

## Inter-Testament Chronicles- “*The Apocrypha*”

The word “*Apocrypha*” means an unveiling. Biblical canon (catalog or collection of sacred text) represents documents and writings that contain historical Biblical events not included in the final canon of scripture. Some authors of Apocryphal material are also authors or individuals referenced in texts that are accepted into the Biblical canon, such as Jeremiah and Esdra (Ezra).

The Biblical *Apocrypha* is a collection of writings authored between 200 BC – 100 AD. They generally were included in the ancient Latin Vulgate canon of scripture and the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox scriptures. Nearly all translations copied from the Latin Vulgate (Catholic) Bible included the *Apocrypha* until the reformer Bible of the protestant movement, The Luther Translation (German) in 1534. They have basically been excluded based upon the lack of common consent for the texts to be read publicly because the material is suggested to be read among scholars for the advancement of learning. (as noted in the preface of the Geneva Bible)

The usefulness of the text is largely to provide historical background to Biblical events, especially with respect to the “inter-testament” period, which is the perceived timeline between the last referenced event in the Old Testament and the first event captured in the New Testament.

There are 14 books in the *Apocrypha* collection which include multiple genres:

### *History-*

Esdra (Ezra) I

Maccabees I-II

*captures the Era of the Seleucids /The Hasmonean Dynasty period*

### *Novels-*

Tobit

Judith

Susanna

Bel and the Dragon; (7)

### *Didactic [instructional] -*

Wisdom of Solomon

Ecclesiasticus (Wisdom of Jesus son of Sirach)

### *Devotional-*

The prayer of Manasseh

The prayer of Azariah

The Song of the Three Jews (12)

### *Epistolary -*

The letter of Jeremiah

### *Apocalyptic -*

Esdra (Ezra) II

