

Dirk's Contact Info

Phone: 603.431.3646 (Bethany Church's main number)
Email: drodgers@bethanychurch.com
Facebook Page: [Pastor Dirk Rodgers](#)
Twitter: [@dirk at bethany](#)
Tumblr: www.tumblr.com/blog/dirkscorner
Dirk's Web Site: www.dirkscorner.com
Bethany Church Web Site: www.bethanychurch.com



Psalm 137:1-6

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.

² There on the poplars
we hung our harps,

³ for there our captors asked us for songs,
our tormentors demanded songs of joy;
they said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” ⁴ How can we sing the songs of the LORD
while in a foreign land?

⁵ If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand forget its skill.

⁶ May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
if I do not remember you,
if I do not consider Jerusalem
my highest joy.

God's People In Transition

**Medio- Persian Empire/ Judah's
Restoration: 559/539 BC – 330 BC**

Temple Rebuilt: 515 BC

“The temple was completed on the
third day of the month Adar, in the
sixth year of the reign of King
Darius.”

Ezra 6:15

God's People In Transition

**Greek-Selucid Empire/ Judah's
Subjugation: 333 BC – 197/64 BC**

Temple Desecrated: 168 BC

“And at the temple he will set up an
abomination that causes desolation,
until the end that is decreed is
poured out on him.” Daniel 9:27

God's People In Transition

**Roman Empire/ Jewish Diaspora:
197 BC – 410/1453 AD**

Temple Destroyed: 70 AD

“Do you see all these great buildings?’
replied Jesus. ‘Not one stone here will
be left on another; every one will be
thrown down.’”

Mark 13:2

God's People In Transition

An Overview

Babylon	Medio-Persia	Greek-Selucia	Rome
---------	--------------	---------------	------

Captivity | Restoration | Subjugation | Diaspora

Temple

Destroyed | Rebuilt | Desecrated | Destroyed

586 BC 515 BC 167 BC 70 AD

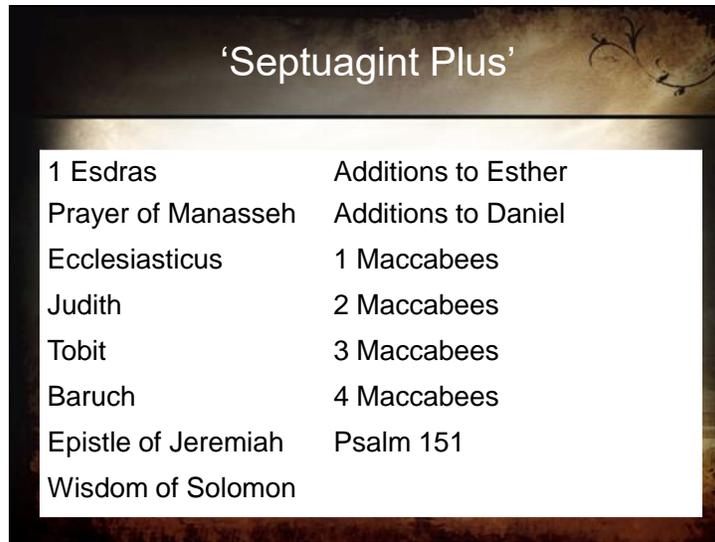


From Hebrew to Greek

The Septuagint (LXX) Revisited

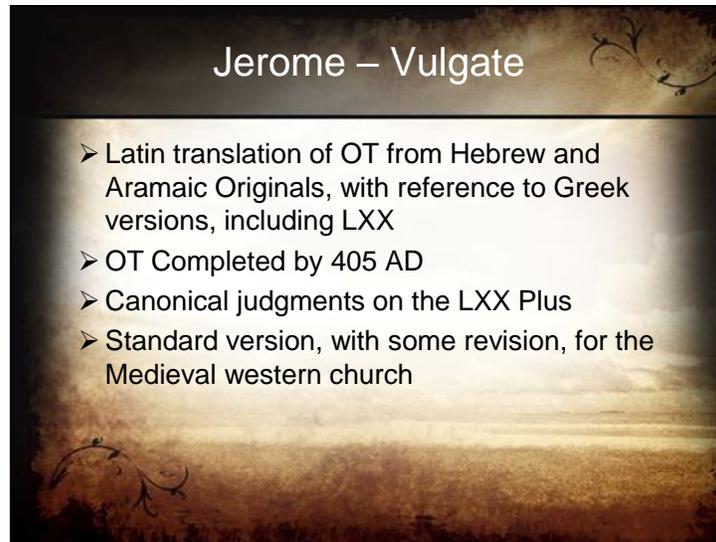
- Greek translation of the Scriptures
- Completed mainly in the 3rd century BC/Alexandria (Egypt)
- Inclusion of additional works compiled largely within the intertestamental period





