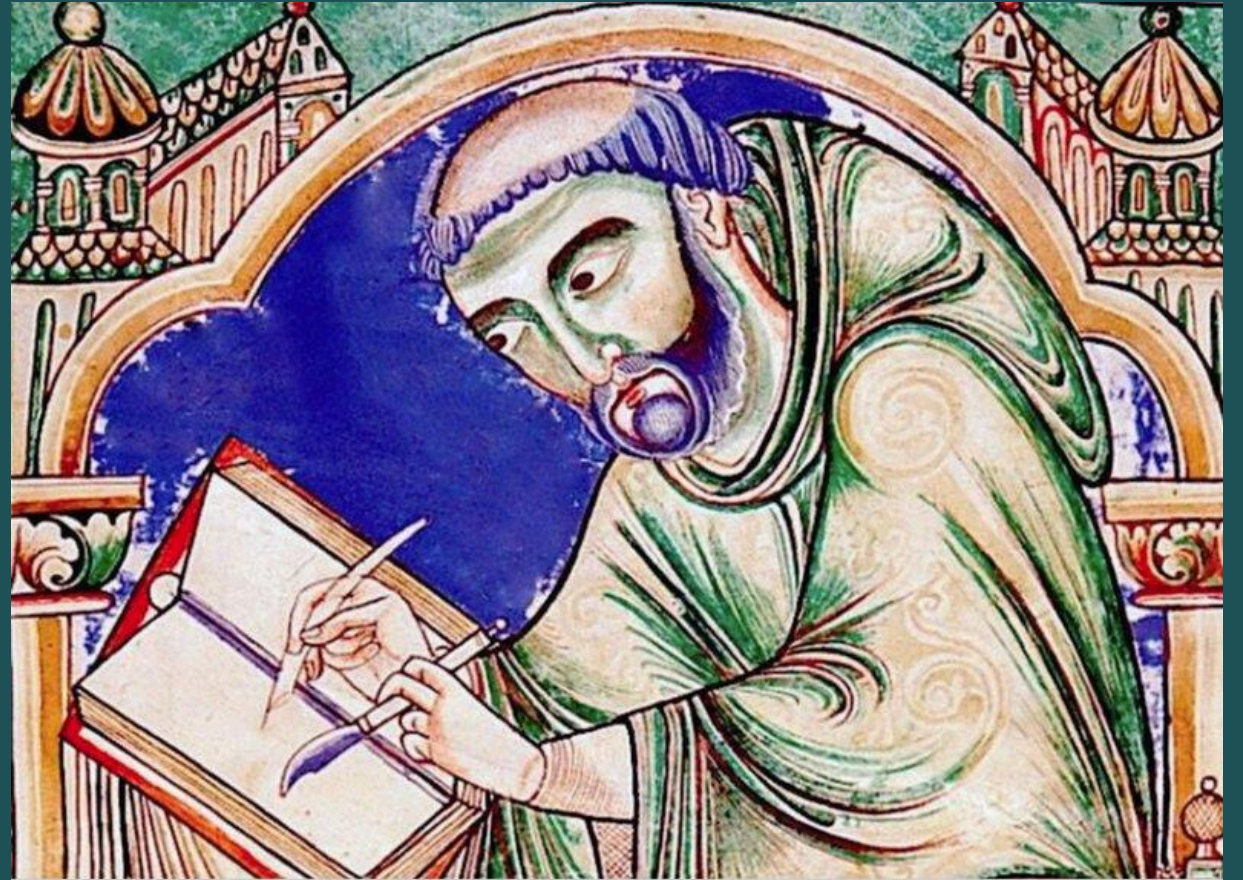


# The Old Testament canon

WHY DO DIFFERENT  
DENOMINATIONS HAVE  
DIFFERENT VERSIONS?

WHAT IS THE APOCRYPHA?



# Apocryphal questions

▶ It's time to guess!

