

APOCRYPHA AND PSEUDEPIGRAPHA

I. THE APOCRYPHA

A. Definitions

1. Apocrypha (singular *apocryphon*) = “things hidden”
2. Used to designate specific collection of books
 - a. Books written 300 BC-AD 100 by Jews, not in Hebrew Bible, accepted by some Christians
 - b. Contents vary: Roman Catholic Bibles have fewer books than Greek, other Orthodox
3. Groups accepting Apocrypha as canonical use the term “Deuterocanonicals” (= 2nd canon)

B. Jewish Use

1. Not part of Hebrew Bible (Jewish Canon)
2. Associated with “scriptures,” especially in Greek versions; never given “scriptural” status

C. Christian Use of the Apocrypha

1. Included in Septuagint (except 2 Esdras)
2. Reluctantly put in Latin Vulgate by Jerome; used through Middle Ages
3. Began to be left out of Protestant Bibles during Reformation
4. Roman Catholic Council of Trent, 1546
 - a. declared Latin Vulgate = Canonical
 - b. non-canonical: 1 & 2 Esdras, Prayer of Manasseh
5. Ultimately rejected by most Protestants

D. Contents of the “Apocrypha”

1. Historical Books:
 - a. **1 Esdras**: another version of Ezra-Nehemiah
 - b. **1 Maccabees**: Maccabean Revolt, Antiochus IV to John Hyrcanus I
 - c. **2 Maccabees**: Selucid Domination and Maccabean Revolt from 180-161 BC
2. Religious Fiction:
 - a. **Tobit**: folklorish tale of romance, piety, and moral teaching
 - b. **Judith**: Jewish heroine beheads an oppressor
 - c. **Additions to Esther** (included in Esther in LXX; Orthodox Bibles)
 - d. **Additions to Daniel** (included in Daniel in LXX; Orthodox Bibles)
 - 1) Song of the Three Young Men
 - 2) Bel and the Dragon
 - 3) Suzanna
3. Wisdom Literature:
 - a. **Ecclesiasticus**; also called **Wisdom of Jesus ben Sira** or ben Sirach or just **Sirach**
 - 1) Wisdom by a certain Jesus, son of Sira, about 190-180 BC in Hebrew
 - 2) Translated into Greek (version in LXX) by his grandson about 132 BC
 - b. **Wisdom of Solomon**: wisdom purportedly by Solomon
 - c. **Baruch**: wisdom purportedly by Jeremiah’s scribe
 - d. **The Letter of Jeremiah**: from Jeremiah to Jews about to be exiled (often included in Baruch)
4. Apocalyptic: **2 Esdras** (not in LXX; since Council of Trent, in appendix of Vulgate)
5. Books Used by Eastern Orthodox
 - a. **3 Maccabees** (in LXX, Armenian, Syriac; not in Vulgate): Persecution of Jews under Ptolemies
 - b. **4 Maccabees** (appendix in some LXX mss; not in Vulgate): a diatribe on religious reason
 - c. **Prayer of Manasseh**: penitential prayer (in appendix to Latin Vulgate after Council of Trent)
 - d. **Psalms 151** (in LXX version of Psalms)

E. Nomenclature of the books called Ezra, Nehemiah, Esdras

<u>English/Apocrypha</u>	<u>Septuagint</u>	<u>Latin Vulgate</u>
Ezra	2 Esdras 1-10	1 Esdras
Nehemiah	2 Esdras 11-23	2 Esdras
1 Esdras	1 Esdras	3 Esdras
2 Esdras	-	4 Esdras

F. Apocrypha in the Dead Sea Scrolls

1. Tobit: Aramaic & Hebrew MSS discovered; prob. written originally in Aramaic
2. Wisdom of Jesus ben Sira: Hebrew text known only from Qumran and Cairo Genizah
3. Letter of Jeremiah
4. Psalm 151: divided into two Psalms (original state?) in 11Qps^a

II. PSEUDEPIGRAPHA

A. Definitions:

1. Literal meaning: "falsely attributed writings"
 - a. Often used as a literary genre for any book falsely attributed to an ancient figure
 - b. This can include many works, even (subjectively) Bible and Apocrypha, and new works
2. Traditionally use to designate a specific group of books (this definition used here)
 - a. non-biblical Jewish works other than Apocrypha, Josephus, or Philo, known prior to 1948
 - b. most written 200 BC-AD 200
 - c. DSS: many "new" falsely attributed works, not considered Pseudepigrapha in this sense
 - d. Best modern compilation: J. H. Charlesworth, *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, 2 vols.

B. Some categorized examples (not exhaustive)

1. Many Attributed to OT Figures
 - a. 1 & 2 Enoch
 - b. Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs
 - c. Apocalypse of Abraham
 - d. Apocalypse of Zephaniah
 - e. Apocalypse of Elijah
 - f. Psalms of Solomon
2. Some Attributed to Other Authors: Sibylline Oracles
3. Many Build upon OT Stories
 - a. Life of Adam and Eve
 - b. Jubilees
 - c. Joseph and Aseneth
 - d. Jannes and Jambres
 - e. Assumption of Moses
 - f. Testament of Job
4. Most of Jewish Origin; Some Reworked/Written by Christians

C. Pseudepigrapha in the Dead Sea Scrolls

1. Psalms 154, 155
2. 1 Enoch
 - a. several copies, apparently originally in Aramaic; previously known in Ethiopic, some Greek fragments
 - b. perhaps considered scripture at Qumran, especially in early period
3. Jubilees
 - a. many copies in Hebrew, perhaps considered "scripture" by the Qumran sect
 - b. reworking of Genesis-Exodus in 50 units of 49 years each (hence name)

4. Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs