

# THE DEUTEROCANONICAL BOOKS

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SERVANTS PREP CLASS: 2020

# OVERVIEW OF TOPIC

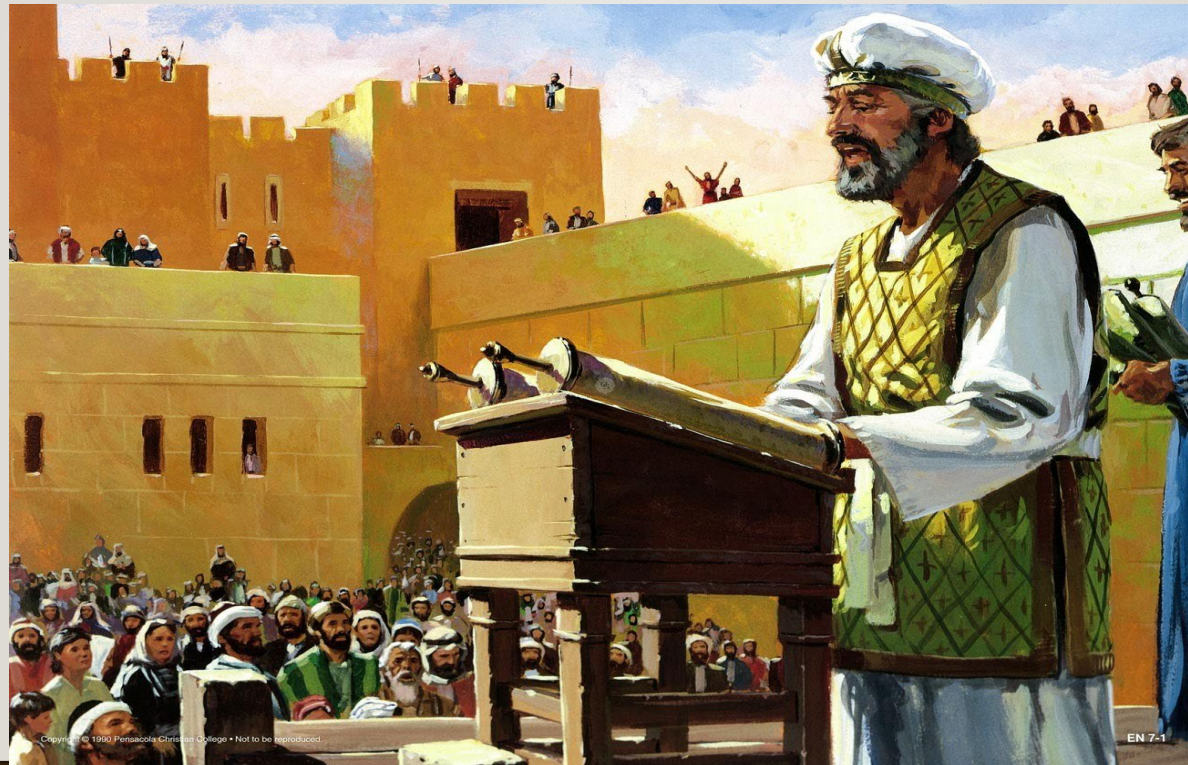
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- History of the books
  - Why they're called Deuterocanonical books
  - Why are they not in our Bible today
  - Do we believe in them?
- Introduction to each book.
- Implications on my spiritual life and life of service.

# WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THESE BOOKS?

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- Remember this man... 500 BCE

