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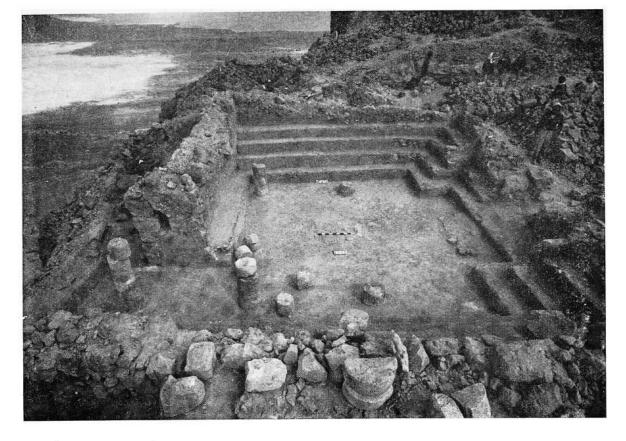
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In answer to the requests of scholars engaged in research in this field, Prof. Yigael Yadin here presents a preliminary publication of the original Hebrew fragments of the Apocryphal Book of Wisdom of Ben Sira found during his recent excavations at Masada on the shores of the Dead Sea. Scholars are now provided with the full contents of the fragments, accompanied by photographs and a preliminary deciphering, as well as annotations and a restoration of the text. The Masada Scroll is the earliest MS of the Book ever found and is probably identical with the original version as written by Ben Sira himself. . These several chapters confirm the authenticity of the Cairo Genizah versions and are 'basically identical' with them; several verses not contained in the Hebrew of the Genizah MSS are here given for the first time in their original language.

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