

## Topic Page: [Tobit](#)

Definition: **Tobit** from *Collins English Dictionary*

*n Old Testament*

**1** a pious Jew who was released from blindness through the help of the archangel Raphael

**2** a book of the Apocrypha relating this story

Summary Article: **Tobit**

from *The Columbia Encyclopedia*

(tō'bīt) [Gr. from Heb. *Tobijah*=God is my good], book of the Old Testament Apocrypha, not included in the Hebrew Bible. It is the account of Tobit, a devout Jew in exile, and of his son Tobias. Despite his many good works, Tobit is mysteriously blinded and despairingly begs God to take his life. At the same time in Ecbatana one Sara, who is afflicted by a demon (Asmodeus=destroyer) that has killed her seven husbands on their wedding night, also asks God for death. God hears both prayers and sends the archangel Raphael to help. Sent by his father on business to a distant city, the young Tobias and his dog are guided by Raphael (in the form of a young man) to the house of Sara. There Tobias marries Sara and, following Raphael's instructions, exorcises the demon. They return to his home, where Tobias cures his father's blindness. The book ends with Tobit's prophecy of the restoration of Jerusalem and the return of the exiles. The story inculcates ideals of benevolence, marriage, and prayer, with assurances that God is a God of mercy toward the long-suffering righteous and punishes the wicked. The ancient texts are of great diversity; hence, the various English versions materially differ in detail. Fragments of the book in Aramaic and Hebrew have been found at Qumran. The work was probably composed c.175 B.C. The young Tobias and his dog with the angel have been a favorite subject of Christian iconography.

For bibliography, see Apocrypha.

**APA**

Chicago

Harvard

**MLA**

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Tobit. (2018). In P. Lagasse, & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Retrieved from <https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/tobit>

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## APA

Tobit. (2018). In P. Lagasse, & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Retrieved from <https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/tobit>

## Chicago

"Tobit." In *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, by Paul Lagasse, and Columbia University. 8th ed. Columbia University Press, 2018. <https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/tobit>

## Harvard

Tobit. (2018). In P. Lagasse & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia*. (8th ed.). [Online]. New York: Columbia University Press. Available from: <https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/tobit> [Accessed 27 May 2019].

## MLA

"Tobit." *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, Paul Lagasse, and Columbia University, Columbia University Press, 8th edition, 2018. *Credo Reference*, <https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/tobit>. Accessed 27 May 2019.