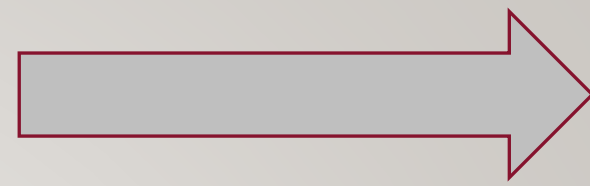




EZRA



PTOLEMY



MACCABEES

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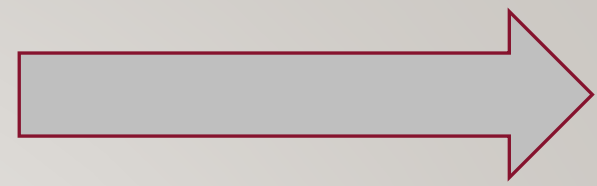
- Ezra was the man who collected the books of the old testament
- But How?
  - After exile, he told the people of Israel, any one with writings, send it over.
  - Anyone who had writings/scriptures on hand, sent it directly to Ezra.
  - Ezra went through hundreds and hundreds of records, which he had to categorize into books (IF he deemed them to qualify)



EZRA



PTOLEMY

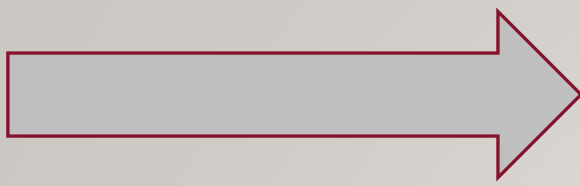


MACCABEES

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## PROTOCANONICAL

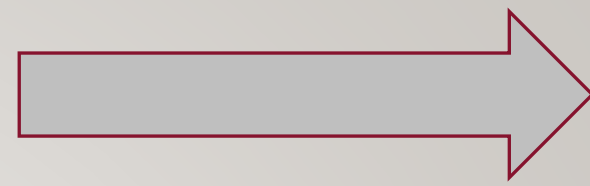
- These are the books that got a place in Ezra's library as Biblical books
- However... there were three problems
  - There were writings that Ezra never had a chance to go through yet before his death
  - There were writings that were sent over but didn't arrive until after Ezra's death
  - There were writings that were written after his death.



EZRA

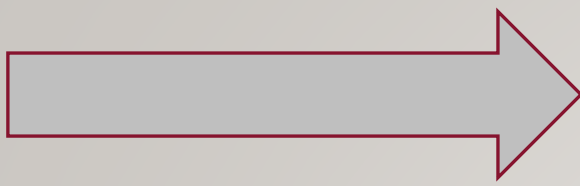


PTOLEMY



MACCABEES

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- In 250 BCE, Ptolemy II Philadelphus wanted Alexandria, Egypt to be a center of knowledge to the world.
  - To be the Center of Knowledge, your library need to have the most popular book in your world... The Bible!
  - But The Bible was only written in Hebrew, which no one really understood in Egypt at the time.
  - So he ordered to have the books of the Old Testament be translated, to what is known as the “Septuagint”



EZRA



PTOLEMY



MACCABEES

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## DEUTEROCANONICAL

- In 150BCE new person by the name of Maccabees took on the exact same task Ezra took
- He began to collect the remainder of the books of the Old Testaments.
- As the books were collected, they also began to be translated.

# SO WHY DID THESE BOOKS GET “OMITTED”

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- For over 3 centuries, these books were considered Biblical and valid.
- When Christianity started spreading in the world in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD, the Jews needed a way to stop the spread.
- What better way to stop the spread than by saying that the very book used in preaching is invalid...?



# SO WHY DID THESE BOOKS GET “OMITTED”

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- The Jews rejected these books. They refused to believe in them because they were written in the GREEK Language and not in Hebrew. ← an excuse.. The real reason was mentioned in last slide.
- The rest of the Churches continued to believe in them and print them.

# SOME PROOF OF AUTHENTICITY

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- The Septuagint translation was done by all 12 tribes of Israel, indicating their belief in them.
- Story of Simon.
- These books were not all originally written in Greek as people may think, but lots of the writings were found to be written in Hebrew.
- The council of Heppo in 393 approved the authenticity of the books
- The traditional churches recognizes the authenticity of these books:
  - The Orthodox Church, The Byzantine Church, The Catholic Church
- Many of the original church fathers used these books in their writings and teachings and citing them.
- We use them until this day especially during lent and Holy Week prophecies

# SO WHY ARE THEY CALLED...

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- Deuterocanonical books? Are these names accurate?
  - Not exactly...
  - Because it could indicate that they're second in importance, or not at the same grade/authenticity as the 1<sup>st</sup> books.
  - They're only second in the timing of collecting them
  - So... why are they omitted?