Which character exorcises a demon by barbecuing a fish in his bedroom on his wedding night?

- ▶ A. Judas Maccabeus
- ▶ B. Tobias
- ▶ C. Solomon
- ▶ D. David

Which character gets Holofernes drunk and then decapitates him?

- ▶ A. Susanna
- ▶ B. Judith
- ▶ C. Baruch
- ▶ D. Mrs Holofernes

Which character explodes a dragon by feeding it cakes made of pitch, fat, and hair?

- ▶ A. Judith
- ▶ B. Susanna
- ▶ C. Daniel
- ▶ D. Julie Goodwin

Which character is blinded by a sparrow pooping on his eyes while he sleeps, and later regains his sight when a barbecued fish's gall bladder is applied to his eyes?

- ▶ A. Tobias
- ▶ B. Baruch
- ▶ C. Esdras
- ▶ D. Tobit

# Comparison of different OT canons

Protestant & Hebrew	Roman Catholic	Eastern Orthodox
39 books from Genesis to Malachi	39 books plus:	39 books plus:
	Tobit	Tobit
	Judith	Judith
	Wisdom of Solomon	Psalms 151
	Ecclesiasticus (Sirach)	Wisdom of Solomon
	1 & 2 Maccabees	Ecclesiasticus
	Baruch	1, 2, 3 & 4 Maccabees
	Plus additions to some books	
Total: 39	Total: 46	Total: 47 & extra Psalm

Adapted from *The Journey from Texts to Translations* by Paul D Wegner

Book	Approximate date of composition
Tobit	200-170BC
Wisdom of Solomon	50-30BC
Judith	150-125BC
Baruch	150-160BC
Ecclesiasticus	Early 2 <sup>nd</sup> century BC
1 Maccabees	Ca 110BC
2 Maccabees	Ca 100BC
3 Maccabees	Ca 100BC
4 Maccabees	Ca 30AD



# Other writings (to complicate things a bit!)

Title	Date
1 Esdras	2 <sup>nd</sup> century BC
Letter of Jeremiah [RC Baruch 6]	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> century BC
2 Esdras	1 <sup>st</sup> century AD
Additions to book of Esther [RC Esther 10:4-16:24]	2 <sup>nd</sup> century BC
Prayer of Azariah & Song of 3 young men [RC Daniel 3:24-90]	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 1 <sup>st</sup> century BC
Susanna [RC Daniel 13]	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 1 <sup>st</sup> century BC
Bel & the Dragon [RC Daniel 14]	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 1 <sup>st</sup> century BC
Prayer of Manasseh	2 <sup>nd</sup> or 1 <sup>st</sup> century BC

# Terminology

- ▶ **Apocrypha** literally means “hidden”. Has come to refer to those books appearing in the Septuagint & Latin Vulgate, but not Hebrew Bible or Protestant canons. Viewed as firmly canonical by Roman Catholics since Augustine; reaffirmed at the Council of Trent.
- ▶ **Deutero-canonical**: a term used predominantly by Roman Catholics to acknowledge that books in the Apocrypha were not proto-canonical, i.e. accepted universally by the Church.
- ▶ **Pseudepigrapha**: works written between 200BC-200AD by Jews; often later expanded by Christians. So-called because of false authorial attribution. Over 60 of these. E.g. 1, 2 & 3 Enoch; Sibylline Oracles; Apocalypse of Abraham.

# Core arguments against viewing the Apocryphal books as canonical

1. None of the New Testament books refer to any of the apocryphal books as scripture.
2. Jesus only refers to the 39 books known to be authoritative and some of his statements directly relate to this (e.g. Matthew 23:34-35)
3. None of the apocryphal books claim to be God's word (unlike the 39).
4. The 39 OT canon books are affirmed by several external lists in the Christian era. This includes the earliest existing list of OT books (Melito's in 170AD) which does not list the apocryphal books.
5. There are some theological and chronological inconsistencies in the apocryphal books.