

The Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain



Afterlife hope before the New Testament

How did belief in the resurrection arise within Judaism in the two centuries before Christ? Earlier texts (Psalm 88 and Job 3) attest the ancient Jewish belief that the dead have a shadowy existence in the underworld, while Ecclesiastes and Sirach have no belief in any meaningful personal afterlife. However, reflection on the persecution of devout Jews by Antiochus Epiphanes (167-164 BC) led to a growing belief in individual resurrection, especially for martyrs. Such a resurrection belief is evident in Daniel 12 and 2 Maccabees 7, as well as Wisdom 3, before it becomes predominant in the New Testament.

Fr Jeremy Corley

Fr Jeremy, a priest of Portsmouth diocese, previously chaired the Executive Committee of Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain (2004-2006) and currently teaches Scripture at St Patrick's College and Pontifical University, Maynooth, Ireland.

Saturday 12th June 2021

1100 to 1230 BST

To access this live stream event go to www.whatgoodnews.org

Event available subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org

Dr Sean Ryan, chair of the CBA, will introduce the event. Questions for

Fr Jeremy may be emailed to

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