

*The Deuterocanonical Books*  
*Part 2*

# *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*

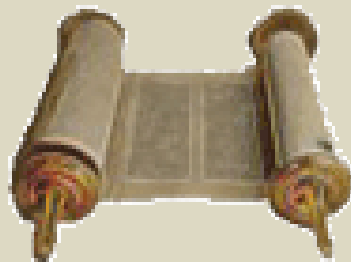
- B) Books in the Greek and Slavonic Bibles; not in the Roman Catholic Canon

**10) I Esdras**

**11) Prayer of Manasseh**

**12) Psalm 151**

**13) III Maccabees**



# *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 exorcise 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 Gentiles will worship the Lord (Tobit 13:13 and 14:6)
- 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.*

# Book of Tobit

- **Dating: early 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC**
- **Setting: 8<sup>th</sup> 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**

# *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. <sup>12</sup>Please, 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! ... <sup>14</sup>Let 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.
  - V 18: “You are blessed by the Most High God, O daughter, above all other women on the earth. Blessed be the Lord God, who created the heavens and the earth, who led you to sever the head of the chief of our adversaries.
  - Praise to the Theotokos

# 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. <sup>5</sup>Now 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. <sup>7</sup>She came close to his bed, took hold of the hair of his head, and said, "Give me strength today, O Lord God of Israel!" <sup>8</sup>Then she struck his neck twice with all her might, and cut off his head. <sup>9</sup>Next 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, <sup>10</sup>who 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,<sup>f</sup> and it formed them; there is none that can resist your voice.*

# Book of Judith

- **Dating: mid 2nd – early 1<sup>st</sup> Century BC**
- **Setting: 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

# Allegory of Tobit and Judith

- Tobiah (God is good) was a type of Christ
  - Sent with the power of healing (Raphael) to deliver us from the evil one and to cure our blindness
- Judith (“Jewess”) was a type of the Theotokos
  - She was a perpetual widow of “Manasseh” (God has caused me to forget all my trouble and my father’s household)
  - She defended “Bethulia” and cut off the head of evil



# 1 Maccabees





# 1 Maccabees

- Chapter 1—Historical background:
  - Alexander the Great dies, and the empire is split among his generals
  - Antiochus Epiphanes makes a deal with lawless Jews to Hellenize them (“paganize”)
  - Antiochus pillages the Great Temple in Jerusalem and turns it to pagan
    - “profane the Sabbaths and the feasts, and to defile the sanctuary and the holy ones...temples to idols, to sacrifice swine and common animals, to leave their sons uncircumcised”

# 1 Maccabees

- Chapter 2—Mattathias:
  - 5 sons: John, Simon, Judas (called Maccabeus), Eleazar, and Jonathan
  - Kills apostate Jews and Gentiles as they were making sacrifices
  - Flees to the mountains and starts an army
  - Armies and families are killed on the Sabbath
  - Mattathias learns that if necessary, fighting should be done on the Sabbath
  - Mattathias on death bed commissions Judas to lead the army

# 1 Maccabees

- Chapter 3—Judas “the Hammer” leads his army to victory against Seron, the Syrian general and prepares to fight Lysias, sent by Antiochus
- Chapter 4—Judas defeats the armies of Gorgias and Lysias and reconsecrates the Temple
  - This is the origin of Hannakah
- Chapter 5—Judas sends his brother Simon to defeat the armies in Galilee and Gilead; meanwhile, Joseph and Azarias, not following orders of Judas take matters into their own hands, leading to their tragic defeat

# 1 Maccabees

- Hannakah:
  - Then Judas and his brothers and the congregation of Israel decided that each year at that time the days of the consecration of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness for eight full days, beginning on the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month of Chislev (1 Mac. 4:59)



# 1 Maccabees

- Chapter 6—Antiochus dies and lust for power consumes Lysias and Antiochus' son Antiochus
  - Eleazor (Judas' brother) risking his life kills several soldiers, but upon killing an elephant, he dies when crushed by its corpse
- Chapter 7—Demetrius I of Rome takes over and kills Lysias and Antiochus
  - appoints Alcimus as “paganized” Jewish high priest
  - Judas drives Alcimus away, prompting him to run back to Demetrius
  - Demetrius sends Nicanor with an army, but Nicanor is defeated and killed