'Septuagint Plus'

1 Esdras	Additions to Esther
Prayer of Manasseh	Additions to Daniel
Ecclesiasticus	1 Maccabees
Judith	2 Maccabees
Tobit	3 Maccabees
Baruch	4 Maccabees
Epistle of Jeremiah	Psalm 151
Wisdom of Solomon	



Jerome (c. 400 AD)

Apology, Book II, Nicene and Post Nicene Fathers, Second Series, Vol 3:

“I have received letters so long and eagerly desired from my dear Desiderius ... entreating me to put our friends in possession of a translation of the Pentateuch from Hebrew into Latin. The work is certainly hazardous and it is exposed to the attacks of my calumniators, who maintain that it is through contempt of the Seventy that I have set to work to forge a new version to take the place of the old.”

Prologue to Kings:

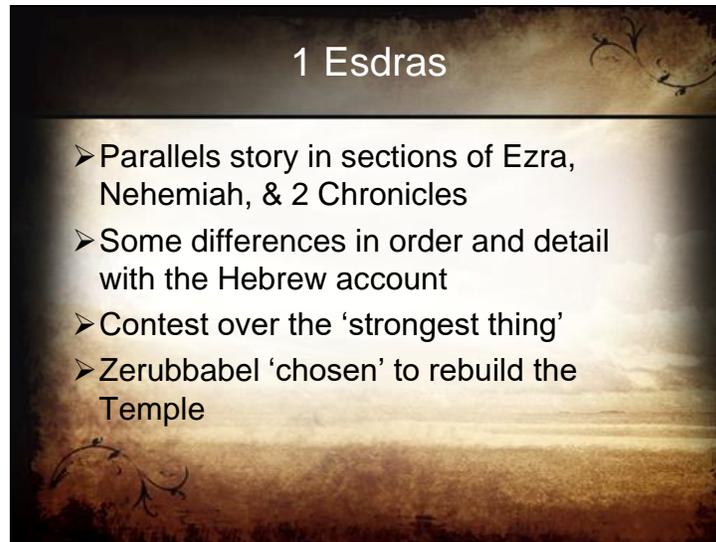
“This prologue to the Scriptures may be appropriate as a helmeted introduction to all the books which we turn from Hebrew into Latin, so we may be able to know whatever is outside of these is set aside among the apocrypha. Therefore, Wisdom, which is commonly ascribed to Solomon, and the book of Jesus son of Sirach, and Judith and Tobias, and The Shepherd are not in the canon. I have found the First Book of the Maccabees (is) Hebrew, the Second is Greek, which may also be proven by their styles.”

Prologue to Ezra

“No one ought to be bothered by the fact that my edition consists of only one book, nor ought anyone take delight in the dreams found in the apocryphal third and fourth books. For among the Hebrews the texts of Ezra and Nehemiah comprise a single book, and those texts which are not used by them and are not concerned with the twenty-four elders ought to be rejected outright.”

Prologue to the Writings of Solomon

“Therefore, just as the Church also reads the books of Judith, Tobias, and the Maccabees, but does not receive them among the the canonical Scriptures, so also one may read these two scrolls [Sirach and the Wisdom of Solomon] for the strengthening of the people, (but) not for confirming the authority of ecclesiastical dogmas.”



1 Esdras 3:1-13:

Now King Darius gave a great banquet for all that were under him and all that were born in his house and all the nobles of Media and Persia and all the satraps and generals and governors that were under him in the hundred and twenty-seven satrapies from India to Ethiopia. They ate and drank, and when they were satisfied they departed; and Darius the king went to his bedroom, and went to sleep, and then awoke. Then the three young men of the bodyguard, who kept guard over the person of the king, said to one another, "Let each of us state what one thing is strongest; and to him whose statement seems wisest, Darius the king will give rich gifts and great honors of victory. He shall be clothed in purple, and drink from gold cups, and sleep on a gold bed, and have a chariot with gold bridles, and a turban of fine linen, and a necklace about his neck; and because of his wisdom he shall sit next to Darius and shall be called kinsman of Darius." Then each wrote his own statement, and they sealed them and put them under the pillow of Darius the king, and said, "When the king wakes, they will give him the writing; and to the one whose statement the king and the three nobles of Persia judge to be wisest the victory shall be given according to what is written."

The first wrote, "Wine is strongest."

The second wrote, "The king is strongest."

