

The Deuterocanonical Books

Deuterocanonical Books

**meaning of Deuterocanonical?
which books?
when written?
what language?**

Deuterocanonical Books

meaning of
Deuterocanonical?

“second canon”

Deuterocanonical Books

which books?

Tobit, Judith, I & II Maccabees
Baruch, Wisdom, Sirach

Deuterocanonical Books

when written?

Between early 2nd & late 1st
Century BC

Deuterocanonical Books

what language?

most in Hebrew, then Greek
some originally in Greek

The Deutrocanonical Books

- A) Books in the Roman (Catholic), Greek, and Slavonic Bibles:

1) Tobit

2) Judith

3) Additions to the Book of Esther

4) Wisdom of Solomon

5) Joshua the son of Sirach

6) Baruch

7) Additions to the Book of Daniel :

Prayer of Azaria and the song of the three youth

Susanna

Bel and the Dragon

8) I Maccabees

9) II Maccabees



The Deutrocanonical Books

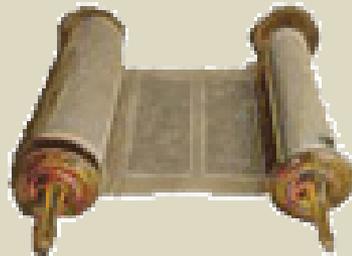
- B) Books in the Greek and Slavonic Bibles; not in the Roman Catholic Canon

10) I Esdras

11) Prayer of Manasseh

12) Psalm 151

13) III Maccabees



Deuterocanonicals: Book Lengths

Baruch
6 chapters

Tobit
14 Chapters

II Maccabees
15 Chapters

I Maccabees
16 Chapters

Judith
16 Chapters

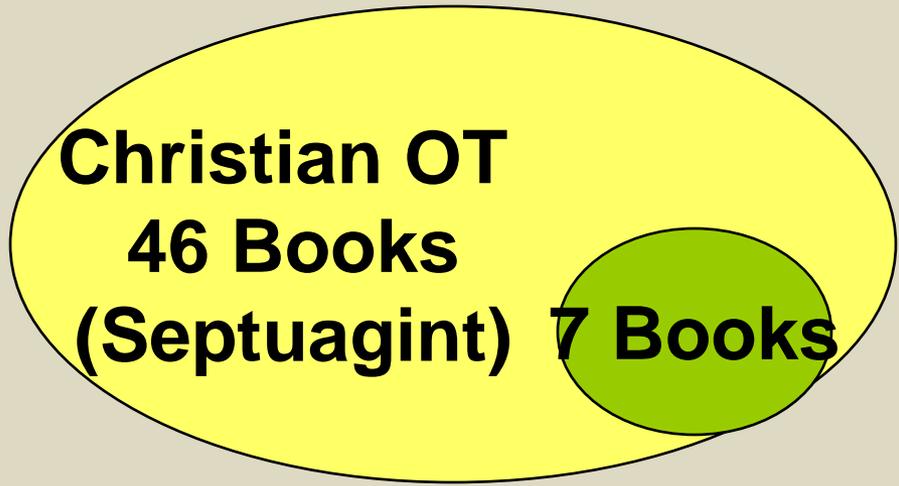
Wisdom
19 Chapters

Sirach
51 Chapters

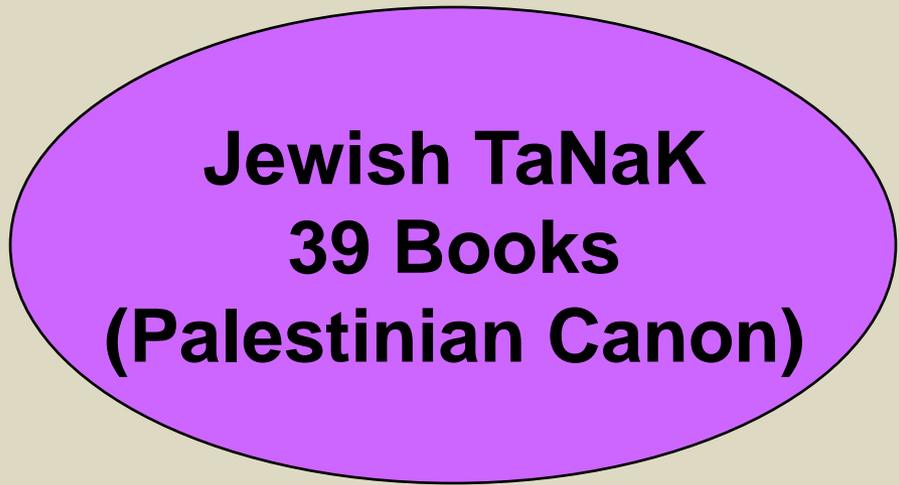
How did *Christians* at the time of Christ, and shortly thereafter, view their sacred scriptures?