# 1 Maccabees

- Chapter 8—Judas tries to make a pact with Rome at the Senate
- Chapter 9—Demetrius sends Bacchides and Alcimus with an army against Judas
  - A very harsh battle that leads to the death of Judas; all his allies lament, and confusion occurs
  - Jonathan, his brother, is chosen to take over
  - Alcimus, in his attempt to destroy the Temple, is paralyzed and dies
  - After a fierce battle with Bacchides, a treaty was made, and the Maccabees rules Judea

# 1 Maccabees

- Chapter 10—Another son of Antiochus, Alexander fights Demetrius for the throne
  - Both Alexander and Demetrius try to flatter Jonathan on their side; Jonathan chooses Alexander
  - Alexander defeats Demetrius, marries Cleopatra, daughter of Ptolemy of Egypt, and makes Jonathan high priest and king of Judea
  - Demetrius II sends Apollonius to fight Jonathan, but Jonathan defeats him; Alexander is pleased

# 1 Maccabees

- Chapters 11 & 12—Ptolemy lusting for power, fights Alexander, but both he and Alexander die, leaving power vacuum for Demetrius II
  - Jonathan allies himself with Demetrius
  - Trypho, a general, inspires many to go against Demetrius and raises Antiochus VI as ruler while Demetrius flees
  - Antiochus honors Jonathan
  - Demetrius fights Jonathan and Simon as Jonathan tries to make pact with Rome and Sparta
  - Jonathan is betrayed by Trypho and gets killed



# 1 Maccabees

- Chapter 13—Simon (the last remaining Maccabee) takes over, defeats Trypho's army, even after Trypho's deceit
  - Trypho flees, kills Antiochus, and takes over as king
  - Simon makes treaty with Demetrius to defeat Trypho
  - Simon enters Jerusalem with victory and appoints his son John as commander

# 1 Maccabees

- Chapter 14—Simon is honored by his people
  - V. 41: “Thus the Jews and the priests were pleased that Simon should be their ruler and high priest forever, **until a faithful prophet should arise**”. (a prophecy about the coming of Christ as “faithful prophet” who replaces the holy high priesthood)
- Chapter 15—Antiochus VII (son of Demetrius II) takes over, seeks Simon’s help in fighting Trypho. Later he turns against Simon and sends Cendebeus with an army
- Chapter 16—Simon defeats Cendebeus
  - Another Ptolemy of Jericho deceives Simon and his two sons in honoring them, but kills them
  - Only surviving son of Simon John, hears of this and defeats Ptolemy; the Hasmoneans (descendants of Mattathias via John) rule Judea until Herod the Great in 40 BC

# Book of I Maccabees

- **Dating: mid-late 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

# 2 Maccabees

- Chapters 1-2: Letter to the Jews in Egypt and to Aristobolus to keep the celebration of Hannukah; author's intro: summary of Jason of Cyrene's history
- Chapters 3-5: Detailed events that lead to Antiochus' desecration of the Temple
- Chapters 5-7: Persecution of the Jews

# 2 Maccabees

- Chapter 7 (a lesson of martyrdom):
  - “You set us free from this present life, but the King of the world will raise us to an everlasting renewal of life...One may be chosen to die at the hands of men and to look for the hope that God gives of being raised again by Him.”
  - “The mother was especially admirable and worthy of good memory. Though she saw her seven sons perish in the span of a single day, she bore it courageously because of her hope in the Lord” ...

# 2 Maccabees

- Chapter 7:
  - “Her womanly reasoning with manly courage” ...
  - “I do not know how you came into being in my womb. It was not I who gave you breath and life, nor I who arranged the elements within each of you. Therefore, the Creator of the world, who formed man in the beginning and devised the origin of all things, will give both breath and life back again in His mercy, since you now disregard yourselves for the sake of His laws.”

# 2 Maccabees

- Chapter 7:
  - “My son, have mercy on me. I carried you for nine months in my womb, and nursed you for three years. I reared you and brought you up to this point in your life, and have taken care of you. I beseech you, my child, to look at heaven and earth and see everything in them, and **know that God made them out of nothing**; so also He made the race of man in this way. Do not fear the executioner! Be worthy of your brothers and accept death, that in God’s mercy I may receive you back again with your brothers.”

