## 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"

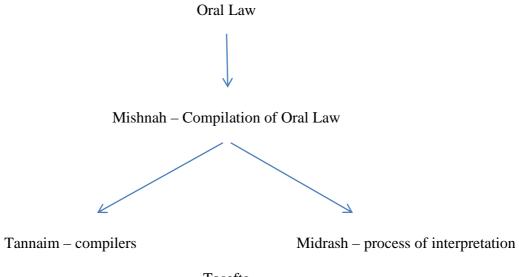
- k. <u>Prayer of Manasseh</u> claimed to provide detail not included in 1 Chr. 33:10-13)
- 1. <u>1 Maccabees</u> used heavily by Josephus and other historians
- m. 2 Maccabees not as good historically as the first
- 3. Pseudepigrapha
  - A. Definition a "catch all" for all Jewish literature that did 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 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 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