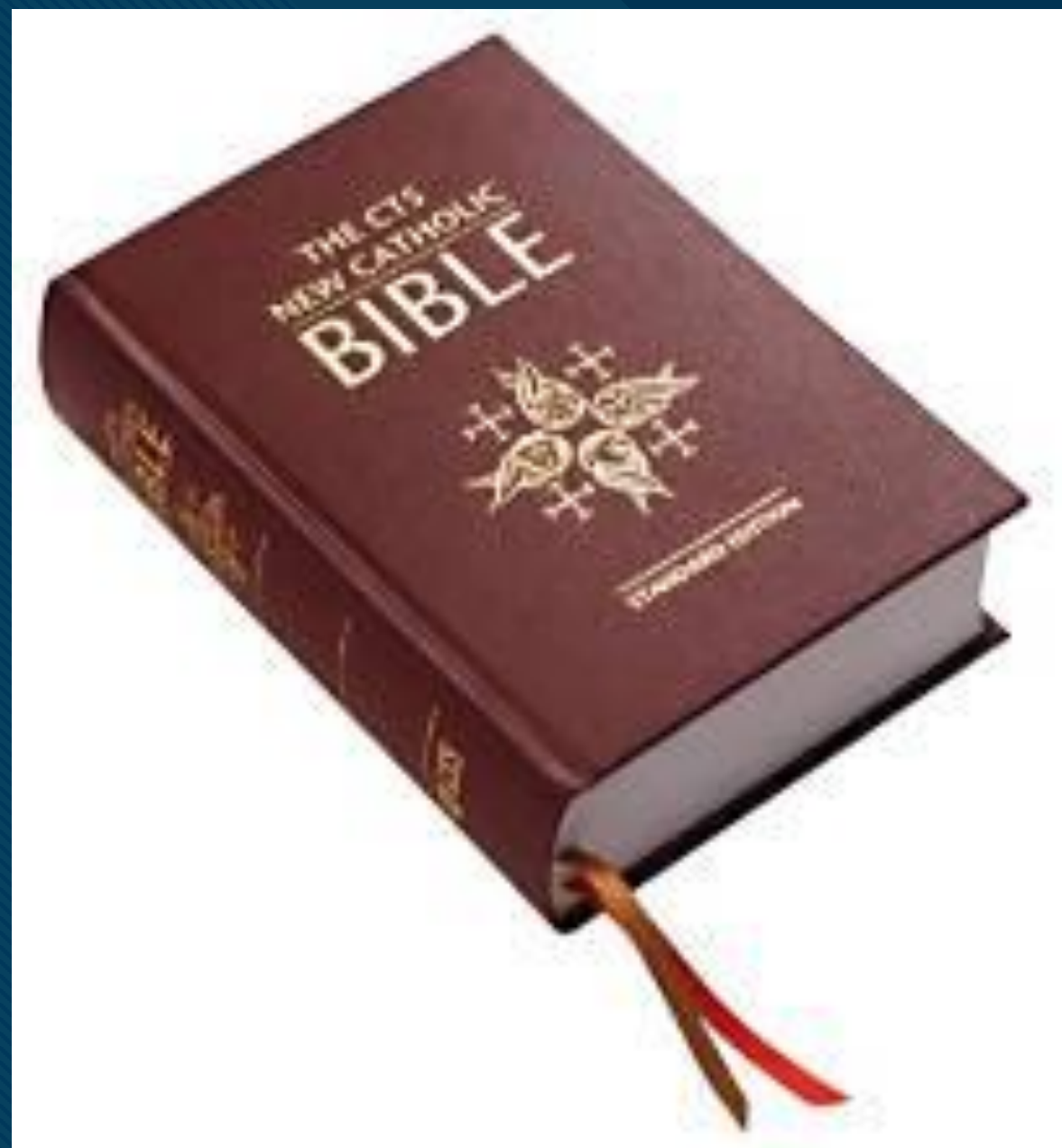


INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF TOBIT



INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF TOBIT







Old Testament

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Pentateuch

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

1 Samuel

2 Samuel

1 Kings

2 Kings

1 Chronicles

2 Chronicles

Historical Books

Sirach

Wisdom

Song of Songs

Ecclesiastes

Proverbs

Psalms

Job

2 Maccabees

1 Maccabees

Esther

Judith

Tobit

Nehemiah

Ezra

Historical Books (continued)

Wisdom Books

Malachi

Zechariah

Haggai

Zephaniah

Habakkuk

Nahum

Micah

Jonah

Obadiah

Amos

Joel

Hosea

Daniel

Ezekiel

Baruch

Lamentations

Jeremiah

Isaiah

Books of the Prophets

TIMELINE OF OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE



- ❖ Tradition says that Moses received the Law (first 5 books directly from God), and the rest was inspired as the Jews wandered the desert.
- ❖ Scripture was primarily oral. Writing material was hard to get and expensive, and used by scribes as most Jews did not read or write.
- ❖ Written scripture was on scrolls, in Hebrew, written from right to left with no vowels, little or no punctuation or stress marks. So, open to interpretive errors