Was there a Christian OT canon?

Septuagint vs later Jewish Canon



**Used from time of Jesus
and throughout the NT**



**Not decided earlier than
90 AD or 3rd Century AD**

Deuterocanonicals in the NT

New Testament use of the Deuterocanonicals

- **Over 70 references in NT to Deuterocanonicals**
 - > 30 in Gospels/Acts
 - > 20 in St. Paul letters
 - > 20 in remaining NT (~13 in Revelation)
- **Gospels' use:**
 - “sheep without a shepherd” (Judith 11:19)
 - “seed on rocky ground, no root” (Sirach 40:15)
 - Jesus calling God his Father (Wisdom 2:16)
 - “takes away branches not bearing fruit” (Wisdom 4:5)
- **St. Paul's use:**
 - “sin and death entering the world” (Wisdom 2:4)
 - pagan sacrifices are to demons, not God (Baruch 4:7)
 - “suit of armor” language (Wisdom 5:17-20)

Why do Orthodox and Catholics embrace the 7 books, while Protestants reject them?

- **Orthodox and Catholics accept the 7 books because they were part of the Septuagint, the first OT text of early Christianity (Church Fathers)**
- **Protestants reject them on 2 grounds:**
 - **Jews didn't accept the books**
 - **Certain doctrine taught are "Catholic" doctrines**
 - **Prayers for the dead (Tobit 12:12; 2 Maccabees 12:39-45)**
 - **Intercession of those in heaven (2 Maccabees 15:14)**
 - **Intercession of angels (Tobit 12:12-15)**
- **Protestants accepted the 27 NT books authorized by the Orthodox and Catholic Church, but reject part of the OT (for faulty reasons)**

Deuterocanonicals lengths

Book	Chapters	Verses
I Maccabees	16	922
II Maccabees	15	556
Tobit	14	245
Judith	16	340
Baruch	6	213
Wisdom	19	436
Sirach	51	1372

Book of Tobit

- **Dating: early 2nd Century BC**
- **Setting: 8th Century BC (fall of North 721 BC)**
- **Text: Hebrew (original), Greek (surviving)**
- **Length: 14 Chapters**
- **Themes:**
 - **God answers prayers and rewards the faithful**
 - **Angels/Demons are active in affairs**
 - **Emphasis on prayer, fasting and almsgiving**
 - **Maintenance of Jewish identity in Exile is critical**
 - **Strong wisdom themes**

Book of Judith

- **Dating: mid 2nd – early 1st Century BC**
- **Setting: 6th Century BC (assault on Judah)**
- **Text: Hebrew (original), Greek (surviving)**
- **Length: 16 Chapters**
- **Themes:**
 - **Overt fiction is the literary medium**
 - **Tale of unlikely hero delivering her people**
 - **Strong belief in one God & fidelity to the God & law**
 - **God is in control of history, saving his people**
 - **God delivers in unusual ways**

Book of I Maccabees

- **Dating: mid-late 2nd Century BC (130s?)**
- **Setting: ~175 to ~134 BC**
- **Text: Hebrew (original), Greek (surviving)**
- **Length: 16 Chapters**
- **Themes:**
 - **Allegiance to the law of God**
 - **Preservation of Jewish cult and identity**
 - **Foundational story for Hanukkah**
 - **Connection to Jewish history**
 - **God saved Jews thru the Maccabees**

Book of II Maccabees

- **Dating: late 2nd Century BC (shortly after 1 Maccabees)**
- **Setting: overlaps with 1 Maccabees – only covering 20-25 yrs**
- **Text: Greek (original)**
- **Length: 15 Chapters**
- **Themes:**
 - **Theological reflection on 1 Maccabees**
 - **Stresses martyrdom as a witness to faith**
 - **Introduces “new” themes/concepts**
 - **Creation out of nothing (7:28)**
 - **Resurrection/Afterlife (7:9,14)**
 - **Prayers/sacrifices for the dead (12:38-46)**
 - **Prayers from the dead (15:14)**

Book of Baruch

- **Dating: early – middle 2nd Century BC (180-150)**
- **Setting: post-Exile Babylon (6th Century BC)**
- **Text: Hebrew (original), Greek (surviving)**
- **Length: 6 Chapters**
- **Themes:**
 - **Explores finding God outside of Promised Land**
 - **Theologically conservative: sin/guilt, contrition, deliverance – lacking sense of afterlife**
 - **Strong monotheistic emphasis**
 - **Prophet plays a strong role in reminding the exiles to hope**
 - **Strong connectedness to Jerusalem, even from afar**