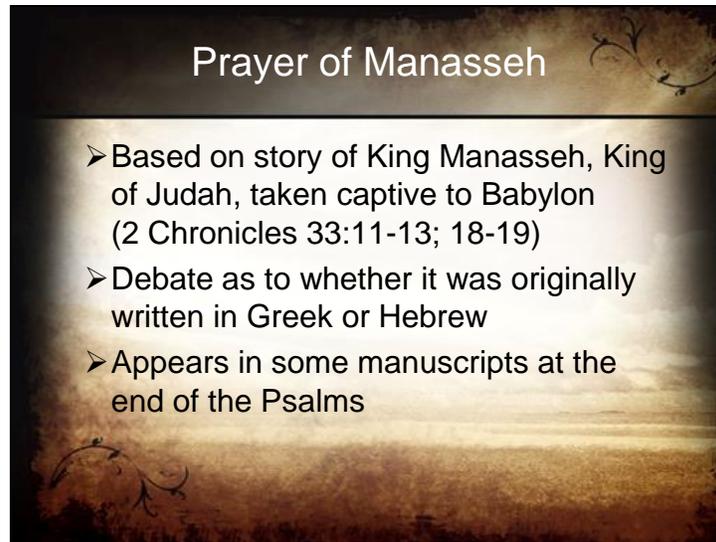
The third wrote, "Women are strongest, but truth is victor over all things."

When the king awoke, they took the writing and gave it to him, and he read it.

1 Esdras 4:43-47

Then the king said to him, "Ask what you wish, even beyond what is written, and we will give it to you, for you have been found to be the wisest. And you shall sit next to me, and be called my kinsman." Then he said to the king, "Remember the vow which you made to build Jerusalem, in the day when you became king, and to send back all the vessels that were taken from Jerusalem, which Cyrus set apart when he began to destroy Babylon, and vowed to send them back there. You also vowed to build the temple, which the Edomites burned when Judea was laid waste by the Chaldeans. And now, O lord the king, this is what I ask and request of you, and this befits your greatness. I pray therefore that you fulfil the vow whose fulfilment you vowed to the King of heaven with your own lips."

Then Darius the king rose, and kissed him, and wrote letters for him to all the treasurers and governors and generals and satraps, that they should give escort to him and all who were going up with him to build Jerusalem.



From 2 Chronicles 33:11-13:

“So the Lord brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon. In his distress he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. And when he prayed to him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God. “

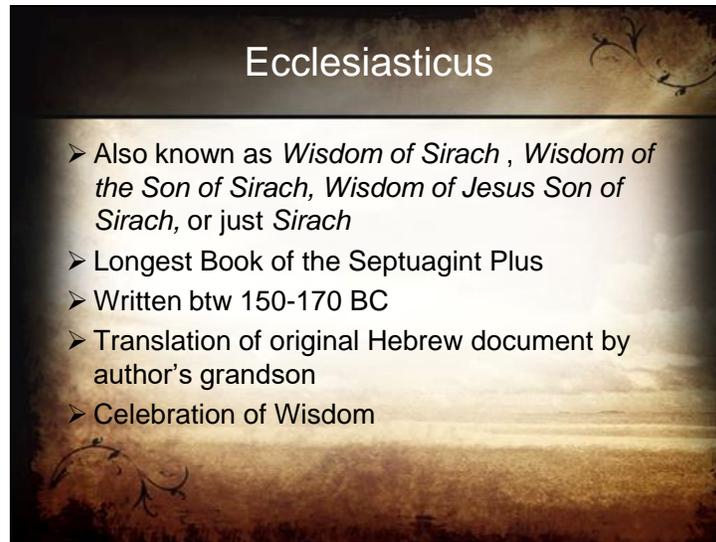
2 Chronicles 33:18-19

“The other events of Manasseh’s reign, including his prayer to his God and the words the seers spoke to him in the name of the Lord, the God of Israel, are written in the annals of the kings of Israel. His prayer and how God was moved by his entreaty, as well as all his sins and unfaithfulness, and the sites where he built high places and set up Asherah poles and idols before he humbled himself—all are written in the records of the seers.”