MOSES

BY
250 BC

- ❖ Jews had been scattered throughout the known world. The world language at the time was Greek. Fewer & fewer Jews were conversant with Hebrew.
- ❖ The best of Hebrew scholars were summoned to Alexandria to translate the Hebrew scriptures to Greek, so that both Greek speaking Jews and converts would be able to study scripture and it would be preserved. This took about 100 years.
- ❖ This translation was called the Septuagint (LXX) and several copies are still in existence today





TIMELINE OF OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE



- ❖ The Septuagint was in use for Greek speakers. Greek was still the main world language
- ❖ In the middle east, Jews still had a strong oral tradition of scripture in both Hebrew and Aramaic. There were also writings in these languages.
- ❖ At times, because of interpretation and/or translation, these different versions did not agree

THE
TIME
OF
JESUS

382
AD +

- ❖ Almost all the books of the Septuagint are accepted as canon of the Old Testament during the council of Rome.





TIMELINE OF OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE



- ❖ A group of Jewish scribes called the Masorites, become concerned that the Greek Septuagint is not a correct translation of Hebrew scripture. They gather together scholars and look at Hebrew and Aramaic writings and preserved oral tradition. They also add vowels, punctuation and stress marks, so there would be no room for interpretive errors. It is written in Hebrew.
- ❖ All the books excepts for the 7 books of the Apocrypha are accepted and translated
- ❖ This Masoritic text is what the Jews use as scripture today

10th
century
AD

16th
century
AD

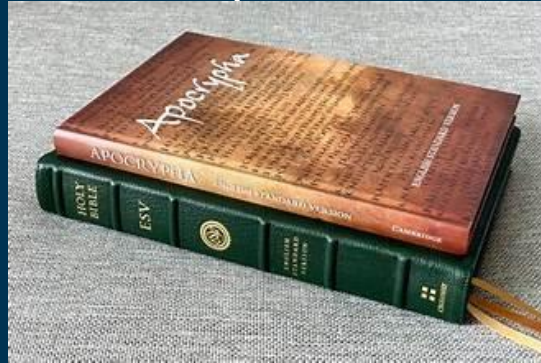
- ❖ With the Protestant Reformation, protestant scholars rejected the Apocrypha, but kept the order of the Catholic Bible, while also predominantly using the Masoritic text.
- ❖ Depending on the Protestant Bible, the Apocrypha may not be there at all, or may be in a section called The Apocrypha, usually found between the Old and New Testaments



APOCRYPHA (Protestant) (1534)

DEUTEROCANONICAL BOOKS (Catholic) (1566)

Tobit, Judith, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch



Hidden/Secret

Questionable status regarding divine inspiration

Conflict with some core Christian Protestant doctrines

Second Canon

Inspired books

Studied and reaffirmed though many councils over many years



THE BOOK OF TOBIT



THE BOOK OF TOBIT

Part of the Historical Section of the
Old Testament of the Catholic Bible

Not found as part of the Protestant
Bible

Part of the Apocrypha

Conflict with Protestant
Doctrine



Salvation vs Works
Sola Fide (Faith Alone)

Use of Sacramentals vs Magic

Angels as intercessors



THE BOOK OF TOBIT

Types of Biblical writings:

Historical narrative

Poetry

Prophetic exhortation

Wisdom sayings

Novellas

Folktale

Fictional romance

Unhistorical

Entertains

Instucts the people concerning the ways of God and encourages them in critical times

Teaches important moral lessons



The Book of Tobit

HISTORY

Author : Unknown

Date written: 3rd to early 2nd century BC

Hellenization is being imposed throughout Palestine

Setting date: 8th century BC during the time of the Assyrian exile of the Northern tribes

Location of book: Nineveh

The capital of the Assyrian empire where Tobit has been exiled



The Book of Tobit

CHARACTERS



Tobit: (Goodness) devout and righteous Jew in Nineveh who becomes blind

Tobias: (The Lord is good/The Lord is my good) devoted son of Tobit

Sarah: (princess/noblewoman) relative of Tobit who lives in Ecbatana and who is tormented by a demon who has killed her 7 husbands on their wedding night



The Book of Tobit

THEMES TO LOOK FOR:

DIVINE PROVIDENCE

God orchestrates events for the good of His faithful
Despite their trials, God's guiding hand is evident throughout their journey

This theme reassures believers of God's constant care and involvement in their lives, encouraging trust in His plans.