# WHAT ARE THEY? ... THE 7&4

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- Tobit (14 chapters) comes after the Book of Nehemiah
- Judith (16 chapters) comes after Tobit
- Additions to Esther (Esther 10:4-16:24)
- Wisdom of Solomon (19 chapters) comes after the Book of “Song of Songs”
- Joshua son of Sirach (51 chapters) comes after Wisdom of Solomon
- Baruch (6 chapters) comes after The Letter of Jeremiah
- Additions to Daniel
- 1 Maccabees (16 chapters) comes after the Book of Malachi
- 2 Maccabees (15 chapters) comes after 1 Maccabees
- Psalm 151 - Apocalypse night
- Prayer of Manasseh

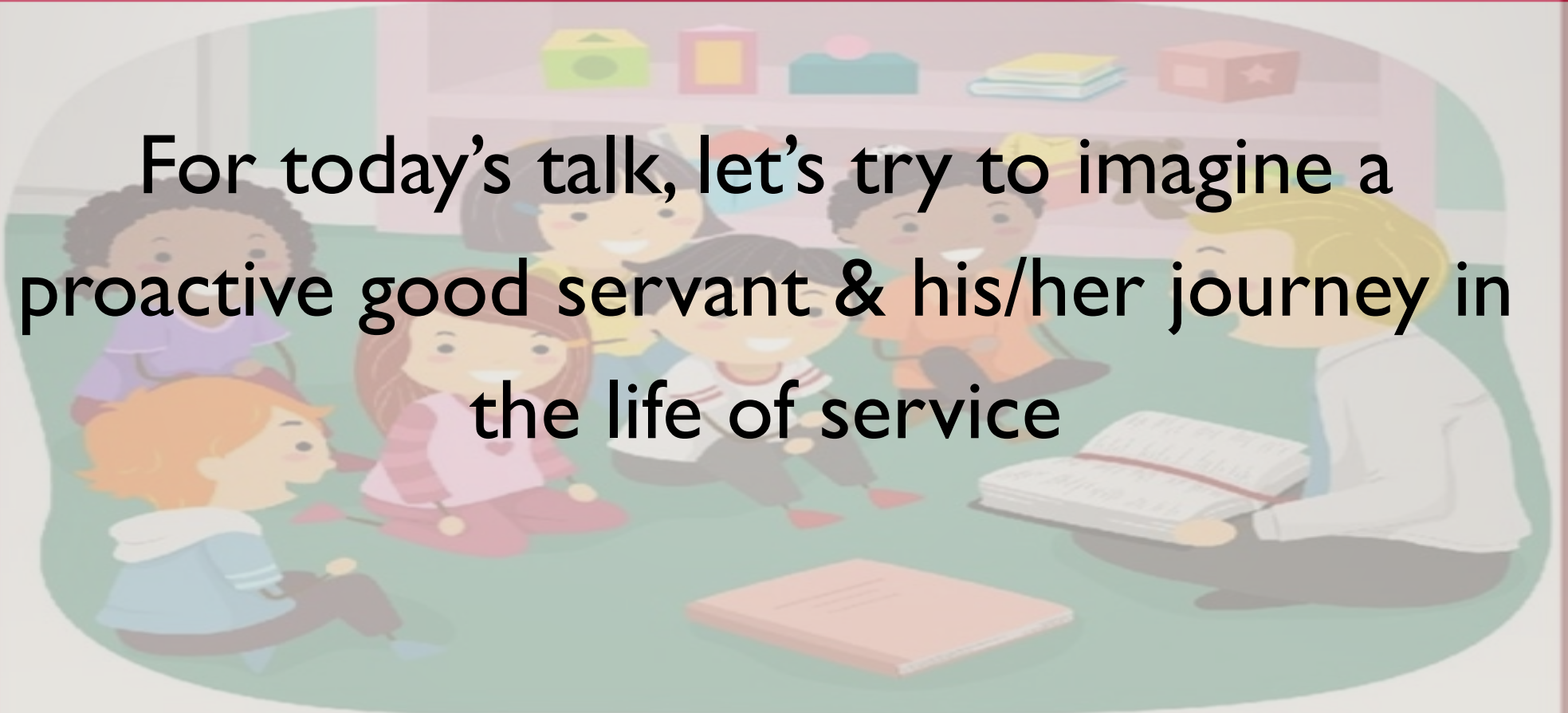
# OVERVIEW OF EACH BOOK

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1. To have an an idea of what the book is about
  2. To take away 1 point to benefit me as a servant from each book
- These books are very different, each of them carries a number of very special lessons.
  - Each of us will get attached to one book or one concept or another.

# A PROACTIVE SERVANT

For today's talk, let's try to imagine a proactive good servant & his/her journey in the life of service



## TOBIT- OUR SERVANT TODAY

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- Tobit lived in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. Tobit lived during the exile of Asura.
- Tobit was a Godly man who lived a righteous life all his days.
- He lived with his wife and son in Nineveh during the reign of a King who loved Tobit and his people.
- One day, during Tobit's travels, he met a friend who had a big debt. Tobit lent him the money as loan
- After that king's death, another king ruled who persecuted the Jews and killed many.



# TOBIT

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- Tobit's continued to give money to the poor and needy and bury the dead whose bodies are left outside the city.
- When the King found out it was Tobit who was doing these action, he fled- Until a new king reigned and Tobit was brought back to his city.
- Upon his return, they had a huge feast for celebration of the Feast of the Pentecost, Tobit asked his son to invite all the poor/ needy.
- Burial of killed Jew- losing his sight.
- Wife upset over the deterioration of their financial situation and lack of seeing benefits of all of Tobit's good deeds



# TOBIT

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- Tobit's prayer and Sarah's prayer
  - Sarah was young woman who was also bullied because she was married 7 times and each time, her husband would die night of wedding.