Prayer of Manasseh 11-15:

“And now I bend the knee of my heart, imploring you for your kindness. I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, and I acknowledge my transgressions. I earnestly implore you, forgive me, O Lord, forgive me! Do not destroy me with my transgressions! Do not be angry with me for ever or store up evil for me; do not condemn me to the depths of the earth. For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, and in me you will manifest your goodness; for, unworthy as I am, you

will save me according to your great mercy, and I will praise you continually all the days of my life. For all the host of heaven sings your praise, and yours is the glory for ever. Amen. “

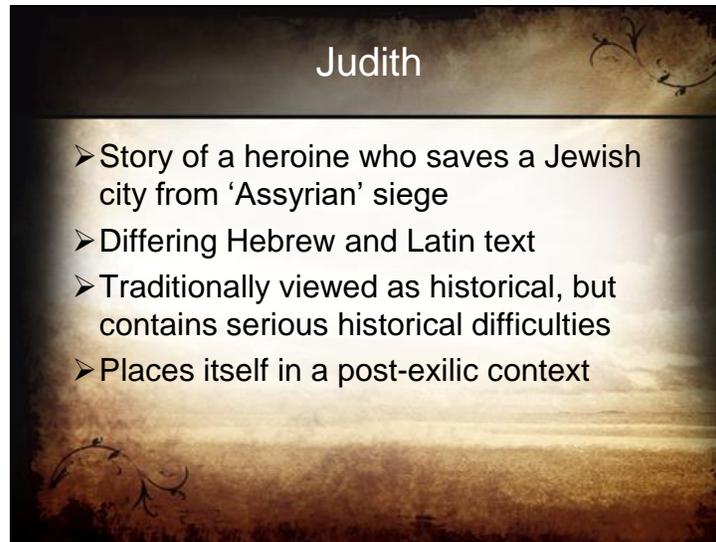


The Prologue of the Wisdom of Jesus the Son of Sirach.

“Whereas many and great things have been delivered unto us by the law and the prophets, and by others that have followed their steps, for the which things Israel ought to be commended for learning and wisdom; and whereof not only the readers must needs become skilful themselves, but also they that desire to learn be able to profit them which are without, both by speaking and writing: my grandfather Jesus, when he had much given himself to the reading of the law, and the prophets, and other books of our fathers, and had gotten therein good judgment, was drawn on also himself to write something pertaining to learning and wisdom; to the intent that those which are desirous to learn, and are addicted to these things, might profit much more in living according to the law. Wherefore let me intreat you to read it with favour and attention, and to pardon us, wherein we may seem to come short of some words, which we have laboured to interpret. For the same things uttered in Hebrew, and translated into another tongue, have not the same force in them: and not only these things, but the law itself, and the prophets, and the rest of the books, have no small difference, when they are spoken in their own language. For in the eight and thirtieth year coming into Egypt, when Euergetes was king, and continuing there some time, I found a book of no small learning: therefore I thought it most necessary for me to bestow some diligence and travail to interpret it; using great watchfulness and skill in that space to bring the book to an end, and set it forth for them also, which in a strange country are willing to learn, being prepared before in manners to live after the law.”

Ecclesiasticus 1:1 – “All wisdom cometh from the Lord, and is with him for ever. “

Ecclesiasticus 24:1-4 "Wisdom sings her own praises, before her own people she proclaims her glory; In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, in the presence of his hosts she declares her worth: 'From the mouth of the Most High I came forth, and mistlike covered the earth. In the highest heavens did I dwell, my throne on a pillar of cloud.'"

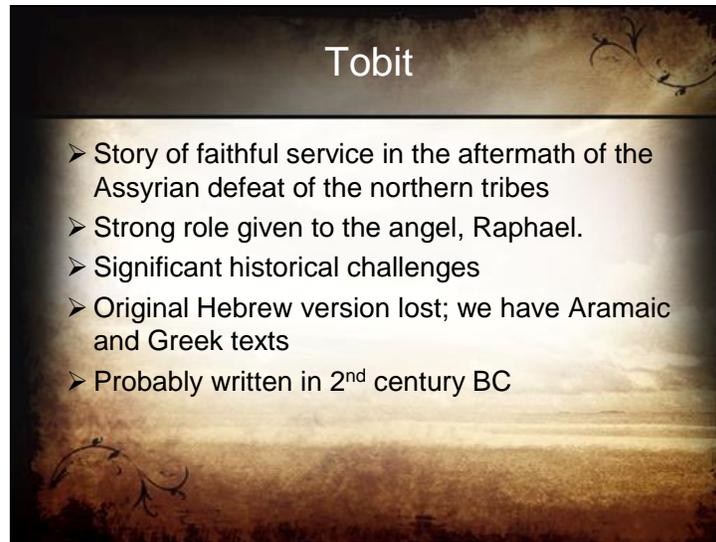


Judith 4:1-3:

“By this time the people of Israel living in Judea heard of everything that Holofernes, the general of Nebuchadnezzar the king of the Assyrians, had done to the nations, and how he had plundered and destroyed all their temples; they were therefore very greatly terrified at his approach, and were alarmed both for Jerusalem and for the temple of the Lord their God. For they had only recently returned from the captivity, and all the people of Judea were newly gathered together, and the sacred vessels and the altar and the temple had been consecrated after their profanation.”

