



RELEVANT

How To Study the Bible



**Lesson Six:
Why Were There Books Left Out of the
Protestant Bible?**

Questions: Why were there some books left out of the Protestant Bible that are in the Catholic Bible? What are these left out books called?

DEFINITIONS

Catholic – The word comes from the Greek meaning "through the whole," that is "universal," "world-wide," "all inclusive." Saint Ignatius of Antioch first used the term "Catholic Church", literally meaning universal church, in his Letter to the Smyrnaeans around 107 AD.

Protestant – a member or follower of any of the Western Christian churches that are separate from the Roman Catholic Church and follow the principles of the Reformation, including the Baptist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran churches. One who makes or enters a protest. The Protestant Reformation group established in the 16th Century.

Protocanonical – Pertaining to the "first canon" which is the Hebrew Bible or that which contained the authorized collection of 39 books in the Old Testament. While there was undeniably some debate in regard to the Old Testament canon, by A.D. 250 there was nearly universal agreement on the canon of Hebrew Scripture. The only issue that remained was the Apocrypha, with some debate and discussion continuing today. The vast majority of Hebrew scholars considered the Apocrypha to be good historical and religious documents, but not on the same level as the Hebrew Scriptures.

Deuterocanonical – means "the second canon," or the-canon-in-addition-to-the-Protestant-canon-of-thirty-nine-Old-Testament-books. Better known as the 14 Apocrypha books. These books were written during the 400 silent years.

Apocrypha – implies an unknown or dubious source or origin or may imply that the thing itself is dubious or inaccurate.

- ▶ It derives from the Greek verbal adjective aokryptein, meaning to hide from, keep hidden from
- ▶ To conceal or hide

Figure 1.1 - The Hebrew Bible

HEBREW BIBLE TANAKH / MT		
LAW	1	Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy
PROPHETS	2	Joshua & Judges 1 & 2 Samuel & 1 & 2 Kings
	3	Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel
	4	12 Minor Prophets
WRITINGS	5	Psalms (5) Proverbs Job
	6	Song of Songs Ruth Lamentations Ecclesiastes Esther
	7	Daniel Ezra + Nehemiah 1 & 2 Chronicles
		= 22 Scrolls 39 / 43 Books

Figure 1.2 - The Protestant Bible

PROTESTANT BIBLE OLD TESTAMENT			PROTESTANT BIBLE NEW TESTAMENT	
LAW	1	Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	GOSPELS	Matthew Mark Luke John
		PROPHETS		2
3	Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel			
	4		12 Minor Prophets	
WRITINGS	5	Psalms Proverbs Job	PAULINE EPISTLES	Romans 1 & 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 & 2 Thessalonians 1 & 2 Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews
		6		Song of Songs Ruth Lamentations Ecclesiastes Esther
	7			Daniel Ezra + Nehemiah 1 & 2 Chronicles
		APOCALYP	Revelation	
		= 22 Scrolls 39 / 43 Books		

Figure 1.3 - The Worldwide Catholic Bible

WORLDWIDE CATHOLIC BIBLE OLD TESTAMENT		WORLDWIDE CATHOLIC BIBLE NEW TESTAMENT	
HISTORICAL BOOKS	Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	GOSPELS	Matthew Mark Luke John
	Joshua Judges Ruth 1 & 2 Samuel 1 & 2 Kings 1 & 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Tobit Judith Esther 1 & 2 Maccabees		HISTORY
WISDOM	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs Wisdom of Solomon Jesus Sirach	PAULINE EPISTLES	Romans 1 & 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 & 2 Thessalonians 1 & 2 Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews
PROPHETS	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Baruch Ezekiel Daniel 12 Minor Prophets	GENERAL EPISTLES	James 1 & 2 Peter 1, 2, & 3 John Jude
		APOCALYPTIC	Revelation

Question: What are these left out books called?

These Left Out Books Are Called the Apocrypha Books

- ▶ Tobit, Judith, Wisdom of Solomon, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach, and Baruch
- ▶ There are more than these, but these seven are presently in the Catholic Bible

Question: Why were the Apocrypha Books left out of the Protestant Bible but found in the Catholic Bible?

HISTORY LESSON:

The intertestamental period is the Protestant term and deuterocanonical period is the Catholic and Orthodox Christian term used to describe the period called the Silent Years. The Silent Years covered a 400-year period from around 430 BCE to 70 AD. These were the years where no new prophets were raised and God revealed nothing new to the Jewish people. The 400 years of silence refers to the time between the Old Testament and New Testament, during which, so far as we know, God did not speak—no Scripture was written.

The Intertestamental Period or Deuterocanonical Period is When the Apocrypha Books Were Written.

- ▶ The Hebrew Bible or 39 Books in the Old Testament were written up to 430 BCE. The Apocrypha Books are written between the last Old Testament book and the New Testament
- ▶ So the Apocrypha Books were written during the Silent Years when God was not speaking
- ▶ This is one of the reasons these books are not considered inspired or authoritative

Question: Why were the Apocrypha Books left out of the Protestant Bible but found in the Catholic Bible?

Because God Rejected Them

- ▶ **Ezekiel 13:9 (NIV)** - *My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They will not belong to the council of my people or be listed in the records of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Sovereign Lord.*

Because the Jews Rejected Them

- ▶ The Jews did not believe in them – Josephus, Jewish Historian, was well aware of the apocryphal books
- ▶ The Old Testament books had already been completed and accepted as the inspired canon of Scripture, prior to the Romans taking rulership in 63 BC.
- ▶ Any book that originated after the last of the prophets, namely Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. With the death of these prophets, the age of prophecy came to an end and are considered not Divinely inspired.
- ▶ Any book that originated after the age of prophecy; the death of these last prophets, namely Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi, is considered not divinely inspired.

Because Jesus Did Not Accept Them as Scriptures

- ▶ **Luke 24:44 (NIV)** - *He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.*
- ▶ The Apocrypha was in circulation during Jesus' time and he didn't speak of them.

Because the New Testament Books Do Not Validate Them

- ▶ There are 263 quotations and 370 allusions in the New Testament from the Old Testament, but none of them mention any of the apocryphal books.

Because Apocryphal Books Contradict Inspired Scriptures

- ▶ It teaches that forgiveness of sins is by human effort - Tobith 4:11, Maccabees 12:43
- ▶ It Condonees the use of magic - Tobith 6:5
- ▶ It has Historical Errors - Judith 1:5, Baruch 6:2
- ▶ It teaches Angels can have families - Tobith
- ▶ Book of Wisdom is written in Greek not Hebrew
- ▶ It teaches the Non-biblical Doctrine Of Purgatory - 2 Maccabees 12:41-45
- ▶ It teaches that God hears the Prayers of the Dead - Baruch 3:4
- ▶ It Teaches Creation Out Of Pre-Existent Matter - The Book of Wisdom
- ▶ It teaches praying for the dead - 2 Maccabees 12:43-46
- ▶ It teaches the immaculate inception of Mary - Wisdom 8:19-20

Moment of Reflection: How did this lesson impact you today?