G-D WILL HONOR US...

Biblical Hebrew manuscripts are the Holy Scripture - received, recorded, and preserved by the Jewish people. They have been carefully copied from the originals throughout the millennia. These scrolls make-up the only complete set in the world that you can see. Walter G. Mize & Mary Ann Mize, founders of the CHRISTIAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION (CHF), through their studies became aware of the necessity of supporting, loving, and reaching out to the nation of Israel and the Jewish people. Over the past several years, people have been interested in these very rare ancient documents, and it has opened doors of communication to our Jewish brothers and sisters, as well as to secular people everywhere. After Walter Mize’s passing, his wife Mary Ann, along with the help of CHF Executive Director Charles Garrett, continues to bring a new awareness of Israel through the Ancient Hebrew Scroll Project.

Charles Garrett
Executive Director

Mary Ann Mize & Walter Mize
CHF Founders
THE TANAKH

The Ancient Hebrew Scroll display contains 16 scrolls which Jewish people refer to as the Hebrew Scriptures (Tanakh), and which Christians call the 39 books of the Old Testament. The Tanakh is an acronym and stands for Torah (instruction), Neviim (prophets), and Ketuvim (writings). Scrolls in the display are unique and are over 250 years old each, with the exception of six scrolls in the collection that were commissioned by CHF when a worldwide search failed to discover those needed to complete the set. The scrolls have been compiled from countries all over the world: Poland, Iraq, Morocco, and Russia to name a few. Each scroll has a look and a story of its own.
ONE SCROLL : FIVE BOOKS

The Torah is the most holy of the sacred writings in Judaism. The Torah is comprised of the first five books of the Christian Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. To date, CHF has nine Torah scrolls and they are housed in a Holy Ark. The term “Torah” refers to Judaism’s founding legal and ethical religious texts. Jewish religious tradition ascribes authorship of the Torah to Moses through a process of divine inspiration. Torah reading involves taking the scroll out of its Ark, reading excerpts from the Torah with a special tune, and putting the scroll back into the Ark.

Ashkenazi Torah
This type of Torah is used among the Ashkenazi Jews and is usually dressed in a cloth covering and sometimes decorated with a sterling silver breastplate. One of the Lithuanian Torahs in the collection came from Iraq and is written on cowhide.

Sephardic Torah
This type of Torah is used among Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews and is usually in an ornamental sterling silver or wooden case. The top is decorated with a Torah crown. One of the Sephardic Torahs in the collection dates back to the 17th century and its origin comes from Spain or Morocco.
This is a very rare complete Torah scroll hand written in the 15th Century, on Deerskin parchment made from the whole hide rather than split hide. The origin of the scroll is from Morocco and written by three scribes. A Sefer Torah contains 304,805 letters, all of which must be duplicated precisely by a trained sofer ("scribe"), an effort which may take as long as approximately one and a half years.
FORMER & LATTER PROPHETS

Former Prophets (Neviim Rishonim), contains the narrative books: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings. Jewish tradition counts I & II Samuel as one book and I & II Kings as one book.

Latter Prophets (Neviim Aharonim), contains prophecies in the form of Biblical poetry. There are 12 latter prophet books: Amos, Joel, Hosea, Micah, Jonah, Obadiah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Nahum, Malachi, Haggai, and Zechariah. All these books are written as one scroll. This scroll was written in the late 17th Century in Israel. It made its way from Jerusalem to Cleburne in 2008.
A Haftorah is a series of selections from the books of Neviim (prophets) and is read in a synagogue as part of Jewish religious practices. Blessings precede and follow the reading. It is said that this piece was stabbed with bayonets by the Nazis during WWII. It was written in the 1700's in Israel and survived the Holocaust making its way to Cleburne in 2007.
THIRD AND FINAL SECTION:

Found among the Writings within the Hebrew scriptures, I and II Chronicles form one book, along with Ezra and Nehemiah which form a single unit entitled "Ezra-Nehemiah". Collectively, eleven books are included in the Ketuvim and divided into three sections.

Poetic Books: Psalms, Proverbs, Job
Five Megillot: Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther
Other Books: Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles
This Esther scroll is from Jerusalem during the 17th century and opened to the names of Haman's 10 sons. It survived the Holocaust and World War II and came to live in Cleburne in 2008.
Types of Materials Permitted

Gum Arabic
Sap from the Acacia Tree that is boiled with Gall Nuts, a little ash, and water forming a paste to use as dye for writing. Jewish scribes will use the dye for writing. They dip the feather quill in the dye (ink) and write on sheepskin, deerskin, or almost any kosher animal skin.

Gall Nuts
Small, hard, acron-like nuts, which grow on olive trees in the Holy Lands.

Writing the Scroll
After preparation of the animal skin, the scribe must mark out the parchment using the sargel (“ruler”) ensuring the guidelines are straight. Very strict rules about the position and appearance of the Hebrew letters are observed.
Shofar

A trumpet made of a ram's horn, blown by the ancient Hebrews to call people to war, worship, and to pray.

Yad

Wood or metal “pointers” usually long and slender pieces with a facsimile of a hand and pointing finger. A Yad allows the Rabbi to read and show the scroll without touching it with bare skin.