

4Q76: Moses, Elijah, Jonah - One-Manuscript Convergence

Dead Sea Scroll post-discovery audit

Manuscript identity

The Israel Antiquities Authority catalogs 4Q76 / 4QXIIa as a Hebrew biblical composition on parchment from Qumran Cave 4, Hasmonean period. A scholarly handbook summary states that 4Q76 preserves parts of Malachi and Jonah plus scant remains of an unidentified third composition.

Surviving textual overlap

4Q76 component	Surviving relevance
Malachi 2:10 through the end	Includes the closing Moses/Elijah unit: Malachi 4:4-6 in Christian versification (3:22-24 Hebrew versification).
Jonah 1:1-5, 7-2:1; 2:7; 3:2 (published reconstruction includes some additions)	Includes some identity and Jonah 3:2, the renewed command to go proclaim to Nineveh.
Malachi 4:4: "Remember ye the law of Moses my servant..."	
Malachi 4:5: "I will send you Elijah the prophet..."	
Jonah 3:2: "Arise, go unto Nineveh..."	

Important correction

Older reconstruction proposed that Jonah immediately followed Malachi in 4Q76. Pajunen and von Weissenberg argue that another composition intervened and that 4Q76 probably contained only three or four short prophetic works. The convergence used here does not require Malachi and Jonah to be adjacent; it requires only that both survive in the same physical manuscript.

Why the convergence is notable

The eclipse analysis independently selected a Moses/Joshua succession motif, Elijah/Carmel, and Jonah/Nineveh. A later manuscript check found that one surviving pre-Christian manuscript contains Jonah and the Malachi ending that explicitly juxtaposes Moses and Elijah. Because the manuscript predates the eclipse by more than two millennia, it cannot have been arranged in response to the 2024 event.

Evidence grade

High: same-manuscript coexistence of Malachi and Jonah; Malachi ending contains Moses/Elijah. **Moderate:** relevance of surviving Jonah 3:2 to the Nineveh edge. **Not established:** supernatural causation or a deliberately encoded 2024 message.

Sources and audit notes

Web addresses are printed for reproducibility. Eclipse durations vary slightly by coordinate, Delta-T convention, and rounding; the report preserves source-specific values rather than silently harmonizing them.

NASA 2024 Where & When

<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/where-when/>

Jonah TX eclipse circumstances

https://solareclipses.com/2024eclipse/communities/cities.html?city_id=39005

Elijah MO totality list

https://eclipse2024.org/eclipse_cities/total/mo

Mount Carmel IL eclipse

<https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/usa/mount-carmel?iso=20240408>

Nineveh IN eclipse

<https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/%404262201?iso=20240408>

Nineveh OH eclipse

https://solareclipses.com/2024eclipse/eclipse_cities/cities.html?city_id=117426

Carmel IN USNO

<https://aa.usno.navy.mil/calculated/eclipse/solar?eclipse=12024&height;=260&label;=Carmel%2C+IN&lon;=39.978&lon;=-86.118&submit;=Get+Data>

Jericho VT eclipse list

https://sandbox.eclipse2024.org/eclipse_cities/total/vt

Joshua TX duration

<https://www.spacegrant.hawaii.edu/newsletters/Newsletter-2024.pdf>

IAA 4Q76 archive

https://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/explore-the-archive/manuscript/4Q76-1?locale=en_US

Oxford Handbook Minor Prophets summary

<https://dokumen.pub/the-oxford-handbook-of-the-minor-prophets-9780190673208-9780190673222-0190673206.html>

Pajunen & von Weissenberg 2015

<https://researchportal.helsinki.fi/en/publications/the-book-of-malachi-manuscript-4q76-4qxii-and-the-formation-of-t/>

Jonah textual witnesses overview

<https://faculty.washington.edu/garmar/AngleonJonah.pdf>