

# The Apocrypha

400 years of silence

# The Diaspora

- ◆ 586 - Nebuchadnezzar - the Babylonian Era
  - ◆ Destruction of the Temple
  - ◆ Jewish communities in foreign lands
- ◆ 538 - Cyrus - the Persian Era
  - ◆ the Return and rebuilding
  - ◆ Recovery of the Pentateuch - further composition
- ◆ 323 - Alexander - the Hellenic Era
  - ◆ Greek authorship
  - ◆ Seleucids in Syria, Ptolemies in Egypt
  - ◆ Some adoption of Hellenistic Forms

# Alexandria

- ◆ 282BC Ptolemy Philadelphus
  - ◆ establishment of the great library
  - ◆ Jewish community in Alexandria
- ◆ Josephus recounts the 'Septuaginti' (Jewish Antiquities A XII, 11)
  - ◆ collection of the Jewish books
  - ◆ Dead Sea scroll inclusions (Essenes)
  - ◆ translation into the new universal language (Greek)

# Antiochus IV

- ◆ Ptolemy V - weakness of succession
  - ◆ Antiochus III (The Great) takes advantage
  - ◆ Hemmed in by Rome
- ◆ Hellenizing controversy erupts
  - ◆ Jerusalem to become a Greek style Polis
  - ◆ Bribery among interested parties
  - ◆ theft of temple funds
- ◆ 169BC Antiochus IV invades Jerusalem
  - ◆ 167BC outlaws the Jewish religion
  - ◆ The Maccabees rise up in revolt

# Canonical Status

- ◆ Included by Jerome (late 4th century AD) in the Latin Vulgate (with introductions)
- ◆ Inclusions in the Modern Septuagint (3th Century BC)
- ◆ Greek Church makes distinctions
- ◆ Widely quoted as scripture in the middle ages
- ◆ Began to be excluded in the reformation (protestantism)
- ◆ See the table in the Oxford introduction

# Literature Styles

- ◆ Histories: 1 Esdras, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees (pathetic history)
- ◆ Philosophic Treatise: 4 Maccabees
- ◆ Historical Fiction: Judith, Tobit, Susanna, Bel and the Dragon
- ◆ Wisdom Literature: Wisdom of Solomon (includes a Greek perspective), Sirach (Hebrew Proverbs)
- ◆ Hymn of Lament: The Prayer of Manasseh
- ◆ Psalms: The Prayer of Azariah, Song of the three Jews, Psalm 151
- ◆ Apocalypse: 2 Esdras
- ◆ —no classic books of prophecy (“thus saith the Lord”)