Intertestament History "Jewish Literature"

1. The Old Testament in Greek

- A. The Septuagint (LXX)
 - 1. Derivation: Latin word for "seventy"
 - 2. Designed to put in library at Alexandria
 - 3. The need: Hellenization of the world
 - 4. One of the most important literary events of its day
- B. Other Greek works:
 - 1. Alexandrian canon
 - 2. Fragments
- 2. The Apocrypha
 - A. Defining the term is difficult.
 - B. Etymologically, it is from a word meaning "hidden away."
 - C. Apocryphal books:
 - a. <u>1 Esdras</u> (Greek Ezra) based on material in Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah has one major addition not found in Ezra and Nehemiah
 - b. <u>2 Esdras</u> also known as 4 Ezra as the Latin Vulgate counted Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 Esdras and 2 Esdras 3-14 as 1,2,3,4 Ezra
 - c. <u>Tobit</u> one of the most widely read books of fiction among the ancient Jews
 - d. <u>Judith</u> patriotic book intended to encourage and strengthen the faith of the Jews under intense circumstances
 - e. <u>Additions to Esther</u> reading it apart from Esther, it makes little or no sense consists of several prayers indicating a deep devotion to God
 - f. <u>Wisdom of Solomon</u> calls for justice and praises wisdom provides insight into the pre-existent Christ
 - g. Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) author identified as a Sadducee sympathizer
 - h. <u>Baruch</u> supposedly written by Jeremiah's secretary during Babylonian captivity
 - i. <u>Letter of Jeremiah</u> often attached to Baruch supposedly a letter sent by Jeremiah to Jews in Babylonian captivity
 - j. Additions to Daniel
 - 1) "Prayer of Azariah and Song of the Three Young Men"
 - 2) "Susanna"
 - 3) "Bel and the Dragon"

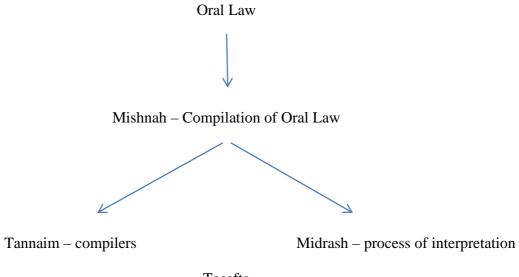
- k. <u>Prayer of Manasseh</u> claimed to provide detail not included in 1 Chr. 33:10-13)
- 1. <u>1 Maccabees</u> used heavily by Josephus and other historians
- m. 2 Maccabees not as good historically as the first
- 3. Pseudepigrapha
 - A. Definition a "catch all" for all Jewish literature that did not fall into some other category
 - B. The Pseudepigraphal books:
 - 1. 3 Maccabees pseudo-history
 - 2. 4 Maccabees author drew heavily on Stoic philosophers
 - 3. Epistle of Aristeas
 - 4. Jubilees a rewriting of history from creation to the giving of the Law
 - 5. 1 Enoch popular at Qumran
 - 6. 2 Enoch an elaboration of Gen. 5:21-32
 - 7. Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs claims to the last words of the twelve sons of Jacob
 - 8. Testament of Job praises the virtue of patience as superior to all
 - 9. Assumption of Moses rewriting of Deut. 31-34
 - 10. Ascension of Isaiah contains three separate works
 - 11. 2 Baruch letter to the 9¹/₂ in dispersion
 - 12. The Psalms of Solomon
- 4. The Dead Sea Scrolls
 - A. Major impact in many areas
 - B. Discovery
 - C. Library of Qumran
 - D. Writings associated with Qumran community
 - 1. Rule of the Community (or Manual of Discipline)
 - 2. Rule of the Congregation (or Messianic Rule)
 - 3. Book of Blessings
 - 4. Damascus Document
 - 5. War Scroll
 - 6. Thanksgiving Hymns
 - 7. Habakkuk Commentary
 - 8. Genesis Apocryphon
 - 9. Copper Scroll
 - 10. Temple Scroll
 - 11. Halakhic Letter

5. Philo

A. The man B. Nature of his work

6. Josephus

- A. The man
- B. Four works survive:
 - 1. "The Jewish War"
 - 2. "Jewish Antiquities'
 - 3. "The Life"
 - 4. "Against Apion"
- 7. Rabbinic Literature
 - A. Background
 - B. Mishnah interpretations of legal laws of the Pentateuch
 - C. Tosefta collection of interpretations contemporary with the Mishnah, but missing from it
 - D. Talmud "Mishnah" plus commentary = Talmud
 - E. Midrashim commentary
 - F. Targumim preserve the way passages were commonly interpreted...paraphrase



Tosefta

Talmud