

FACTS CONCERNING THE APOCRYPHA

The Apocrypha (Greek word, from the Latin “apokruphos” meaning “hidden”) is a collection of documents produced between the 2nd century B.C. and the 1st century A.D. which were not part of the original Hebrew Old Testament canon. The names of these books are generally held to be: 1&2 Esdras, The Rest of Esther, Song of the Three Holy Children, History of Susanna, Bel and the Dragon, Prayer of Manasseh, Tobit, Judith, 1&2 Maccabees, Book of Wisdom, Book of Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), and Baruch. The last 7 listed above (and underlined) have been incorporated into the Old Testament of the standard bible of the Roman Catholic Church (RCC). It was not until the Council of Trent in 1546 A.D. (at which there were *no Hebrew scholars*), that the RCC unilaterally affirmed the canonicity of these 7 apocryphal books, as found in the Latin Vulgate, and anyone rejecting them as inspired scripture were (and are) condemned to hell (according to the RCC).

Reasons Why The Apocrypha Is Not Part Of The Inspired Canon of Scriptures

I. GENERAL/HISTORICAL

1. The apocryphal books were **not** referred to in any of the most ancient works which refer to the Old Testament scriptures. For example, Philo (the well-known Jewish philosopher of Alexandria 20 B.C. - 50 A.D.), was a prolific writer who frequently quoted to Old Testament, but Philo never once cited the Apocrypha, nor did he ever once mention these documents.
2. Apocryphal books are completely missing from recognized lists ancient of Old Testament books. The most ancient list was compiled by Melito of Sardis (ca. 170 A.D.) and **none** of the apocryphal books were included.
3. Professor William Green of Princeton wrote (in 1899): “The books of Tobit and Judith abound in geographical, chronological, and historical mistakes.”
4. Origen and Tertullian (3rd century A.D.), both of whom rank among the **worst** Bible corrupters of all time, rejected the Apocrypha as inspired scriptures.
5. Jerome vigorously refused to include the Apocrypha in his Latin Vulgate of the 4th century A.D. However after his death, the RCC overruled him and placed the Apocrypha into the Latin Vulgate. Even today, the translation of the corrupt Latin Vulgate (containing the 7 apocryphal books listed above) is the official translation of the RCC.
6. None the apostles, Jesus Christ, or any New Testament writer ever quotes anything from the Apocrypha, while the New Testament records over 250 quotations taken from nearly every one of the 39 Old Testament books.
7. The apocryphal books contain **no** predictive prophesy or the firsthand testimony of any miracles, that would give evidence of being the divinely inspired words of God.
8. The Apocrypha has **no** manuscript evidence of it being originally written in the Hebrew language (all were written in Greek). Greek did not become the universal language until about 330 B.C. which was about 70 years after the close of the Old Testament canon.

9. There is nothing in the teachings of the Apocrypha that adds any truth or provides any further revelation to the doctrines already found in the 66 books of the Bible. On the contrary, the Apocrypha contains **false teachings**.
10. Not one writer of any of the apocryphal books even claims inspiration, i.e. the common Bible phrases such as: "Thus saith the Lord", "the word of the Lord...", "It is written", etc. are **not** found in the apocryphal books.
11. The apocryphal books were rejected as sacred Scriptures of the Old Testament canon by Josephus, the noted Jewish historian (37-95 A.D.) and other Jewish leaders of the early church. God committed the "oracles of God" (the scriptures) to the control and supervision of the **Jews**. (Rom. 3:1-2)
12. The apocryphal books were **not** allowed a place among sacred books during the first four centuries of the Christian Church and were never considered for canonicity (except by the RCC) until the 16th century.

II. SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

13. The Apocrypha describes magical potions which are claimed to be able to drive demons away. (Tobit 6:1-18)
14. The Apocrypha teaches the **false doctrine** of salvation by works in teaching that one may receive forgiveness of his sins by the giving of alms: "It is better to give alms than to lay up gold: alms doth deliver from death, and it shall purge away all sin". (Tobit 12:9, 14:11)
15. The murder of the men of Shechem (Gen. 34) by an act of violence which is condemned in the scriptures (Gen. 49:6-7), is commended in the Apocrypha and described as an act of God to take revenge. (Judith 9:2-9)
16. The apocryphal books support **unbiblical** RCC teachings such as praying for the dead (Baruch 3:4), purgatory, and offering sacrifices to pay for sins of the dead. (2 Maccabees 12:39-46)
17. An apocryphal book contains **contradictory** account of the death of Antiochus Epiphanes, the dreaded enemy of the Jews. (2 Maccabees 1:13-16 & 9:19-29)
18. Two historical **errors** are found in Judith 1:1: 1) Nebuchadnezzar was the king of the Babylonians (not the Assyrians) and 2) Nebuchadnezzar ruled from Babylon (not Nineveh).
19. Apocrypha contains **false teaching** in Sirach 25:19 - "Any iniquity is insignificant compared to a wife's iniquity." (changed in modern versions of RCC bible)
20. Apocrypha contains **false teaching** in Sirach 22:3b - "the birth of a daughter is a loss." (changed in modern versions of RCC bible)
21. The Apocrypha contains the **false teaching** that God created the world out of "formless matter" (Wisdom 11:17) rather than God speaking the creation into existence from nothing (Gen. 1:1; Psa. 33:6-9; Heb. 11:3).
22. The Apocrypha contains the **false teaching** of the pre-existence of the soul and reincarnation (Wisdom 8:19-20) which contradicts the Biblical doctrine of the formation of a living soul (Gen. 2:7; 1 Cor. 15:45).