

“O LORD, MERCIFUL GOD”

The Book of Tobit

Who wrote The Book of Tobit?

The author of The Book of Tobit is unknown

How did The Book of Tobit get its name and/or what does that name mean?

The Book of Tobit is named after its principle character and hero. The original Hebrew word (Tobhiyah) means "Yahweh is good"

When did these events take place?

The Book of Tobit was written to provide a moral lesson not to relate history. It was probably written early in the second century B.C.

For more about The Book of Tobit:

See page 428 in the Fireside Catholic Youth Bible.

Although Jesus shocked many people of His day with new ideas that challenged their old law, some of what he said was not really new or controversial at all. Things like being charitable to the poor, the sanctity of marriage, caring for your parents, giving of yourself to others and showing respect for the dead were all attributes every good Jew understood. Jesus just reminded us of their importance when He addressed these things again during His ministry.

In The Book of Tobit, written approximately 200 years before the birth of Christ, you'll read a story of a man who already understood the importance of these very things. The Book of Tobit is not included in the Catholic Bible to record historical events. Instead, it is called a religious novel - a story told to teach important lessons. The most important lesson of this book is that God rewards those who are faithful and that He will answer prayer, sometimes in the most miraculous way.

But there is more to The Book of Tobit. Here, you'll meet Raphael, the archangel, and see a battle between good and evil as he triumphs over the demon Asmodeus. You'll also see that much of what we do and believe as Catholics (like the Corporal Works of Mercy and the concept of Stewardship of our time, talent and treasure) has roots in the Old Testament.

Interesting Fact: Sarah lost seven husbands before the angel Raphael drove the wicked demon Asmodeus out.

Bonus Point: What angel disguised himself as Tobiah's traveling companion Azariah?