

How we got the Bible

Old Testament Apocrypha

The word 'apocrypha' means 'hidden'. It is used in a general sense to describe a list of books written by Jews between 300 and 100 BC. More specifically, it is used of the seven additional books accepted by the Catholic Church as being inspired.

The entire list of books of the Apocrypha are:

1st Esdras, 2nd Esdras, Tobit, Judith, the Rest of Esther, the Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach (also titled Ecclesiasticus), Baruch, the Letter of Jeremiah, Song of the Three Young Men, Susanna, Bel and the Dragon, the Additions to Daniel, the Prayer of Manasseh, and lastly 1st and 2nd Maccabees...

The books accepted as inspired and included in the Catholic Bible are Tobit, Judith, 1st and 2nd Maccabees, the Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach (also known as Ecclesiasticus) and Baruch.

The Jews never recognized these books as being canonical (inspired). There is no record that Jesus or the apostles ever quoted from the apocryphal books. The Septuagint (LXX) includes the books – not as Scripture – but as part of the translation of the Hebrew manuscripts as a whole.

Are these the 'lost books of the Bible'?

There is much talk these days about lost books of the Bible. From cults to the New Age, people make all sorts of claims about how the Bible is missing books; books that help justify what they hope to believe. Sometimes people claim that the Bible was edited to take out reincarnation, or the teaching of 'higher planes of existence', or different gods, or ancestor worship, or 'at-one-ment' with nature.

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Old Testament Apocrypha (continued)

The 'lost books' were never lost. They were known by the Jews in the Old Testament times and the Christians of the New Testament period and were never considered by either group to be Scripture. They weren't lost nor were they removed. They were never in the Bible in the first place.

The additional books were not included in the Bible for several reasons:

- * Lacked apostolic or prophetic authorship
- * Didn't claim to be the Word of God
- * Contained unbiblical concepts such as 'prayer for the dead' (Maccabees 12:45-46)
- * Contained serious historical inaccuracies

Old Testament Pseudepigrapha:

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| * 1 st Enoch | * 2 nd Baruch | * 3 rd Esdras | * 3 rd Maccabees | * 6 th Maccabees |
| * 2 nd Enoch | * 3 rd Baruch | * 4 th Esdras | * 4 th Maccabees | * 7 th Maccabees |
| * 3 rd Enoch | * 4 th Baruch | * 5 th Ezra | * 5 th Maccabees | * 8 th Maccabees |
| | | * 6 th Ezra | | |
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| * Adam Octipartite | * Coptic Apocryphon of Jeremiah | * Psalms of Solomon |
| * Adjuration of Elijah | * Eldad and Modad | * Questions of Ezra |
| * Apocalypse of Abraham | * Enochic Book of Giants | * Revelation of Ezra |
| * Apocalypse of Adam | * Epistle of Rehoboam | * Sibylline Oracles |
| * Apocalypse of Elijah | * Greek Apocalypse of Daniel | * Signs of the Judgement |
| * Apocalypse of Ezekiel | * Greek Apocalypse of Ezra | * Sword of Moses |
| * Apocalypse of Sedrach | * History of Joseph | * Testament of Abraham |
| * Apocalypse of the 7 Heavens | * History of the Rechabites | * Testament of Adam |
| * Apocalypse of Zephaniah | * Jannes and Jambres | * Testament of Isaac |
| * Apocryphon of Ezekiel | * Joseph and Aseneth | * Testament of Jacob |
| * Apocryphon of Jacob & Joseph | * Jubilees | * Testament of Job |
| * Apocryphon of Melchizedek | * Ladder of Jacob | * Testament of Moses |
| * Apocryphon of the 10 Tribes | * Letter of Aristeas | * Testament of Solomon |
| * Ascension of Moses | * Life of Adam and Eve | * Testament of 12 Patriarchs |
| * Assumption of Moses | * Lives of the Prophets | * Treatise of Shem |
| * Book of Assaf | * Manual of Discipline | * Vision of Ezra |
| * Book of Noah | * Martyrdom & Ascension of Isaiah | * Visions of Heaven and Hell |
| * Cave of Treasures | * Odes of Solomon | * Words of Gaz the Seer |
| | * Prayer of Jacob | |
| | * Prayer of Joseph | |

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