- We need to read these prayers! God listened to both their prayers and sent His angel Raphael start His action!
- Tobit decided to send his son to collect the debt money... But before he did, he gave him the following advise...

# TOBIT CHAPTER 4- A TINY GLIMPSE OF HOW POWERFUL THIS BOOK IS.

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2 And he said to him: "My son, hear the words of my mouth, and set them, like a foundation, in your heart.

3 When God will receive my soul, bury my body. And you shall honor your mother, all the days of her life.

4 For you are obliged to be mindful of what great perils she suffered because of you in her womb.

5 But when she too will have completed the time of her life, bury her near me.

6 Yet, for all the days of your life, have God in your mind. And be careful that you never consent to sin, nor overlook the precepts of the Lord our God.

7 Give alms from your substance, and do not turn away your face from any pauper. For so it shall be that neither will the face of the Lord be turned away from you.

8 In whatever way that you are able, so shall you be merciful.

9 If you have much, distribute abundantly. If you have little, nevertheless strive to bestow a little freely.

10 For you store up for yourself a good reward for the day of necessity.

11 For almsgiving liberates from every sin and from death, and it will not suffer the soul to go into darkness.

12 Almsgiving will be a great act of faith before the most high God, for all those who practice it.

13 Take care to keep yourself, my son, from all fornication, and, except for your wife, never permit yourself to know such an offense.

14 Never permit arrogance to rule in your mind or in your words. For in it, all perdition had its beginning.

15 And whoever has done any kind of work for you, immediately pay him his wages, and do not let the wages of your hired hand remain with you at all.

16 Whatever you would hate to have done to you by another, see that you never do so to another.

17 Eat your bread with the hungry and the needy, and cover the naked with your own garments.

18 Set out your bread and your wine at the burial of a just man, and do not eat and drink from it with sinners.

19 Always seek the counsel of a wise man.

20 Bless God at all times. And petition him that he direct your ways and that all your counsels may remain in him.

21 And now, I reveal to you, my son, that I lent ten talents of silver, while you were still a young child, to Gabael, in Rages, a city of the Medes, and I have his written agreement with me.