Judith 8:32-35:

“Judith said to them, ‘Listen to me. I am about to do a thing which will go down through all generations of our descendants. Stand at the city gate tonight, and I will go out with my maid; and within the days after which you have promised to surrender the city to our enemies, the Lord will deliver Israel by my hand. Only, do not try to find out what I plan; for I will not tell you until I have finished what I am about to do.’ Uzziah and the rulers said to her, ‘Go in peace, and may the Lord God go before you, to take revenge upon our enemies.’”



Tobit 1:3:

“I, Tobit, walked in the ways of truth and righteousness all the days of my life, and I performed many acts of charity to my brethren and my compatriots who went with me into the land of the Assyrians, to Nineveh.”

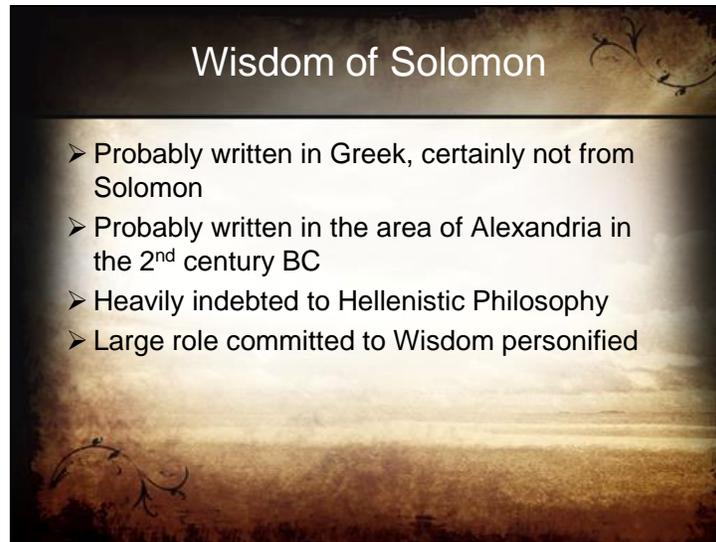
Tobit 3:16:

“So Raphael was sent to heal both of them: Tobit, by removing the white films from his eyes, so that he might see God’s light with his eyes; and Sarah, daughter of Raguel, by giving her in marriage to Tobias son of Tobit, and by setting her free from the wicked demon Asmodeus. For Tobias was entitled to have her before all others who had desired to marry her. At the same time that Tobit returned from the courtyard into his house, Sarah daughter of Raguel came down from her upper room.”

Tobit 6:1-6:

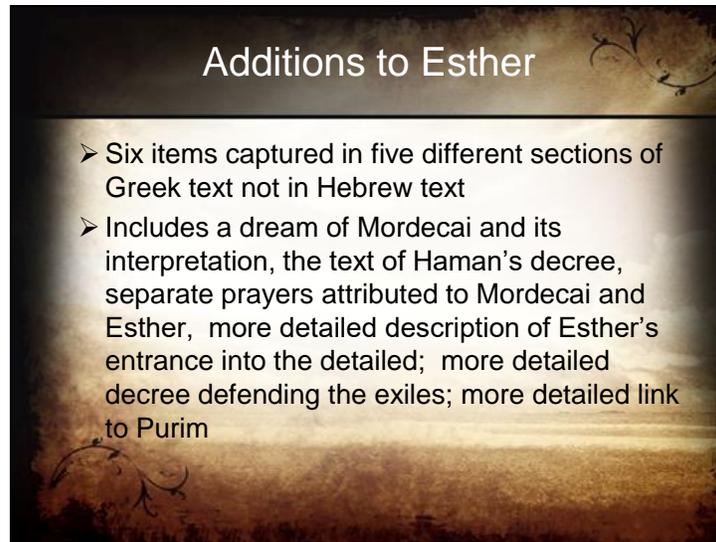
“The young man went out and the angel went with him; and the dog came out with him and went along with them. So they both journeyed along, and when the first night overtook them they camped by the Tigris river. Then the young man went down to wash his feet in the Tigris river. Suddenly a large fish leaped up from the water and tried to swallow the young man’s foot, and he cried out. But the angel said to the young man, ‘Catch hold of the fish and hang on to it!’ So the young man grasped the fish and drew it up on the land. Then the angel said to him, ‘Cut open the fish and take out its gall, heart, and liver. Keep them with you, but throw away the intestines. For its gall, heart, and liver are useful as medicine.’ So after cutting open the fish the

young man gathered together the gall, heart, and liver; then he roasted and ate some of the fish, and kept some to be salted."



