

Tough Questions about the Bible

Old Testament:

Homologoumena (one word, agreement)----34 of 39 OT books that were and always have been accepted as scripture.

Antilegoumena (spoken against) ----5 OT books that were initially accepted as scripture but for one reason or another were disputed at a much later time but finally accepted again. These are Esther, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes & Ezekiel.

Pseudepigrapha (false writings) ----Books that were rejected by everyone. See the attached list. It is not an exhaustive list as the exact number is in dispute, but what is not in dispute is that all of them were and are rejected as scripture. These books have little historical & no spiritual value at all.

OT Apocrypha (hidden, secret) ----OT books that were accepted by a very few local people but were rejected by the vast majority at large. See attached list. The Apocrypha does have some historical & spiritual value. They are quite a bit superior to the pseudepigrapha but are still vastly inferior to the canonical books. The Roman Catholic Church proclaimed these as canonical (part of scripture) at the Council of Trent in 1546 as a reaction to the protestant Reformation. Protestants has never accepted them as canonical. The vast majority of Christians (including the Roman Catholics) before 1546 AD had rejected them as canonical.

New Testament

Homologoumena (one word, agreement) ----20 of the 27 NT books that were and always have been accepted as scripture.

Antilegoumena (spoken against) ----7 NT books that were initially accepted as scripture for for one reason or another were disputed at a much later time but finally accepted again. These are Hebrews, James, 2 Peter, 2 & 3 John, Jude & Revelation.

Pseudepigrapha (false writings) ---Books that were rejected by everyone. These NT books include the heretical teachings of gnosticism, docetism, ascetic groups and the exaggerated fancy of religious lore. Many of these books were revered by cultic groups. Dan Brown's "The DaVinci Code" refers to several of these gnostic texts and treats them as if the original Christians accepted them (which they did not). See attached partial list. These books have little historical & no spiritual value at all. There are over 280 books in this category.

NT Apocrypha (hidden, secret) ----NT books that were accepted by a very few local people but were rejected by the vast majority at large. The Apocrypha does have some spiritual & historical value. They are quite a bit superior to the pseudepigrapha but are still vastly inferior to the canonical books. See attached list.