

# Second Temple Jewish Literature

4th century BCE - 5th/6th century CE

## Terminology

**All:** Non-canonical

**These mean pretty much the same thing:** Intertestamental Literature; Post-biblical Literature; Extra-biblical Literature; Second Temple Jewish Literature.

# The Apocrypha: Hidden or Non-Canonical Texts (from the Greek verb “to hide”)

- *1 Esdras (Vulgate 3 Esdras)*
- *2 Esdras (Vulgate 4 Esdras)*
- *Tobit*
- *Judith*
- *Additions to Esther of Esther (Vulgate Esther 10:4 – 16:24)*
- *Wisdom (of Solomon)*
- *Ecclesiasticus, or Ben Sira (also known as Sirach)*
- *Baruch and the Epistle of Jeremy ("Jeremiah" in Geneva) (all part of Vulgate Baruch)*
- *Additions to Daniel*
  - *Song of the Three Children or the Prayer of Azariah (Vulgate Daniel 3:24–90)*
  - *Story of Susanna (Vulgate Daniel 13)*
  - *The Idol Bel and the Dragon (Vulgate Daniel 14)*
  - *Prayer of Manasseh (Daniel)*

# Pseudepigrapha:

*texts of questionable authorship, especially Jewish writings ascribed to various biblical patriarchs and prophets but composed within approximately 200 years of the birth of Jesus Christ*

## **Apocalypses**

- **1 (Ethiopic Apocalypse of) Enoch (Jewish, c. 200 BCE–50 CE)**
- **2 (Slavonic Apocalypse of) Enoch (Jewish, c. 75–100 CE)**
- **Sibylline Oracles (both Jewish and Christian, c. 2nd cent. BCE–7th cent. CE)**
- **Treatise of Shem (c. near end of first cent. BCE)**
- **Apocryphon of Ezekiel (mostly lost, original form c. late 1st cent. BCE)**
- **Apocalypse of Zephaniah (mostly lost, original form c. late 1st cent. BCE)**
- **4 Ezra (original Jewish form after 70 CE, final Christian additions later)**
- **2 (Syriac Apocalypse of) Baruch (Jewish, from c. 100 CE)**
- **3 (Greek Apocalypse of) Baruch (Christian utilizing Jewish sources, c. 1st–2nd cent. CE)**
- **Apocalypse of Abraham (Jewish primarily, c. 70–150 CE)**
- **Apocalypse of Adam (Gnostic derived from Jewish sources from c. the 1st cent. CE)**

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## **Testaments**

- ***Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs (current form is Christian, c. 150–200 CE, but Levi, Judah, and Naphtali are Jewish and date before 70 CE and probably 2nd–1st cent. BCE)***
- ***Testament of Job (Jewish, c. late 1st cent. BCE)***
- ***Testaments of the Three Patriarchs (Jewish Testaments of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob from c. 100 CE which are linked with the Christian Testament of Isaac and Jacob)***
- ***Testament of Moses (Jewish, from c. early 1st cent. CE)***

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## **Old Testament Expansions**

- *The Letter of Aristeas (Jewish, c. 200–150 BCE)*
- *Jubilees (Jewish, c. 130–100 BCE)*
- *Martyrdom and Ascension of Isaiah (has three sections, the first Jewish from c. 100 BCE, and 2nd and 3rd sections are Christian. The second from c. 2nd cent. CE, and the third— Testament of Hezekiah, c. 90–100 CE)*
- *Joseph and Asenath (Jewish, c. 100 CE)*
- *Life of Adam and Eve (Jewish, c. early to middle 1st cent. CE)*
- *Pseudo-Philo (Jewish, c. 66–135 CE)*
- *Lives of the Prophets (Jewish, c. early 1st The Letter of Aristeas (Jewish, c. 200–150 BCE)*
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- *Lives of the Prophets (Jewish, c. early 1st cent. CE with later Christian additions)*
- *Ladder of Jacob (earliest form is Jewish dating from late 1st cent.CE. One chapter is Christian)*
- *4 Baruch (Jewish original but edited by a Christian, c. 100–110 CE)*
- *Jannes and Jambres (Christian in present form, but dependent on earlier Jewish sources from c. 1st cent. BCE)*
- *History of the Rechabites (Christian in present form dating c. 6th cent. CE, but contains some Jewish sources before 100 CE)*
- *Eldad and Modat (forged on basis of Numbers 11.26–29, before the 1st CE is now lost, but quoted in Shepherd of Hermas c. 140 CE)*
- *History of Joseph (Jewish, but difficult to date).cent. CE with later Christian additions)*
- *Ladder of Jacob (earliest form is Jewish dating from late 1st cent.CE. One chapter is Christian)*

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### **Wisdom and Philosophical Literature**

- ***Ahiqar (Jewish dating from late 7th or 6th cent. BCE and cited in Apocryphal Tobit)***
- ***3 Maccabees (Jewish, c. 1st cent. BCE)***
- ***4 Maccabees (Jewish, c. before 70 CE)***
- ***Pseudo-Phocylides (Jewish maxims attributed to 6th cent. Ionic poet, c. 50 BCE–100 CE)***
- ***The Sentences of the Syriac Menander (Jewish, c. 3rd cent. CE).***

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## **Prayers, Psalms and Odes**

- ***More Psalms of David (Jewish psalms from c. 3rd cent. BCE to 100 CE)***
- ***Prayer of Manasseh (sometimes in Apocrypha, Jewish from c. early 1st cent. CE)***
- ***Psalms of Solomon (Jewish, c. 50–5 BCE)***
- ***Hellenistic Synagogal Prayers (Jewish, c. 2nd–3rd cent. CE)***
- ***Prayer of Joseph (Jewish, c. 70–135)***
- ***Prayer of Jacob (mostly lost Jewish document from c. 4th cent. CE)***
- ***Odes of Solomon (Christian but influenced by Judaism and probably also Qumran, c. 100 CE)***

# **Dead Sea Scrolls:**

*Nearly 1000 scrolls discovered in the 11 caves of the Judean desert*

## ***Three Major Divisions***

- ***Written by the Yahad for the Yahad (e.g. Thanksgiving Hymns)***
- ***Not-written by the Yahad, maybe copied by them, but still considered important to the Yahad (e.g., Temple Scroll)***
- ***Texts that were part of the general library of Qumran (e.g. the Messianic Apocalypse)***