

## • **Baruch**

- **Main Idea:** *This book is named after Jeremiah's secretary, and includes Israel's disobedience to God, God exiling Jews to Babylon due to their behavior, God's just action, the need to repent and honor and obey God's Word, and begging for God's mercy.*

## • **Letter of Jeremiah (sometimes "The Epistle of Jeremy")**

- **Main Idea:** *Written between 307 and 317 BC, this book is largely made up of denouncements of idolatry. It begins with a warning to the exiles of the idolatry they would see in Babylon, which is followed by a series of colorful descriptions about how ineffectual and helpless idols are. It concludes with a final warning and exhortation to avoid idolatry.*

## • **Prayer of Manasseh**

- **Main Idea:** *A short work, containing just 15 verses. It purports to be the prayer of King Manasseh of Judah (697-642 B.C.) that is mentioned in 2 Chronicles 33:19.*

## • **1 & 2 Maccabees**

- **Main Idea:** *The books outline the history of the Maccabees, Jewish leaders who led a rebellion of the Jews against the Seleucid Dynasty from 175 BC to 134 BC. The first book portrays the effort by the Jews to regain their cultural and religious independence from Antiochus IV Epiphanes after his desecration of the Jewish temple. The book of 2 Maccabees consists of a Greek synopsis of a five-volume history of the Maccabean Revolt written by Jason of Cyrene.*

## • **1 Enoch**

- **Main Idea:** *An apocalyptic piece of literature told from the perspective of Enoch, who lived 7 generations down from Adam. It uses vivid imagery to predict doom and the final judgment of evil. One line from it is quoted in Jude 1:14-15.*

# **BIG PICTURE CLASS - BIBLE OVERVIEW**

## ***The Writings - "Ketuvim"***

### • **PSALMS**

- **Big Idea:** *Psalms teaches us to neither ignore our pain nor let it determine our lives. God will fulfill His promises from the Torah and send the Messiah. This book is all about the lament, praise, faith, and hope of God's people.*

- **Jesus in Psalms:** *The promised Anointed One and King*

### • **PROVERBS**

- **Big Idea:** *Wisdom depends on trusting God and leads to life, but folly starts with distrusting God and leads to death.*

- **Jesus in Proverbs:** *The perfect Wisdom of God*

### • **JOB**

- **Big Idea:** *God's wisdom, goodness, and justice transcend our assumptions about fairness and push beyond the limitations of human reasoning.*

- **Jesus in Job:** *The Righteous Sufferer & Sovereign God*

### • **SONG OF SONGS**

- **Big Idea:** *Even though our relationships are often distorted by selfishness, love is a transcendent gift meant to show us something greater—the gift of God's love that will one day permeate and transform His beloved world.*

- **Jesus in Song of Songs:** *The Beloved & the Rose of Sharon*

### • **RUTH**

- **Big Idea:** *God's grand story of redemption for all creation can be found in seemingly mundane events: tragedy, integrity in the face of opposition, and generosity. The book of Ruth invites us to consider how God might be at work in our lives.*

- **Jesus in Ruth:** *The Kinsman-Redeemer*

### • **LAMENTATIONS**

- **Big Idea:** *As a memorial to the Israelites' pain and confusion following the destruction of Jerusalem, Lamentations shows*

*how prayerful lament is a crucial part of our journey of faith in a broken world.*

- **Jesus in Lamentations:** *The Weeper over Jerusalem*

## • ECCLESIASTES

- **Big Idea:** *Ecclesiastes reveals our lack of control over our lives. The true meaning of a good life is found in the hope for God's judgment that will destroy evil and bring justice. This hope fuels a life of honesty and integrity, despite life's mysteries.*
- **Jesus in Ecclesiastes:** *The Meaning of Life*

## • ESTHER

- **Big Idea:** *The book of Esther asks us to trust in God's providence even when we can't see it working. That requires a posture of hope to trust God's commitment to redeem His good world and overcome evil.*
- **Jesus in Esther:** *The Advocate & Savior of Israel*

## • DANIEL

- **Big Idea:** *Daniel's experiences provide hope and assurance for the day that God will confront evil and deliver His people. This timeless book holds relevance for every generation, imparting a message of hope that serves as a catalyst for unwavering faithfulness.*
- **Jesus in Daniel:** *The Son of Man, the Anointed One*

## • EZRA-NEHEMIAH

- **Big Idea:** *Returning to their land does not guarantee a change in the peoples' spiritual state. God will fulfill His covenant promises, but the people need a holistic transformation of their hearts if they are going to love and obey their God.*
- **Jesus in Ezra:** *The Great High Priest*
- **Jesus in Nehemiah:** *The Master Builder*

## • CHRONICLES

- **Big Idea:** *The books of Chronicles end by pointing forward, encouraging God's people to look back and see their past as the source of hope for the future. Chronicles is the conclusion of the*

*Hebrew Bible, highlighting the messianic promises yet to be fulfilled.*

- **Jesus in Chronicles:** *The promised Messiah, the Son of David*

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## ***The Inter-Testamental Non-Inspired Books***

Some of what the Apocrypha says is true and correct. However, due to its historical and theological errors, the books must be viewed as fallible historical and religious documents, not as the inspired, authoritative Word of God.

### • **1 & 2 Esdras**

- **Main Idea:** *1 Esdras is an "expanded" book of Ezra. It tells a story of King Josiah's reforms and history of the destruction of the temple and chronicles the Jews' return from captivity. 2 Esdras is often referred to as the Jewish Apocalypse of Ezra and contains seven visions of Ezra dealing with his angst over the pain and suffering inflicted upon the Jews.*

### • **Tobit**

- **Main Idea:** *Tobit tells a story of a man and his family exiled and living in Nineveh shortly after the fall of the Kingdom of Israel.*

### • **Judith**

- **Main Idea:** *Judith tells a story of a widow who defeats an Assyrian general.*

### • **Wisdom of Solomon**

- **Main Idea:** *Wisdom of Solomon is a Jewish wisdom book somewhat like Proverbs or Ecclesiastes, but it is widely regarded as having been written hundreds of years after Solomon.*

### • **Ecclesiasticus**

- **Main Idea:** *Also known as the Wisdom of Sirach, this is a Jewish wisdom book with advice on a wide variety of topics.*