Wisdom of Solomon, 7:22-30:

“For in wisdom there is a spirit intelligent and holy, unique in its kind yet made up of many parts, subtle, free-moving, lucid, spotless, clear, invulnerable, loving what is good, eager, unhindered, beneficent, kindly towards men, steadfast, unerring, touched by care, all-powerful, all-surveying, and permeating all intelligent, pure, and delicate spirits. For wisdom moves more easily than motion itself, she pervades and permeates all things because she is so pure. Like a fine mist she rises from the power of God, a pure effluence from the glory of the Almighty; so nothing defiled can enter into her by stealth. She is the brightness that streams from everlasting light, the flawless mirror of the active power of God and the image of his goodness. She is but one, yet can do everything; herself unchanging, she makes all things new; age after age she enters into holy souls, and makes them God's friends and prophets, for nothing is acceptable to God but the man who makes his home with wisdom. She is more radiant than the sun, and surpasses every constellation; compared with the light of day, she is found excel; for day gives place to night, but against wisdom no evil can prevail. “



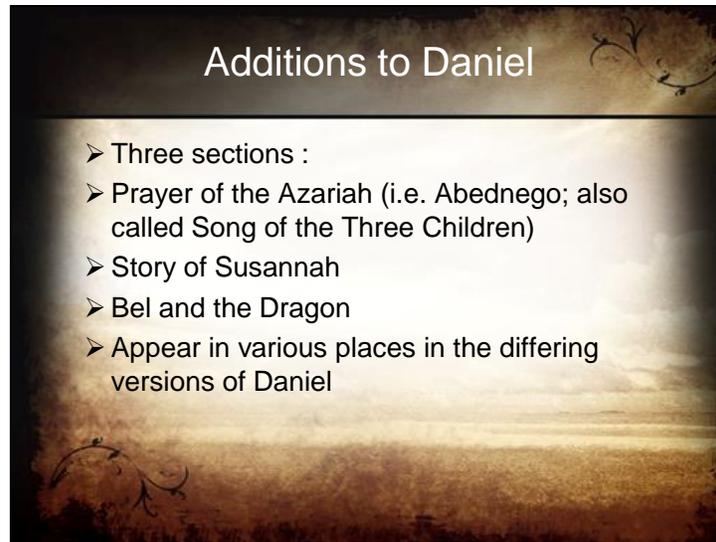
Addition to Esther 11 [2-12]:

“In the second year of the reign of Artaxerxes the Great, on the first day of Nisan, Mordecai the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, had a dream. He was a Jew, dwelling in the city of Susa, a great man, serving in the court of the king. He was one of the captives whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had brought from Jerusalem with Jeconiah king of Judea. And this was his dream: Behold, noise and confusion, thunders and earthquake, tumult upon the earth! And behold, two great dragons came forward, both ready to fight, and they roared terribly. And at their roaring every nation prepared for war, to fight against the nation of the righteous. And behold, a day of darkness and gloom, tribulation and distress, affliction and great tumult upon the earth! And the whole righteous nation was troubled; they feared the evils that threatened them, and were ready to perish. Then they cried to God; and from their cry, as though from a tiny spring, there came a great river, with abundant water; light came, and the sun rose, and the lowly were exalted and consumed those held in honor. Mordecai saw in this dream what God had determined to do, and after he awoke he had it on his mind and sought all day to understand it in every detail. “

Addition to Esther 14 [1-7]:

“And Esther the queen, seized with deathly anxiety, fled to the Lord; she took off her splendid apparel and put on the garments of distress and mourning, and instead of costly perfumes she covered her head with ashes and dung, and she utterly humbled her body, and every part that she loved to adorn she covered with her tangled hair. And she prayed to the Lord God of Israel, and said: ‘Lord, thou only art our King; help me, who am alone and have no helper but thee, for

my danger is in my hand. Ever since I was born I have heard in the tribe of my family that thou, O Lord, didst take Israel out of all the nations, and our fathers from among all their ancestors, for an everlasting inheritance, and that thou didst do for them all that thou didst promise. And now we have sinned before thee, and thou hast given us into the hands of our enemies, because we glorified their gods. Thou art righteous, O Lord! “



Prayer of Azariah 1:1-5:

“They walked around in the midst of the flames, singing hymns to God and blessing the Lord. Then Azariah stood still in the fire and prayed aloud: ‘Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our ancestors, and worthy of praise; and glorious is your name forever! For you are just in all you have done; all your works are true and your ways right, and all your judgments are true. You have executed true judgments in all you have brought upon us and upon Jerusalem, the holy city of our ancestors; by a true judgment you have brought all this upon us because of our sins.’”

