

RLST 124I: Varieties of Ancient Judaism
 Spring 2009
 Handout #4b (April 16, 2009)
 “Sacred Texts: Scriptures and Sectarianism”

Parabiblical Terminology

(i.e., significant terms when dealing with texts that exist on the boundaries of scriptural canon formation in early Judaism and Christianity; see the presentation of Dr. Annette Yoshiko Reed, <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/psco/year40/areed1.html>)

scripture: authoritative texts believed to contain divine truth

canon: lit., “rule” or “standard”: a fixed list of texts

Apocrypha (*big “A”*): texts included in various ancient scriptural collections, but not included in the rabbinic canon

apocrypha (*little “a”*): lit., “secret” or “hidden texts”: text written and circulated as Scripture, but not included in the canon

pseudepigrapha: works ascribed to a character or characters from Scripture

targum: lit., “translation”: an Aramaic translation (or, often, a more free-form paraphrase) of a biblical book

Masoretic text: the established text of the TANAK, as set by medieval rabbis (circa 1000 CE)

peshet: interpretation of scriptural texts to find their present-day relevance or message

The “Apocrypha” (*big “A”*)

<i>Book</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>In...</i>
Tobit	Aramaic	4/3rd cen. BCE	Catholic, GO, Slav
Judith	Greek	3/2nd cen. BCE	Catholic, GO, Slav
Esther (additions)	Greek	2/1st cen. BCE	Catholic, GO, Slav
Daniel (additions)	Greek	3/2/1st BCE	Catholic, GO, Slav
Wisd. Solomon	Greek	1st cen. BCE/CE	Catholic, GO, Slav
Ecclesiasticus (ben Sira)	Hebrew	3/2nd cen. BCE	Catholic, GO, Slav
Baruch	Hebrew	2/1st cen BCE	Catholic, GO, Slav
Letter of Jeremiah	Hebrew/Aramaic	3/2nd cen BCE	Catholic, GO, Slav
1 Maccabees	Hebrew	2nd cen BCE	Catholic, GO, Slav
2 Maccabees	Greek	2nd cen BCE	Catholic, GO, Slav
1 Esdras	Greek/Hebrew/Aramaic?	2nd/1st cen BCE	GO, Slav (=2 Esdras)
Prayer of Manasseh	Greek	1st BCE	GO, Slav
3 Maccabees	Greek	1st BCE/CE	GO, Slav
Psalms 151	Hebrew	6th?-1st? BCE	Go, Slav
2 Esdras	Hebrew/Aramaic (?)	post-70 CE	Slav (=3 Esdras, 4 Ezra)
4 Maccabees	Greek	1/2nd CE	GO (in appendix)