The Book of Tobit

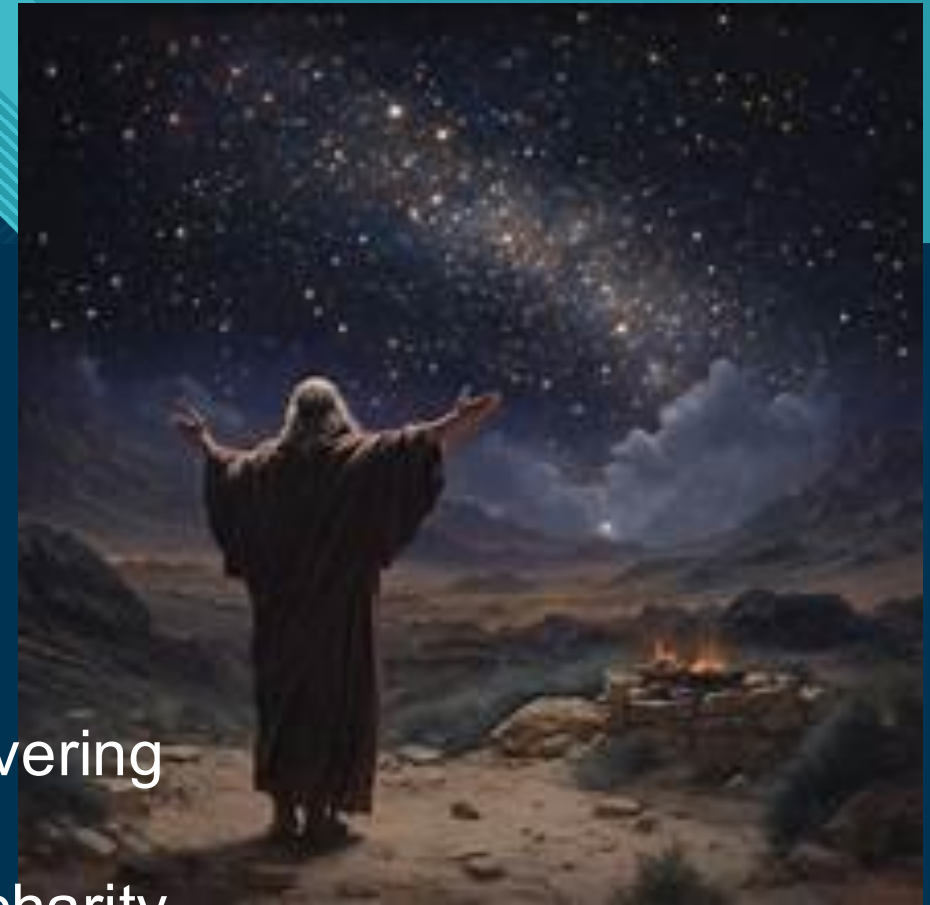
THEMES TO LOOK FOR:

FAITH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Even in the face of adversity, Tobit shows unwavering faith and righteousness

Tobit stays committed to God's laws and acts of charity, being committed to living a life pleasing to God

This theme serves as a moral compass emphasizing the rewards of steadfast faith and virtuous conduct



The Book of Tobit

THEMES TO LOOK FOR:

FAMILY AND LOYALTY



There is significant emphasis on Family and loyalty in this book
The value of love, respect and duty is highlighted in Tobit's family

This theme underscores the importance of familial bonds and the responsibilities that come with them



The Book of Tobit

THEMES TO LOOK FOR:

ANGELIC GUIDANCE

The archangel Raphael is a presence in the book of Tobit
Raphael's role in guiding and healing signify the divine assistance available to believers

This theme encourages us to recognize and seek spiritual guidance in our own lives



The Book of Tobit

THEMES TO LOOK FOR:

Feed the hungry

THE IMPOTRANCE OF WORKS OF MERCY

Visit the sick

Give drink to the thirsty

Bury the dead

[papa-francesco-cotidie_20170605_risk-of-giving-mercy.pdf](#)

Clothe the naked

Shelter the homeless

Visit the imprisoned



INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF TOBIT



PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

As we begin this new year of Bible study, we thank You for the opportunity to gather together, learn from Your Word, and grow closer to You. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to everything You want to teach us.

Lord, help us to grow deeper in our faith and stronger in our trust in You. Give us wisdom and understanding as we study Scripture. Help us not only to gain knowledge, but to truly understand Your truth and allow it to transform the way we live, think, and treat others.

When we come across passages that are difficult to understand, give us patience and humility. When Your Word challenges us, give us willing hearts to listen and grow. Help us to encourage one another, learn from one another, and create an environment where everyone feels welcomed and able to grow.

May this year of study draw us closer to You and strengthen our relationship with You. Give us a hunger for Your Word and a desire to put what we learn into practice. May our time together produce lasting growth in our faith and help us reflect Your love in our daily lives.

Guide us throughout this journey, Lord, and let everything we learn bring glory and honor to You.

Amen.

