

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
(Ecclesiasticus)

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

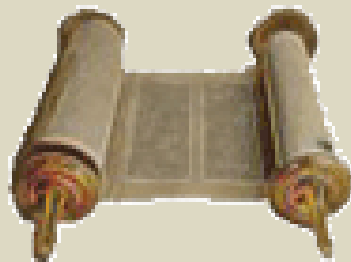
- B) Books in the Greek and Slavonic Bibles; not in the Roman Catholic Canon

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

**Christian OT
46 Books
(Septuagint)**

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

Septuagint vs later Jewish Canon

A Venn diagram consisting of two overlapping circles. The larger circle on the left is light yellow and contains the text 'Christian OT 46 Books (Septuagint)'. The smaller circle on the right is light green and contains the text '7 Books'. The overlapping area between the two circles is shaded a darker green.

Christian OT
46 Books
(Septuagint)

7 Books

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

Septuagint vs later Jewish Canon

Christian OT
46 Books
(Septuagint) 7 Books

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

Jewish TaNaK
39 Books
(Palestinian Canon)

**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 Paul
 - > 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)
- 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?**

(did they “add” them to the Bible?)

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

(did they “add” them to the Bible?)

NO

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 sapiential/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 (haggadah) is important to identity**
 - **Developed notions of soul/spirit and afterlife**
 - **Personified Wisdom (picked up in NT, applied to Jesus)**

In 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**

In 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)