



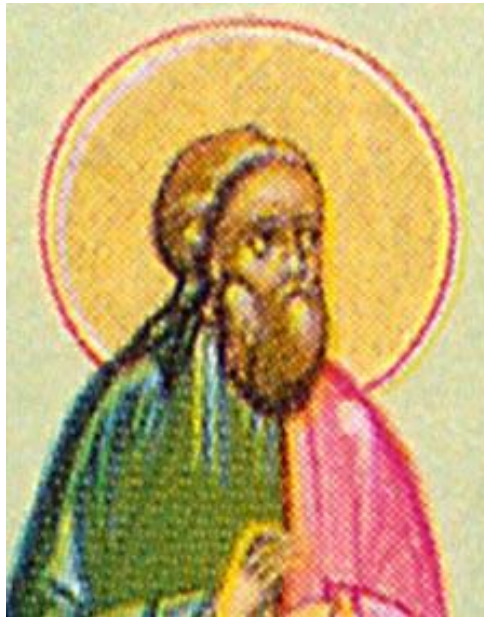
## **My Drift**

**Title: Bible – Book of Baruch**

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**Holy Prophet Baruch**

**The Book of Baruch is a deuterocanonical book of the Bible, used in many Christian traditions, such as Catholic and Orthodox churches. In Judaism and Protestant Christianity, it is considered not to be part of the canon, with the Protestant Bibles categorizing it as part of the Biblical apocrypha.**

**I think this is the last of the deuterocanonical books which included Tobias, Judith, Baruch, Ecclesiasticus, Wisdom, First and Second Maccabees and also the Greek additions to Esther and Daniel.**

***“...but the person who is greatly distressed, who walks bent over, who is ailing and going blind, and the person who hungers – these will give glory and righteousness to You, O Lord.”***

***– Baruch 2:18***

# Book of Baruch

- ◇ Dating: early – middle 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC (180–150)
- ◇ Setting: post-Exile Babylon (6<sup>th</sup> Century BC)
- ◇ Text: Hebrew (original), Greek (surviving)
- ◇ Length: 6 Chapters
- ◇ Themes:
  - ◇ Explores finding God outside of Promised Land
  - ◇ Theologically conservative: sin/guilt, contrition, deliverance – lacking sense of afterlife
  - ◇ Strong monotheistic emphasis
  - ◇ Prophet plays a strong role in reminding the exiles to h
  - ◇ Strong connectedness to Jerusalem, even from afar

## Overview

Baruch means “blessed”. The Epistle of Baruch, also known as the Letter of Baruch, is a book included in the Old Testament of the Orthodox Christian Bible. Written sometime after the siege of Jerusalem in 586 BC, the initial message was given in 581 BC. The beginning of the epistle has a deep penitential tone written by a Jewish community in exile, while the latter portion from 3:9 is attributed to Baruch, the scribe and close companion of the prophet Jeremiah.

The Epistle of Baruch is addressed to the exiled Jews in Babylon after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. It serves as a message of comfort, exhortation, and hope for the Jewish people who are suffering in exile and evidence that at least some had initiated repentance seeking mercy and forgiveness from God. The book encourages them to repent of their sins and turn back to God, emphasizing the connection between obedience and restoration.

From an Orthodox Christian perspective, the Epistle of Baruch affirms the sovereignty and justice of God. It emphasizes that the exile and the destruction of Jerusalem were a consequence of the people’s disobedience and idolatry. The book calls for genuine repentance and a return to the covenant relationship with God, stressing the importance of humility, prayer, and a contrite heart.

The Epistle of Baruch also underscores the importance of wisdom and the study of God's law. It presents wisdom as a treasure that is more valuable than material wealth and encourages the people to seek after it. It is also foretells the coming of Wisdom Incarnate, the Lord Jesus Christ:

*“This is our God;  
no other can be compared to him!  
He found the whole way to knowledge,  
and gave her to Jacob his servant  
and to Israel whom he loved.  
Afterward she appeared upon earth  
and lived among men...  
For I hope upon the Eternal One to save you,  
and the joy from the Holy One comes to me,  
because mercy will soon come to you  
from the Eternal One, your Savior.”  
– Baruch 3:35-37; 4:22*

Furthermore, the Epistle of Baruch expresses hope in God's faithfulness and promises of restoration. It assures the exiled Jews that God will bring them back to their homeland and restore Jerusalem. The book emphasizes the ultimate victory of God's kingdom and the future redemption of His people.

In summary, the Epistle of Baruch, from an Orthodox Christian perspective, serves as a reminder of the consequences of disobedience and the need for repentance. References are also made to prayer for our civil authorities (1:11) and intercessions of the departed (3:4). The community in exile represents the Church, those who hear God's word, confess their sins and return to Him (OSB). The book encourages the faithful to trust in God's faithfulness and promises of restoration (2:35), providing hope to His people in times of suffering and exile.



### **What is the main message of the book Baruch?**

Baruch reveals part of the Lord's relationship with his people. The exile was necessary to teach Israel to trust in him (2:5). The nation acknowledges its sin and spiritually returns to the Lord by seeking his wisdom and law.

### **What is the lesson of the Book of Baruch?**

He is giving us a leadership lesson — more than that a life lesson — on true greatness. He is showing us what he knew by personal experience: the joy and honor of life is found not in people's approvals or our achievements but by rejoicing to promote the greatness of God.

### **What was God's message to Baruch?**

In Jeremiah 45:4, God reminds Baruch that He is in the process of judging the people of Judah: "Behold, what I have built I will break down, and what I have planted I will pluck up, that is, this whole land." God was about to carry out what He promised through the prophet Isaiah decades earlier, as recorded in Isaiah 5.

### **Why did God send Baruch?**

Jeremiah 36 records that the Lord told Jeremiah to write all the prophecies he made against Israel, Judah, and other nations. Because Jeremiah was under arrest, a scribe named Baruch wrote all of Jeremiah's prophecies and then read them on the steps of the temple.

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