

Why display a Torah Scroll at a Creation Science Booth?



and what exactly is a Torah Scroll?

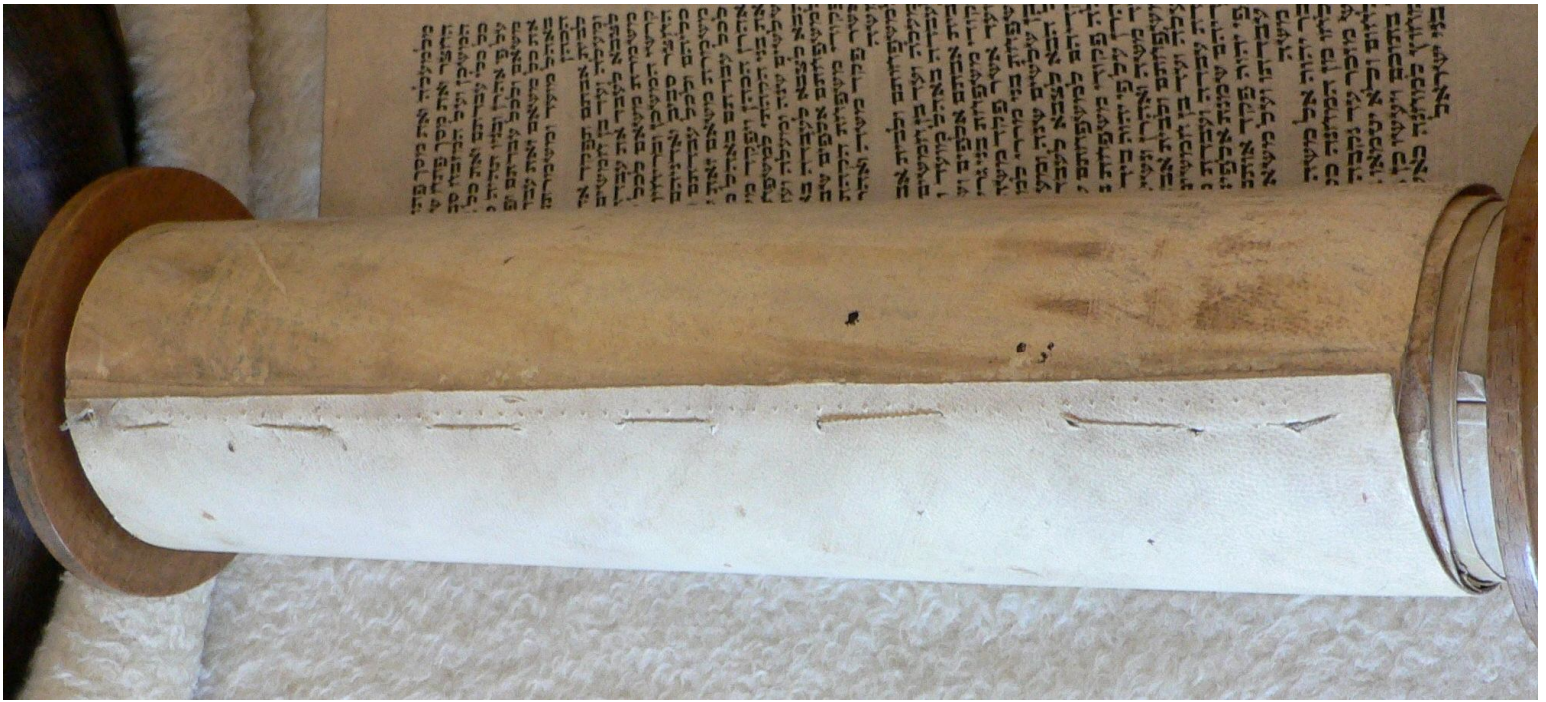
A Torah Scroll contains the first 5 books in the Bible, all hand written in Hebrew, which was the language that Adam spoke. [Not everybody had their language changed at Babel. Those who were living somewhere else continued to speak the original language, which was Hebrew.] And when you are doing Creation Science research, the Hebrew text has a vast amount of details that generally can't be translated into other languages, including English.

[And that's why there is a 'Turning Over Every Stone Hebrew Research Project on this web site. It contains word by word Hebrew research into the first 11 chapters of Genesis. The index for this is <http://www.w-rocs.org/stones/stones7.html>]

