



A shepherd boy was looking everywhere for a lost goat. He climbed over the sharp rock, near the Dead Sea, searching everywhere. The boy picked up a stone and tossed it into a hole in the side of the hill. The boy stood still and listened. What a strange sound that stone made! Could it have broken something which it hit? This boy was really a little afraid of exploring the dark cave all alone, so he went to get a friend. Together the two boys carefully crept into the cave. They tried to see what it was the rock had hit. Soon they saw some pottery jars. The jars were so old, they were crumbling into pieces. Some one must have hidden these jars here long ago! The boys were excited. They went home to tell their parents about the cave.



Later, scientists discovered almost 500 scrolls in the jars in this cave. Each jar held one or several scrolls covered with soft cloth. This cloth had been coated with wax or tar to help to keep the scroll safe. Very carefully the scientists peeled away the outside covering.

TURN CARD OVER

The scrolls inside had been made from the skins of animals carefully sewn together. Very, very slowly the scientists rolled out the scroll. They did not want to crack or destroy this valuable find. On each scroll were strange markings. These old scrolls contained part of the writings which we have in our Old Testament. One of the jars had almost the whole book of Isaiah. This was the oldest writings of the Old Testament that were ever found. These old scrolls are called the DEAD SEA SCROLLS.

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The DEAD SEA SCROLLS are kept in a museum in Jerusalem. Look in the index of your Childcraft volumes to find out -

What special protection has been planned for the Isaiah scroll if it ever seems to be in any kind of danger?