (John 1:28; 3:26; 10:40)*

*John’s ministry site: John preached in the “Wilderness of Judaea,” which never referred to the entire Jordan Valley. (Matthew 3:1)*

*Joshua 15:61 locates Beth-Arabah on the northwestern tip of the Dead Sea within the wilderness district of Judah—modern Qumran, not Jordan.*

*King David called this same Dead Sea region the “Wilderness of Judah,” where he fled from Saul. (Psalm 63:1) This terrain lies beyond Jordan.*

*John the Baptist lived among the sons of Zadok, the faithful exiled Temple priests, of whom he himself was one.*

*Continued...*



**Primary source:**

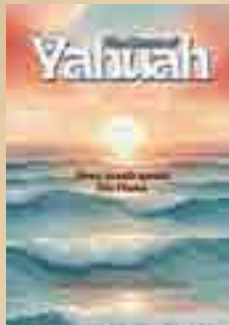
*The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English by Geza Vermes catalogues English translations of the actual Qumran fragments.*

*“The Essene Find”: Archaeology shows the Essene headquarters was at Ein Gedi, about 25 miles south of Qumran — not Qumran itself.*

*No Qumran text identifies its priests as Essenes; archaeology and history both place the Essenes at Ein Gedi, where no biblical scrolls were found.*

*Pliny the Elder likewise located the Essenes 25 miles south of Qumran, confirming the distinction between the two communities.*

## Our First Childrens’ Book Series:



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Yahuah.*



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remains.*



BOOK 3

*Renew the  
true meaning  
and intent of  
the Dead Sea  
Scrolls.*

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When a shepherd's stone woke the words of Yahuah, the echo of truth returned to the world.

A young Bedouin shepherd throws a rock into a cave and hears an echo — but it's not just an echo of sound.

It's the echo of John's voice — the cry that once rang through the wilderness, now returning through time: *"Prepare the way of Yahuah!"*

That "echo" becomes the story's symbol — the voice of truth preserved in the caves until it was time to be heard again.

The adventure leads children through history, discovery, faith, and proof — all wrapped in wonder.



*Restoring Ancient Roots. Rebuilding the Narrative.*

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