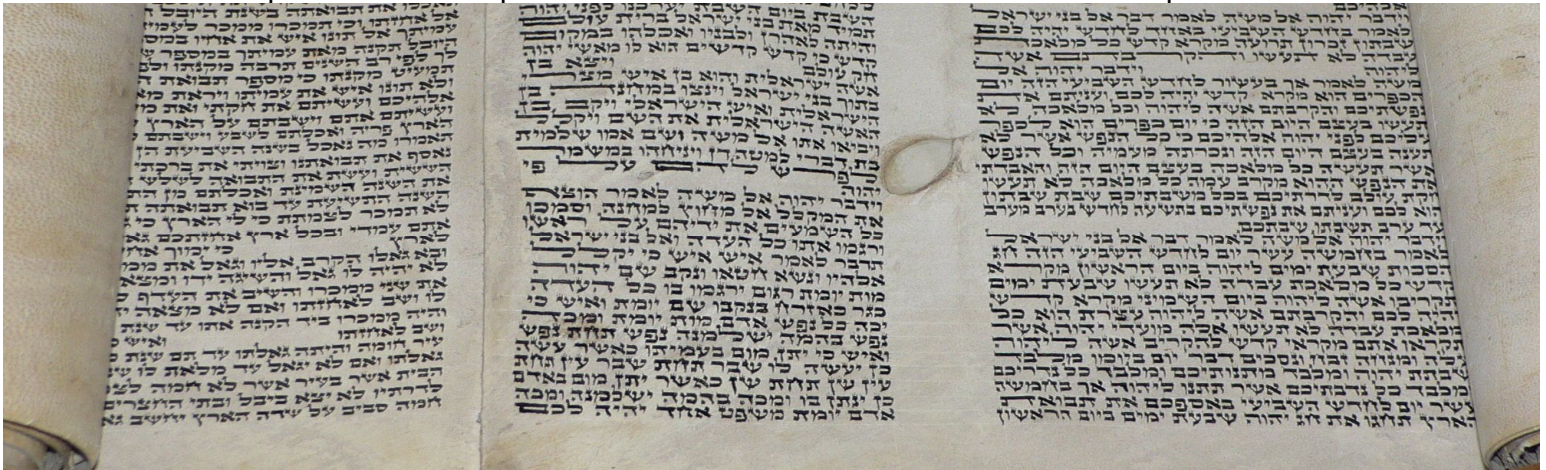
How much does a Torah Scroll cost? New ones range somewhere between \$40,000 to \$75,000, & generally used ones cost somewhere between \$5,000 & \$10,000. How much would you pay to have a copy of God's word, even if it contained just the first 5 books of the Bible?

It took several years for the little Jewish Messianic Congregation to raise the funds to buy the Torah Scroll in these pictures. The goal has continually been for everybody in the congregation to learn to read the Hebrew text. The above Torah Scroll came from Poland & it is 150 years old. It's in excellent condition for as old as it is.

What is a Torah Scroll made out of? If it's a large one, like the one above, it's usually made out of sheep skin parchment, & it's sewn together [French seam style]. Because this scroll is 150 years old, some of the original thread used to sew it together has vanished, but the old seam holes are still visible. The sewing machine would have been something like an old singer that had a foot pedal before there was electricity.



There are some places on this particular Torah Scroll where it has been patched.



And other places where it has been taped.



How often is the Torah studied? The goal is to go through the entire Torah annually together as a congregation. Around the globe, the Jewish community begins with Genesis right after the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) [sometime in September or October in according to the non-Jewish Gregorian Calendar.] & finishes up at the end of Deuteronomy [on 'Simchat Torah', Tishrei 23 according to the Jewish Calendar], right after Yom Kippur, & then begin the whole cycle again! Most of the Torah is thoroughly studied except for the first 11 chapters of Genesis. [& part of the purpose of this web site is to repair that. All the Jewish Brethern who wrote the Brit Hadashah (New Testament) were completely familiar with the first 11 chapters of Genesis!!]

How long has this been going on? The first Torah Scrolls came from Moses, and God told him what to write! I'm not exactly sure when the tradition of going through the entire Torah annually began, but it was well in place before the B'rit Hadashah (New Testament) was written. We are able to figure out when different events took place in the B'rit Hadashah because of what Old Testament passages of scripture were being read during those events.

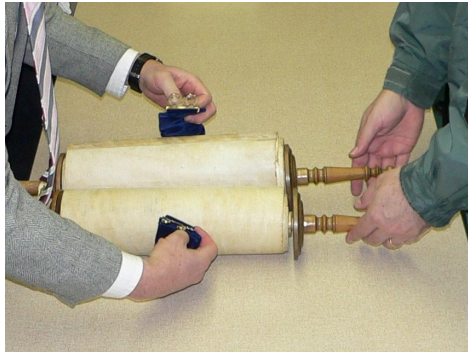
How is a Torah Scroll read? It's read from right to left. The reader points to the words using a yad, which is a little hand at the end of a little pole. (It kind of looks like a pen.) The reason for this is that the Hebrew text is all hand written, so the reader has to be very careful that the ink isn't smudged by the moisture from his or her finger tips. (& for that reason the reader also has to be very careful that he doesn't sneeze or accidently let any moisture from his face fall on it.)



A cover for a Torah Scroll is called a 'Dress'. The one for this Torah Scroll is new.



Here's how we 'dress' the Torah...



WHAT IS A TORAH SCROLL?

w-rocs.org

How is a Torah Scroll carried?



Very carefully by the bottom handles!

[It's kind of like carrying a new born infant!] When you see pictures of people at the Wailing Wall carrying something, it's usually a Torah Scroll!



Then you place it against your shoulder.

[If you would like to learn Hebrew, you can start off by learning the Hebrew alphabet. There's some material about how Messiah is in the Hebrew alphabet in the homeschooling section of this web site, that will help you get started:

http://www.w-rocs.org/homeschool_material/homeschool_material.html]

If you would like to read the weekly Torah Portion 'Notes' written by the leader of the Messianic Jewish Congregation that owns the above Torah Scroll, go to www.bethtephila.org