# 2 Maccabees

- Chapters 8-10: Judas Maccabeus' victories and the purification of the temple (Hannukah)
- Chapters 10-12: Judas' victories against the Idumeans, Timothy, and Lysias
  - Prayers/sacrifices for the departed
- Chapters 13-15: Demetrius replaces Antiochus and Lysius and sends Nicanor and Alcimus to kill Judas, but they fail with the intercession of Jeremiah the prophet
  - The departed prays and helps Judas



# 2 Maccabees

- Chapter 12 (prayers of the departed):
  - “They turned to supplication and prayed that the sin they had committed might be completely blotted out.” ...
  - “In doing so he acted properly and with honor, taking note of the resurrection. For if he were not looking for the resurrection of those fallen, it would have been utterly foolish to pray for the departed.”

# 2 Maccabees

- Chapter 15 (intercession of the saints):
  - Onias then spoke, saying, “This is Jeremiah, the prophet of God, a man who loves his brothers and prays fervently for the people and the holy city.” Stretching forth his right hand, Jeremiah gave a sword of gold to Judas, and as he presented it to him, he addressed him as follows: “Take this sacred sword, a gift from God, by which you will strike down your enemies.”

# Book of II Maccabees

- **Dating: late 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)**

# Wisdom of Solomon (Wis.)

- Chapter 1: Wisdom in Greek is “Sophia”, which is a feminine term
  - Sophia, Spirit, and God (Trinity)
  - God made man to live, and man being “ungodly” brought death
- Chapter 2: the way of the ungodly
  - If there is no resurrection, let us drink and be merry (cf. 1 Cor. 15:32)
  - A prophecy about Christ (following slide)
  - “For God created man for immortality and made him an image of His own eternity. But death entered into the world by the envy of the devil” (Wis. 2:23-24)

# Wisdom of Solomon (Wis.)

- Chapter 2 (continued)

- [1] For they have said, reasoning with themselves, but not right... [12] Let us therefore lie in wait for the just man, because he is not for our turn, and he is contrary to our doings, and upbraideth us with transgressions of the law, and divulgeth against us the sins of our way of life. [13] He boasteth that he hath the knowledge of God, and calleth himself the son of God. [14] He is become a censurer of our thoughts. [15] He is grievous unto us, even to behold: for his life is not like other men's, and his ways are very different.
- [16] **We are esteemed by him as triflers, and he abstaineth from our ways as from filthiness, and he preferreth the latter end of the just, and glorieth that he hath God for his father.** [17] Let us see then if his words be true, and let us prove what shall happen to him, and we shall know what his end shall be. [18] **For if he be the true son of God, he will defend him, and will deliver him from the hands of his enemies.** [19] Let us examine him **by outrages and tortures**, that we may know his meekness and try his patience. [20] **Let us condemn him to a most shameful death:** for there shall be respect had unto him by his words.
- [21] These things they thought, and were deceived: for their own malice blinded them. [22] And they knew not the secrets of God, nor hoped for the wages of justice, nor esteemed the honour of holy souls.

# Wisdom of Solomon (Wis.)

- Chapter 3: The hope of the Righteous and praise of virginity
  - The saints will judge the world (3:8 and cf. 1 Cor. 6:2)
- Chapter 4: Teachings on virtues and the righteous Enoch
- Chapter 5: Another prophecy of Christ

# Wisdom of Solomon (Wis.)

- Chapter 5 (a prophecy of Christ):
  - “[1] Then the righteous man will stand with great confidence in the presence of those who have afflicted him, and those who make light of his labors. [2] When they see him, they will be shaken with dreadful fear, and they will be amazed at his unexpected salvation. [3] They will speak to one another in repentance, and in anguish of spirit they will groan, and say, [4] ‘This is the man whom we once held in derision and made a byword of reproach -- we fools! We thought that his life was madness and that his end was without honor. [5] Why has he been numbered among the sons of God? And why is his lot among the saints?’ ”