22 And so, inquire how you may travel to him and receive from him the aforementioned weight of silver, and return to him the written agreement.

23 Do not be afraid, my son. We do indeed lead a poor life, but we will have many good things: if we fear God, and withdraw from all sin, and do what is good."

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# TOBIT- GOD'S PLAN

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- Archangel Raphael (disguised) accompanied Tobit's son on his journey.
- God's plan in him marrying Sarah
- God's plan in Tobit restoring his eyesight

# TOBIT- LESSONS

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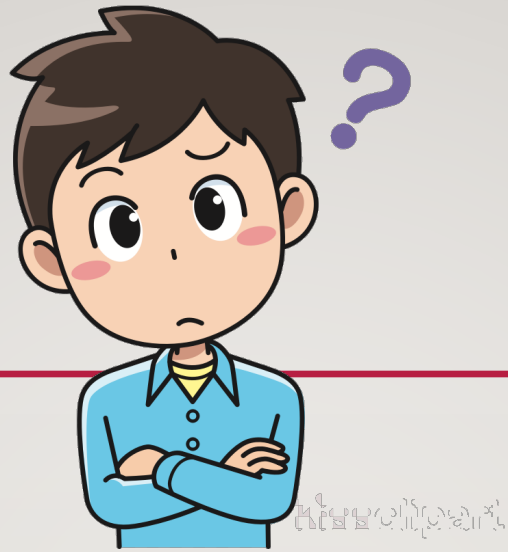
- We learn few things from his character
  - To never deny our faith and to always hold fast- no matter the potential punishment.
  - To trust in God's miraculous work always- despite what the situation may seem like.
  - Doing a good deed helps other- but helps you way more!
  - We fix our mentality that "good" people should never face tribulation... wrong



## JUDITH- SIMILAR STORY, FEMALE SERVANT

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- Book of Judith was written during exile.
- Similar lessons to be learned
  - Mankind may suffer tribulations- for a while, then God will always intervene to help.
  - When Judith went into tribulation- she prayed.
  - When tribulation went away- She rejoiced in the lord by praising the Lord.



SO TOBIT & JUDITH PRAYED WHEN THEY NEEDED  
HELP  
WHERE DO I LEARN HOW TO PRAY?

# Addition #1

## ESTHER 10:4-16:24

- These chapters of the book of Esther contain
  - Prayers, Messages & Dreams
- We learn how Esther prayed through these chapters.
- A story of salvation for the entire people of Israel was fulfilled as God listened to Esther's prayers.