Book of Sirach

- **Dating: 2nd Century BC (200-175) (translation 132)**
- **Text: Hebrew (original), Greek (surviving)**
- **Length: 51 Chapters**
- **Themes:**
 - **A collection of moral instructions, proverbs & ethical essays**
 - **Offers a more conservative response to Hellenization –true wisdom found in Jewish history (heavy integration of history)**
 - **Heavy connection of wisdom with Jewish cult/priesthood**
 - **Jewish wisdom trumps wisdom of others**
 - **“this life” orientation (body/soul dichotomy, afterlife absent)**

Book of Wisdom

- **Dating: early 1st Century BC (probably last written)**
- **Text: likely Greek (original)**
- **Length: 19 Chapters**
- **Themes:**
 - **Written in Greek, saturated with Jewish themes**
 - **Critique of the traditional notion of retribution**
 - **Sacred history is important to identity**
 - **Developed notions of soul/spirit and afterlife**
 - **Personified Wisdom (picked up in NT, applied to Jesus)**

Summary

SHARED Themes

- **God is One: Rigid Monotheism**
- **Fidelity to the Law of God**
- **Extolling the great story of Israel/Jewish past**
- **Prayer, preceded by a contrite heart, is key**
- **History is God's stage**

Summary

UNIQUE Themes

- God saves thru the lowly (Judith)
- Angels and demons are amongst us (Tobit)
- Concrete notions of resurrection and afterlife emerged later in time (II Maccabees, Wisdom)
- Preservation of cult/law/way of life should be achieved at all costs (Judith, I Maccabees)
- Wisdom (personified in Wisdom), found in creation & law (Baruch) found in history (Sirach)

The Book of Tobit



Tobit

- The account of Tobit, a devout Jew in exile, and of his son Tobias.
- *2:1 When I arrived home and my wife Anna and my son Tobias were restored to me, at the feast of Pentecost, which is the sacred festival of the seven weeks, a good dinner was prepared for me and I sat down to eat. 2:2 Upon seeing the abundance of food I said to my son, "Go and bring whatever poor man of our brethren you may find who is mindful of the Lord, and I will wait for you."*
- Despite his many good works, Tobit is mysteriously blinded and despairingly begs God to take his life.

Tobit

- At the same time in Ecbatana one Sarah, who is afflicted by a demon (Asmodeus=“destroyer”) that has killed her seven husbands on their wedding night, also asks God for death. (Ch. 3)
- God hears both prayers and sends the archangel Raphael to help.
 - *3:16 The prayer of both was heard in the presence of the glory of the great God.*
 - *3:17 And Raphael was sent to heal the two of them...*

Tobit

- Sent by his father on business to a distant city, to recover some funds, the young Tobias and his dog are guided by Raphael (in the form of a young man) to the house of Sarah.
- Tobias catches a fish whose liver, heart, and gall will be used to help Sarah and heal Tobit (chap. 6)
- Raphael advises Tobias to marry Sarah, and tells him how to exercise the demon 6:12-14

Tobit

- The defeat of the demon (chap. 8)
 - 8:1 When they had finished eating, they escorted Tobias in to her. 8:2 As he went he remembered the words of Raphael, and he took the live ashes of incense and put the heart and liver of the fish upon them and made a smoke. 8:3 And when the demon smelled the odor he fled to the remotest parts of Egypt, and the angel bound him. 8:4 When the door was shut and the two were alone, Tobias got up from the bed and said, "Sister, get up, and let us pray that the Lord may have mercy upon us...8:9 Then they both went to sleep for the night. But Raguel arose and went and dug a grave, 8:10 with the thought, "Perhaps he too will die." ...

Tobit

- Raphael recovers the funds (chap. 9)
- The anxiety of Tobit and Anna, and the departure of the young couple (chap. 10)
- The restoration of Tobit's sight (chap. 11)
 - 11:9 Then Anna ran to meet them, and embraced her son, and said to him, "I have seen you, my child; now I am ready to die." And they both wept. 11:10 Tobit started toward the door, and stumbled. But his son ran to him 11:11 and took hold of his father, and he sprinkled the gall upon his father's eyes, saying, "Be of good cheer, father." 11:12 And when his eyes began to smart he rubbed them, 11:13 and the white films scaled off from the corners of his eyes. 11:14 Then he saw his son and embraced him, and he wept



Tobit



- Raphael's true identity revealed (chap. 12)

- 12:12 When you and your daughter-in-law Sarah prayed, I brought a reminder of your prayer before the Holy One; and when you buried the dead, I was likewise present with you. 12:13 When you did not hesitate to rise and leave your dinner in order to go and lay out the dead, your good deed was not hidden from me, but I was with you. 12:14 So now God sent me to heal you and your daughter-in-law Sarah. 12:15 I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels who present the prayers of the saints and enter into the presence of the glory of the Holy One."

