

TOBIT

- 1) -- Set in the Assyrian period c700 BC, but probably not written until about 200 BC. Author probably lived in Alexandria, then capital of Egypt. It was at that time that Judea passed from the friendly hands of the Macedonian rulers of Egypt (the Ptolomies) to the much harsher grip of the Macedonian rulers of Syria (the Seleucids). Tobit's story reflects the Assyrian persecution five centuries earlier, including Shalmaneser's attack on Samaria and the exile of the Israelites.
- 2) 1:4 -- The discrepancy in times can only be explained by the fact that the author, writing in 200 BC, was confused in his chronology. Jereboam's rebellion in 933 established an Israel (the Northern Kingdom) independent of Judah.
- 3) 1:14 -- Also an anachronism because in 700 BC Tobit could not have crossed into the region around Rages in Media, especially with that much money (equal in today's money to \$20-30,000). In 200 BC it **would** have been possible because the Seleucid kings controlled all that area. Rages was the Second City of Media, below Ecbatana, located five miles south of modern Teheran. Later it became the center of Zoroastrianism. In Islamic times, birthplace of Hrun-al-Rashid, the Caliph of the Arabian Nights. It was destroyed by Mongols in 1220 **AD**.
- 4) 5:13-14 – Azariah: “Yahweh helps.” Hananiah: “Yahweh is merciful.” Nathaniah: “Yahweh gives.” Shemaniah: “Yahweh hears.”
- 5) 12:15 -- The others were Uriel, Raquel, Michael, Sarakiel, Gabriel, Jeremiel. Jews consider that it was Raphael who empowered Sarah to conceive. (Gen 18)
- 6) 14:14 -- An impossible anachronism. Nineveh was taken by Nabopollassar, father of Nebuchadnezzar and by the Median King Cyakares. Ahasuerus (Xerxes) did not reign for 125 years after the fall of Nineveh.