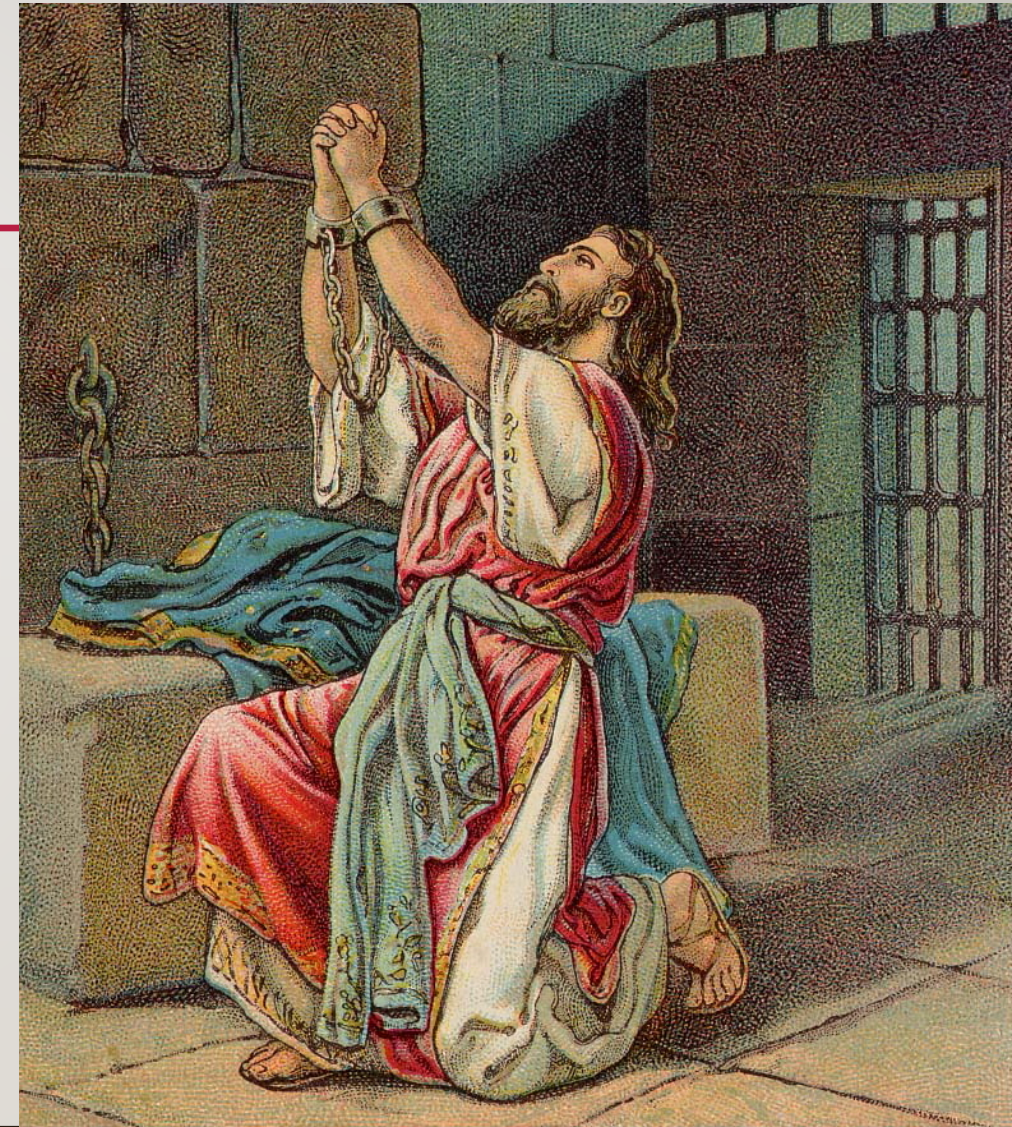


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## PRAYER OF MANASSEH

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- Manasseh was a Godly man, but he sinned
- So what did he do? he prayed
- But... WHAT A PRAYER!
  - The idea of God the creator of all- shows glory
  - The concept of differentiating between hating sin and giving mercy to sinners
    - I know You hate sin. I also know Your mercies are plentiful for the sinners
  - The declaration of admitting to sin.
  - Faith and trust in God
  - Gave all Glory to God despite being in a high rank

