

APPENDIX

Writings of the Older Testament

The Writings are the third section of the Hebrew Bible, following the Torah and the Prophets

I. Jewish Writings included in the authorised list of Jewish sacred texts

1. Psalms Some psalms can be traced back to the origins of Israel. Others were composed for use in the temple cult from the ninth to the seventh centuries BC. Still others were composed for the temple that was erected after the Babylonian Exile.
2. Proverbs The origin of some of the Proverbs is as old as Israel. The collection and the Introductory Chapters 1-9 come from the fourth century BC.
3. Job The prose story is traditional. The poetic reflections appear to have composed some time between the seventh and the fifth centuries BC.
4. Lamentations The third lamentation appears to be post-exilic. The rest were composed in response to the fall of Jerusalem in 587BC.

The rest of the Writings are post-exilic.

The following belong to the period when Judah was a small province within the Persian Empire (fifth and fourth centuries BC).

5. Song of Songs Possibly in the fifth century BC. It was formally accepted as inspired towards the end of the first century AD.
6. Ecclesiastes Possibly in the fifth century BC. It was formally accepted as inspired towards the end of the first century AD.
7. Ruth A likely date for its composition is the mid-fifth century.
8. Ezra Composed in the fourth century BC using memoirs of Ezra from the middle of the fifth century.
9. Nehemiah Composed in the fourth century BC using memoirs of Nehemiah from the second half of the fifth century.
10. Esther Possibly in the fourth century BC. It was formally accepted as inspired c.140AD. The Greek Septuagint Version contains extra material not found in the Hebrew Bible.
11. First Chronicles Late in the fourth century BC.
12. Second Chronicles Late in the fourth century BC.

The only Writing composed during the period when Judah was under Greek rule (third and second centuries BC) is the Book of Daniel.

13. Daniel Composed during the reign of the Syrian king, Antiochus IV (175-164BC). It incorporates older tales. The Greek Septuagint Version contains extra material not found in the Hebrew Bible.

Writings of the Older Testament

II. Jewish Writings included in the Greek Septuagint Version, but not included in the Jewish authorised list of sacred texts.

Except for the Book of Wisdom these were all composed during the period when Judah was under Greek rule, and during the brief years of independence (the final years of the second century BC and the early decades of the first century BC).

1. Tobit Composed in the third century BC.
2. Sirach Composed in Jerusalem early in the second century BC, and translated into Greek in Alexandria by the author's grandson some time after 117BC.
3. Additions to Esther From the third and second century BC (see under No 10 opposite).
4. Additions to Daniel From the second century BC (see under No 13 opposite).
5. Judith Composed in the last decades of the second century BC.
6. First Maccabees Composed in the first decade of the first century BC.
7. Second Maccabees Composed about 90BC.
8. Wisdom Composed probably in the first half of the first century AD.