Tobit

- Tobit's prayer (chap. 13)
- The testament of Tobit (chap. 14)
- 14:2 He was fifty-eight years old when he lost his sight, and after eight years he regained it. He gave alms, and he continued to fear the Lord God and to praise him. 14:3 When he had grown very old he called his son and grandsons, and said to him, "My son, take your sons; behold, I have grown old and am about to depart this life. 14:4 Go to Media, my son, for I fully believe what Jonah the prophet said about Nineveh, that it will be overthrown. But in Media there will be peace for a time. Our brethren will be scattered over the earth from the good land, and Jerusalem will be desolate. The house of God in it will be burned down and will be in ruins for a time.

Tobit

- **St. Ambrose:** *Tobit also clearly portrayed in his life true virtue, when he left the feast and buried the dead, and invited the needy to the meals at his own poor table. And Raguel is a still brighter example. For he, in his regard for virtue, when asked to give his daughter in marriage, was not silent regarding his daughter's faults, for fear of seeming to get the better of the suitor by silence. So when Tobit the son of Tobias asked that his daughter might be given him, he answered that, according to the law, she ought to be given him as near of kin, but that he had already given her to six men, and all of them were dead. This just man, then, feared more for others than for himself, and wished rather that his daughter should remain unmarried than that others should run risks in consequence of their union with her.*

The Book of Judith

Judith

- Chapter 1: Nebuchadnezzar king of the Assyrians overcomes Arphaxad king of the Medes.
- Chapter 2: Nebuchadnezzar sends Holofernes out to lay to waste the countries of the west.
- Chapter 3: Many submit themselves to Holofernes. He destroys their cities and their idols so that only Nebuchadnezzar could be called “god.”
- Chapter 4: The people of Israel prepare to resist Holofernes. They cry to the Lord for help.

Judith

- Chapter 5: Achior, leader of all the Ammonites, gives Holofernes an account of the people of Israel.
- Chapter 6: In a fit of rage, Holofernes sends Achior to Bethulia to be slain along with the Israelites.
 - Despite the warning of Achior that the Jews cannot be conquered unless they sin against God, the proud general lays siege to the town and cuts off its water supply.
- Chapter 7: Holofernes besieges Bethulia. After a siege of thirty-four days, the exhausted defenders are desperate and ready to surrender.

Judith

- Chapter 8: Introduction of, genealogy, and description of Judith's character.
- Chapter 9: Judith's prayer in which she begs God to fortify her in her task.
- *"For your strength does not depend on numbers, nor your might on the powerful. But you are the God of the lowly, helper of the oppressed, upholder of the weak, protector of the forsaken, savior of those without hope. ¹²Please, please, God of my father, God of the heritage of Israel, Lord of heaven and earth, Creator of the waters, King of all your creation, hear my prayer! ... ¹⁴Let your whole nation and every tribe know and understand that you are God, the God of all power and might, and that there is no other who protects the people of Israel but you alone!"*

Judith

- Chapter 10: Judith heads towards the camp, is taken, and is brought to Holofernes.
- Chapter 11: Judith's speech to Holofernes.
- Chapter 12: Judith goes out in the night to pray: she is invited to a banquet with Holofernes.
- Chapter 13: While Holofernes is in a drunken sleep, Judith cuts off his head and returns to Bethulia with his head in a bag.

Judith

- *Then Judith, standing beside his bed, said in her heart, "O Lord God of all might, look in this hour on the work of my hands for the exaltation of Jerusalem. ⁵Now indeed is the time to help your heritage and to carry out my design to destroy the enemies who have risen up against us."*

6 She went up to the bedpost near Holofernes' head, and took down his sword that hung there. ⁷She came close to his bed, took hold of the hair of his head, and said, "Give me strength today, O Lord God of Israel!" ⁸Then she struck his neck twice with all her might, and cut off his head. ⁹Next she rolled his body off the bed and pulled down the canopy from the posts. Soon afterward she went out and gave Holofernes' head to her maid, ¹⁰who placed it in her food bag.

Judith

- Chapter 14: Israel assaults the Assyrians, who having found their Holofernes slain, are now seized with panic and in disarray.
 - When the men in the tents heard it, they were amazed at what had happened. Overcome with fear and trembling, they did not wait for one another, but with one impulse all rushed out and fled by every path across the plain and through the hill country.
- Chapter 15: The Assyrians flee, Israel pursues after them, and gather up the spoils.

Judith

- Chapter 16: The hymn of Judith: her virtuous life and death.
- *Begin a song to my God with tambourines, sing to my Lord with cymbals. Raise to him a new psalm; exalt him, and call upon his name.*

For the Lord is a God who crushes wars; he sets up his camp among his people; he delivered me from the hands of my pursuers...

I will sing to my God a new song: O Lord, you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible. Let all your creatures serve you, for you spoke, and they were made. You sent forth your spirit,^f and it formed them; there is none that can resist your voice.