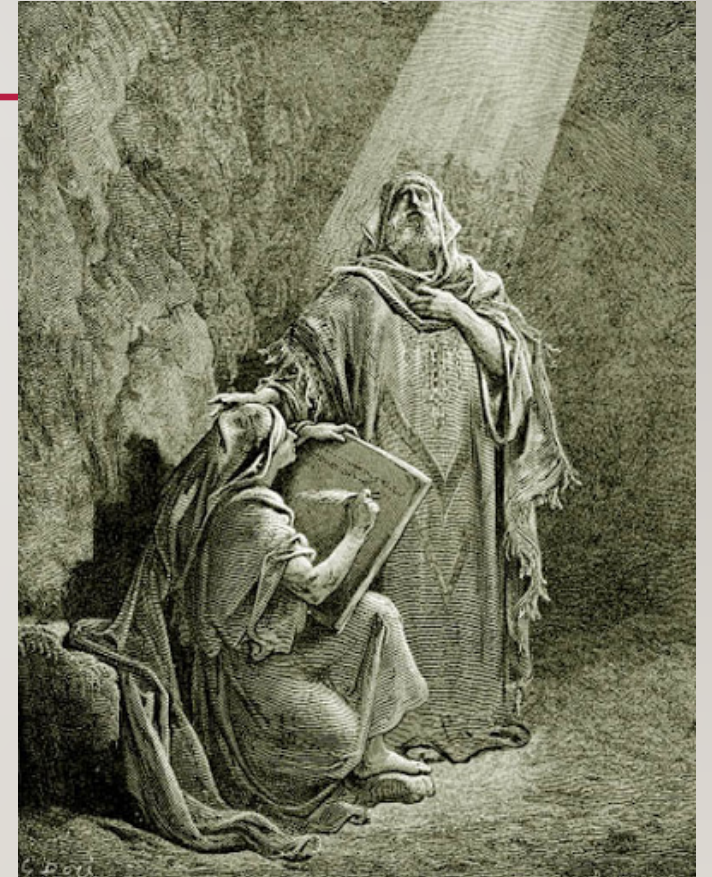




## PROPHECY OF BARUCH

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- Baruch was a friend of Jeremiah the prophet.
- Baruch wrote this prophecy during exile
- His message was: We can escape exile through...
  - Faith
  - Rejecting worshiping of Idles- (today's idles)
  - Purity
- So me as a servant or if my service are in "exile" How do I return to God?





PRAYER WILL GIVE MAN MANY VIRTUES...

ONE OF WHICH IS **WISDOM**

## WISDOM OF SOLOMON

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- As a servant, I should strive to achieve Godly wisdom
  - Why should I want to have wisdom? To build my character as a person- as a servant.
  - To build up my character as a role model and a leader... while being a servant and a helper
  - How can I be a leader... yet a servant. How can I be strong yet humble?
- A wise person never says I'm done growing my character. It's a constant process to always grow in wisdom.

## JOSHUA SON OF SIRACH

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- Son of Sirach was a knowledgeable well-rounded and wise man.
- His book was the reason many of the Greeks believed in the God of Israel instead of Greek gods.
- Among the book, he wrote about 3 concepts
  - Wisdom in patience
  - Wisdom in obedience
  - Wisdom in giving

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And if I pray much

And I gain wisdom & many other virtues

And I strive to do good deeds and try my best to be a good servant

**Will I still be faced with any tribulation?**



## MACCABEES 1 & 2

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- Maccabees 1 discusses the history and the timeline during the Maccabean Revolt- the transition from the Greek era to the Maccabean era
- Maccabees 1 narrates stories of lots of martyrs of the Israelites
- We see how strong God's presence was during their hardship.
- Maccabees 2 is more of an explanation from a spiritual level on the above events
- Feast of Dedication- Which Jesus celebrated in John.10:22. only mention of this feast was in Maccabees 1

## ADDITIONS TO DANIEL

ALL EXAMPLES OF FACING TRIBULATIONS

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- Song of the three children (Daniel 3:24-90)
  - A prayer that we sing during tasbeha
- Story of Susanna (Daniel 13, Septuagint prologue)
  - Another story of salvation- someone's who's condemned to death and was resurrected.
  - A story of purity
  - A story of faith
- The idol Bel and the dragon (Daniel 14, Septuagint epilogue)
  - A story that shows that bad deeds are exposed- may not be on earth, but will at judgment day.

## PSALM 151

- The grand opening of apocalypse night.
- When the world may see as defeat, in God's hands, is success and new life
  - Jesus crucified on the cross... will resurrect
  - Goliath, strong and armed... will be defeated by a small rock





# CONCLUSION

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- A journey of a servant is an ongoing process
- It requires building of character, growing in wisdom, continuous prayers, defeated tribulations and never giving up as our trust in God is always there.
- We learn from those before us.
- As servant, we all must read these books and apply their lessons to our lives.

# QUESTIONS?

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