***The Poisonwood Bible* – Biblical Allusions – Books of the Bible:**

**1. Genesis: The first book of the Bible – Old Testament:**

“The basic narrative expresses the central theme: God creates the world (along with creating the first man and woman) and appoints man as his regent, but man proves disobedient and God destroys his world through the Flood. The new post-Flood world is equally corrupt, but God does not destroy it, instead calling one man, Abraham, to be the seed of its salvation. At God's command Abraham descends from his home into the land of Canaan, given to him by God, where he dwells as a sojourner, as does his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob. Jacob's name is changed to Israel, and through the agency of his son Joseph, the children of Israel descend into Egypt, 70 people in all with their households, and God promises them a future of greatness. Genesis ends with Israel in Egypt, ready for the coming of Moses and the Exodus. The narrative is punctuated by a series of covenants with God, successively narrowing in scope from all mankind (the covenant with Noah) to a special relationship with one people alone (Abraham and his descendants through Isaac and Jacob).” (“Book of Genesis” *Wikipedia*)

**2. Revelation: The last book of the Bible – New Testament:**

“The author names himself in the text as "John",…nothing can be known about the author except that he was a Jewish Christian prophet…The book begins with John, on the island of Patmos in the Aegean, addressing a letter to the "Seven Churches of (the Roman Province of) Asia". He then describes a series of prophetic visions culminating in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The obscure and extravagant imagery has led to a wide variety of interpretations: historicist interpretations see in Revelation a broad view of history; preterist interpretations treat Revelation as mostly referring to the events of the apostolic era (1st century), or, at the latest, the fall of the Roman Empire; futurists believe that Revelation describes future events; and idealist or symbolic interpretations consider that Revelation does not refer to actual people or events, but is an allegory of the spiritual path and the ongoing struggle between good and evil.” (“Book of Revelation” *Wikipedia*)

**3. Judges: The seventh book of the Bible – Old Testament:**

“Its title describes its contents: it contains the history of Biblical judges, divinely inspired leaders whose direct knowledge of God allows them to act as champions for the Israelites from oppression by foreign rulers, and models of wise and faithful behavior required of them by God following the exodus from Egypt and the conquest of Canaan. The stories follow a consistent pattern: the people are unfaithful to God and he therefore delivers them into the hands of their enemies; the people repent and entreat God for mercy, which he sends in the form of a leader or champion (a "judge"); the judge delivers the Israelites from oppression and they prosper, but soon they fall again into unfaithfulness and the cycle is repeated.”

(“Book of Judges” *Wikipedia*)

**4. Bel and the Serpent – from the Book of Daniel, the 24th book of the Bible – Old Testament (Catholic and Orthodox versions only):**

“The narrative of Bel and the Dragon is incorporated as chapter 14 of the extended Book of Daniel. The text exists only in Greek (while the oldest copies of the Book of Daniel are entirely in Hebrew and Aramaic). This chapter, along with chapter 13, is viewed as canonical by both Catholic and Orthodox Christians, but it is considered apocryphal by Protestants and typically not found in modern Protestant Bibles.” (“Bel and the Dragon” *Wikipedia*) The first relevant story is how Daniel is told that the god worshipped by the Babylonians, Bel, was a living god as it ate and drank all the offerings left by its statue each night. Daniel challenged that and set a trap; he sprinkled ashes in the temple, exposing footprints and a hidden door that the priests and their families had been using to eat all the food and drink left for the Bel statue. The other relevant story is how Daniel was punished for killing a revered dragon of the Babylonians (Kingsolver changes the dragon to serpent in her title), and was thrown into a lions’ den, but escapes unharmed due to his faith in God.

**5. Exodus: The second book of the Bible – Old Testament:**

“The book tells how the Israelites leave slavery in Egypt through the strength of God who has chosen Israel as his people. Moses returns to Egypt and fails to convince the Pharaoh to release the Israelites. God smites the Egyptians with terrible plagues (Plagues of Egypt) including a river of blood, many frogs, and the death of first-born sons. Led by their prophet Moses they journey through the wilderness to Mount Sinai, where God promises them the land of Canaan (the "Promised Land") in return for their faithfulness. Israel enters into a covenant with God who gives them their laws and instructions for the Tabernacle, the means by which he will dwell with them and lead them to the land, and give them peace. (“Book of Exodus” *Wikipedia*)

**6. The Song of the Three Holy Children - from the Book of Daniel, the 24th book of the Bible – Old Testament (Catholic and Orthodox versions only):**

“The Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Holy Children is a lengthy passage that appears after Daniel 3:23 in Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Bibles. The passage includes the prayer of Azariah while the three youths were in the fiery furnace; a brief account of a figure who met them in the furnace and was unburned (an angel, or interpreted by some Christians as a prefigurement of Jesus Christ); and the hymn of praise they sang (with the refrain, "Praise and exalt Him above all forever...", repeated many times, each naming a feature of the world) when they realized they were saved.” (“The Prayer of Azariah and the Three Holy Children” *Wikipedia*). Kingsolver drops the word “holy” from the original title.