# Wisdom of Solomon (Wis.)

- Chapter 6: Sophia grants incorruption
  - “Now this love is the keeping of her laws, and giving heed to her laws is the assurance of incorruption; and incorruption brings one near to God. So desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.” (18-20)
- Chapter 7: Solomon’s love for Sophia
  - For Wisdom, **the artisan of all things**, taught me. So in herself, Wisdom is a spirit that is rational, Holy, **only-begotten**, manifold, subtle, easily moved, clear, undefiled, manifest, invulnerable, loving what is good, keen, unhindered, beneficent, **Lover of Mankind**, steadfast, unfailing, free from worry, **all-powerful, all-surveying, and penetrating all spirits** that are rational, pure, and most subtle. (21-23)



# Wisdom of Solomon (Wis.)

- Chapter 7 (continued):
  - And because of Her purity, She penetrates all things. So She is **the exhalation of the power of God and the emanation of the pure glory of the Almighty**; Therefore nothing defiled enters Her. For She is the radiance of eternal light, A spotless mirror of the operative Power of God and the Image of His goodness. (24-26)
  - “who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power” (Heb. 1:3)

# Wisdom of Solomon (Wis.)

- Chapters 8-11: Solomon's pursuit of Sophia and her presence with the fathers and prophets
- Wisdom 12-13: Vices of the Canaanites, the Egyptians, the chastising of the children of God, and the futility of false gods
  - For from the greatness and beauty of created things, the Creator is seen by analogy (Wis. 13:5, cf. Rom. 1:20)
  - Romans chapter 1 uses a lot of Wis. Chapter 13

# Wisdom of Solomon (Wis.)

- Chapters 14: the wood of Noah's ark vs. the wood of cursed idols
  - “For the wood was blessed through which righteousness comes...the wood was made into an abomination” (7, 11)
  - This foreshadows the Cross, for from this abominable wood, salvation will come
- Chapters 15-19: Sophia guides God's elect through the Exodus from Egypt

# Wisdom of Solomon (Wis.)

- Chapter 16: The Eucharist
  - “Instead of these things You fed Your people the food of angels, and without their labor You provided them with ready-made bread from heaven, fitting for every pleasure and suitable to every taste. (v. 20)

# Book of Wisdom

- **Dating: early 1<sup>st</sup> 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)**

# Wisdom of Sirach (Sir.)

- Chapters 1-42: moral instructions, proverbs, ethical essays
- Chapter 24: Sophia will praise Herself:
  - “I came forth from the mouth of the Most High and covered the earth like a mist. I pitched my tent (tabernacled) in the high places and my throne on the pillar of cloud. I alone encircle the ring of heaven, and I walk in the depth of the abyss.” (v. 3-5)

# Wisdom of Sirach (Sir.)

- Chapter 24 (continued):

- 8 So the Creator of all things gave me a commandment, and he that made me caused my tabernacle to rest, and said, **Let thy dwelling be in Jacob, and thine inheritance in Israel.**
- 9 He **created me** from the beginning before the world, and I shall never fail.
- 10 In the holy tabernacle I served before him; and so was I established in Sion.
- 11 Likewise in the beloved city he gave me rest, and in Jerusalem was my power.
- 12 And I took root in an honourable people, even in the portion of the Lord's inheritance.
- ...
- 17 **As the vine** brought I forth pleasant grace, and my flowers are the fruit of honour and riches.
- 18 I am the mother of fair love, and fear, and knowledge, and holy hope: I therefore, **being eternal**, am given to all my children which are named of him.
- 19 Come unto me, all ye that be desirous of me, and fill yourselves with my fruits.
- 20 For my memorial is sweeter than honey, and mine inheritance than the honeycomb.
- 21 **They that eat me shall yet be hungry, and they that drink me shall yet be thirsty.**

# Wisdom of Sirach (Sir.)

- Chapter 24 (explanation):
  - Incarnation (created from the inheritance of Israel):
    - 8 So the Creator of all things gave me a commandment, and he that made me caused my tabernacle to rest, and said, **Let thy dwelling be in Jacob, and thine inheritance in Israel.**
    - 9 He **created me** from the beginning before the world, and I shall never fail.
  - Uncreated Logos from the eternal Father:
    - 17 **As the vine** brought I forth pleasant grace, and my flowers are the fruit of honour and riches.
    - 18 I am the mother of fair love, and fear, and knowledge, and holy hope: I therefore, **being eternal**, am given to all my children which are named of him.
  - The Eucharist:
    - 21 **They that eat me shall yet be hungry, and they that drink me shall yet be thirsty.**