Story of Susannah 1:1-6:

“There was a man living in Babylon whose name was Joakim. He married the daughter of Hilkiah, named Susanna, a very beautiful woman and one who feared the Lord. Her parents were righteous, and had trained their daughter according to the law of Moses. Joakim was very rich, and had a fine garden adjoining his house; the Jews used to come to him because he was the most honoured of them all.”

5 That year two elders from the people were appointed as judges. Concerning them the Lord had said: ‘Wickedness came forth from Babylon, from elders who were judges, who were supposed to govern the people.’ 6 These men were frequently at Joakim’s house, and all who had a case to be tried came to them there.

Bel and the Dragon 1:14-27:

“After they had gone out, the king set out the food for Bel. Then Daniel ordered his servants to bring ashes, and they scattered them throughout the whole temple in the presence of the king

alone. Then they went out, shut the door and sealed it with the king's signet, and departed. During the night the priests came as usual, with their wives and children, and they ate and drank everything. Early in the morning the king rose and came, and Daniel with him. The king said, 'Are the seals unbroken, Daniel?' He answered, 'They are unbroken, O king.' As soon as the doors were opened, the king looked at the table, and shouted in a loud voice, 'You are great, O Bel, and in you there is no deceit at all!' But Daniel laughed and restrained the king from going in. 'Look at the floor,' he said, 'and notice whose footprints these are.' The king said, 'I see the footprints of men and women and children.' Then the king was enraged, and he arrested the priests and their wives and children. They showed him the secret doors through which they used to enter to consume what was on the table. Therefore the king put them to death, and gave Bel over to Daniel, who destroyed it and its temple. Now in that place there was a great dragon, which the Babylonians revered. The king said to Daniel, 'You cannot deny that this is a living god; so worship him.' Daniel said, 'I worship the Lord my God, for he is the living God. But give me permission, O king, and I will kill the dragon without sword or club.' The king said, 'I give you permission.' Then Daniel took pitch, fat, and hair, and boiled them together and made cakes, which he fed to the dragon. The dragon ate them, and burst open. Then Daniel said, 'See what you have been worshiping!'"



Jeremiah 32:12:

“[A]nd I gave this deed to **Baruch** son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and of all the Jews sitting in the courtyard of the guard.” (cf. Jeremiah 32:13, 16; 36: 3-32; 43: 3, 6; 45:1,2)

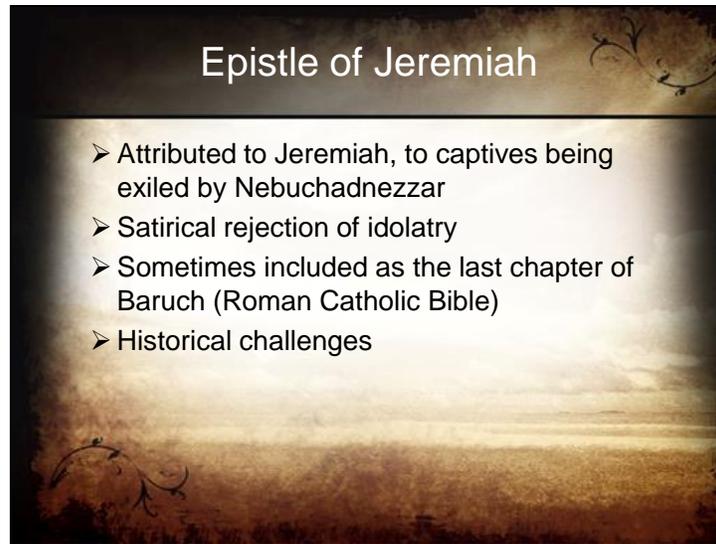
Baruch 1:1-9:

“These are the words of the book, which Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maasiah, the son of Zedekiah, the son of Hasadiah, the son of Hilkiah, wrote in Babylon, in the fifth year, and on the seventh day of the month, since the time when the Chaldeans took Jerusalem and burnt it with fire. Baruch read the words of this book in the hearing of Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, and to the ears of all the people who came to hear the book, and in the hearing of the nobles, and of the king’s sons, and in the hearing of the elders, and of all the people, from the lowest to the highest, even of all those who dwelt at Babylon by the river Sud; whereupon they wept, fasted, and prayed before the Lord.