# Wisdom of Sirach (Sir.)

- Sirach 39: a prophetic characteristic of Christ
  - “He will reveal instruction in his teaching, and will glory in the law of the Lord's covenant. Many will praise his understanding, and it will never be blotted out; his memory will not disappear, and his name will live through all generations. Nations will declare his wisdom, and the congregation will proclaim his praise.” (8-10)

# Wisdom of Sirach (Sir.)

- Chapters 43-50: Wisdom revealed in creation and in God's chosen fathers and prophets, all the way to Simon, son of Onias, a contemporary of Judas Maccabees
  - Chapter 50 is very liturgical, incense and processions
- Prophecies:
  - "And to Jacob he will give a remnant, and to the House of David a root from him." (Sir. 47:22)
  - "Give praise to God who makes a horn sprout forth for the house of David, for God's love endures forever." (Sir. 51:12)

# Wisdom of Sirach (Sir.)

- Chapter 51:

- 8 Then thought I upon thy mercy, O Lord, and upon thy acts of old, how thou deliverest such as wait for thee, and savest them out of the hands of the enemies.
- 9 Then lifted I up my supplications from the earth, and prayed for deliverance from death.
- 10 I called upon **the Lord** (Christ), **the Father of my Lord** (the Father), that he would not leave me in the days of my trouble, and in the time of the proud, when there was no help.
- 11 I will praise thy name continually, and will sing praises with thanksgiving; and so my prayer was heard:
- 12 For thou savedst me from destruction, and deliveredst me from the evil time: therefore will I give thanks, and praise thee, and bless they name, O Lord.

# Book of Sirach

- **Dating: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)**

# Baruch

- “And I shall establish an everlasting covenant with them to be their God, and they will be My people” (Bar. 2:35 fulfilled in Christ)
- “O Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, hear the prayer of the dead of Israel and the sons who have sinned against You” (Bar. 3:4, through the intercessions of the saints, “Oh Lord, grant us the forgiveness of our sins”)
- Wisdom of God described in 3:29-4:4 as God Himself, and “afterwards He (God) was seen upon the earth and lived among men” (Bar. 3:38, a prophecy of the incarnation of God)

# Baruch

- Chapter 4: Salvation of the people of God (through Christ)
- Chapter 5: The Church putting on the robe of the glory of God as a witness to all the nations

# Book of Baruch

- **Dating: early – middle 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC (180-150)**
- **Setting: post-Exile Babylon (6<sup>th</sup> 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**

# Coptic Church Calendar

- Lent Readings:
  - Wk 3, Matins Fri, Sirach
  - Wk 4, Matins Tues, Sirach
  - Wk 6, Matins Wed and Thurs, Sirach
  - Wk 6, Matins Fri, whole book of Tobit
  - Wk 7, Matins Tues, Sirach
- Pascha Week:
  - Sirach: Matins Mon, 11<sup>th</sup> hr Mon, 3<sup>rd</sup> hr Tues, 3<sup>rd</sup> hr. Wed, 6<sup>th</sup> hr. Wed, and 3<sup>rd</sup> hr. Thurs
  - Wisdom: 6<sup>th</sup> hr. Mon, 11<sup>th</sup> hr. Wed, Matins Fri.
  - Joyous Saturday:
    - Ps. 151, Prayer of the 3 youth, Susanna



# Miscellaneous

- Additions to Esther
- Additions to Daniel:
  - The song of the 3 youth
  - Susanna
  - Bel and the Dragon
- Psalm 151 (or Appendix to the Psalms)
- Prayer of Manessah
- 3 Maccabees (misnomer, about Egyptian Jews)
- Esdras
- Prayer of Manasseh (added to end of 2 Chronicles)
  - Prayer of repentance and acknowledging of one's sins

# References

- Orthodox Study Bible
- Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture
  - Old Testament Volume 15
- Abouna Markos Hanna
  - 30 Differences and 300 Answers, Theological and Dogmatic Differences between Orthodox and Protestants