They also made a collection of money according to each man’s ability, and they sent it to Jerusalem to Joachim the high priest, the son of Hilkiah, son of Salom, and to the priests, and to all the people who were with him at Jerusalem, at the same time when he received the vessels of the house of the Lord, which had been carried out of the Temple, to return them into the land of Judah, in the tenth day of the month Sivan, namely, silver vessels, which Zedekiah, the son of Josiah king of Judah, had made. After that, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away Jeconiah and the princes and the captives and the mighty men and the people of the land, from Jerusalem and brought them to Babylon. “

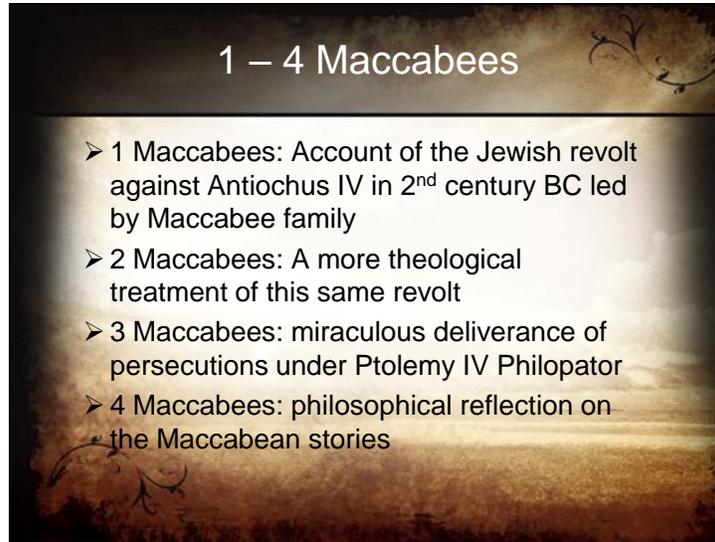
Baruch 4:1-7:

“This is the book of the commandments of God and the law that endures for ever. All those who keep it shall come to life, but such as leave it shall die. Turn you, O Jacob, and take hold of it; walk in the presence of its light so that you may be illuminated. Give not your honor to another, nor the things which are beneficial for you to a strange nation. O Israel, happy are we, for the things which are pleasing to God are made known to us. Be of good cheer, my people, the memorial of Israel. You were sold to the nations, not for destruction, but because you moved God to wrath; thus you were delivered to the enemies. For you provoked him who made you, by sacrificing to devils and not to God.”



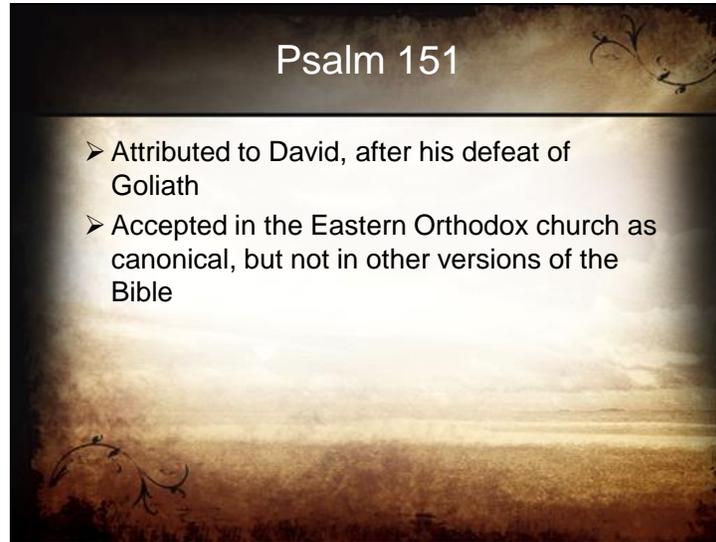
Letter of Jeremiah vv 4-6

“Now in Babylon you will see carried on men's shoulder's gods made of silver, gold, and wood, which fill the heathen with awe. Be careful, then, never to imitate these Gentiles; do not be overawed by their gods when you see them in the midst of a procession of worshippers. But say in your hearts, ‘To thee alone, Lord, is worship due.’”



1 – 4 Maccabees

- 1 Maccabees: Account of the Jewish revolt against Antiochus IV in 2nd century BC led by Maccabee family
- 2 Maccabees: A more theological treatment of this same revolt
- 3 Maccabees: miraculous deliverance of persecutions under Ptolemy IV Philopator
- 4 Maccabees: philosophical reflection on the Maccabean stories



Ps151.1 (RSV)

[2] My hands made a harp,
my fingers fashioned a lyre.

[3] And who will declare it to my Lord?
The Lord himself; it is he who hears.

[4] It was he who sent his messenger
and took me from my father's sheep,
and anointed me with his anointing oil.

[5] My brothers were handsome and tall,
but the Lord was not pleased with them.

[6] I went out to meet the Philistine,
and he cursed me by his idols.

[7] But I drew his own sword;
I beheaded him, and removed reproach from
the people of Israel.

