

# The Apocrypha

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## Introduction:

The *Apocrypha* includes 7 additional books and 7 additions to existing books. The Apocrypha does contain historical information from the time between the Testaments (432-5 B.C.), but it was not included in the *Hebrew Scriptures* and is not considered to be inspired by most authorities; therefore, it is not included in the Bible used by most Protestants.

The 7 Additional Books:

1. Tobit
2. Judith
3. 1 Maccabees
4. 2 Maccabees
5. *Wisdom (or Wisdom of Solomon)*
6. *Sirach (or Wisdom of Jesus ben Sirach; also called Ecclesiasticus)*
7. Baruch

The 7 additions to existing books (not everyone identifies or counts them the same):

1. To Esther (six additions in Greek)
2. To Maccabees (the prayer of Manasseh)
3. To Baruch (the letter of Jeremiah)
4. To Daniel (the prayer of Azariah)
5. To Daniel (the song of the three children/Jews)

6. To Daniel (*Susanna*)

7. To Daniel (*Bel and the Dragon*)

## Apocrypha (Columbia Encyclopedia):

Apocrypha (*Greek = hidden things*) is a term signifying a collection of early Jewish writings excluded from the canon of the Hebrew Scriptures.

The Apocrypha includes the following books and parts of books: First and Second Esdras; Tobit; Judith; the Additions to Esther; Wisdom of Solomon; Sirach (also called Ecclesiasticus); Baruch; the Letter of Jeremiah (in Baruch); parts of Daniel (the Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Young Men; see also Bel and the Dragon and Susanna); First and Second Maccabees; the Prayer of Manasseh.

All are included in the Septuagint, with the exception of 2 Esdras = 4 Ezra. However, they were not included in the Hebrew canon (ratified A.D. 100).

In 1566 the collection was deemed deuterocanonical by the Roman Catholic Church, meaning that their canonicity was recognized only after a period of time.

Protestants follow Jewish tradition in regarding all these books as non-canonical (not recognized as books of the Bible).

## WHO ACCEPTS THE APOCRYPHA?

CRAIG EVANS, NONCANONICAL WRITINGS AND NEW TESTAMENT INTERPRETATION  
(PEABODY, MA: HENDRICKSON PUBLISHERS, 1992), 189.

### ROMAN CATHOLICISM

TOBIT  
JUDITH  
ADDITIONS OF ESTHER  
WISDOM OF SOLOMON  
SIRACH  
BARUCH  
LETTER OF JEREMIAH  
SONG OF THREE  
SUSANNA  
BEL AND THE DRAGON  
  
1 MACCABEES  
2 MACCABEES

### GREEK ORTHODOX

1 ESDRAS  
  
TOBIT  
JUDITH  
ADDITIONS OF ESTHER  
WISDOM OF SOLOMON  
SIRACH  
BARUCH  
LETTER OF JEREMIAH  
SONG OF THREE  
SUSANNA  
BEL AND THE DRAGON  
PRAYER OF MANASSEH  
  
1 MACCABEES  
2 MACCABEES  
3 MACCABEES  
4 MACCABEES  
PSALM 151

### RUSSIAN ORTHODOX

1 ESDRAS  
2 ESDRAS  
TOBIT  
JUDITH  
ADDITIONS OF ESTHER  
WISDOM OF SOLOMON  
SIRACH  
BARUCH  
LETTER OF JEREMIAH  
SONG OF THREE  
SUSANNA  
BEL AND THE DRAGON  
PRAYER OF MANASSEH  
  
1 MACCABEES  
2 MACCABEES  
3 MACCABEES  
  
PSALM 151

### COPTIC

1 ESDRAS  
2 ESDRAS  
TOBIT  
JUDITH  
ADDITIONS OF ESTHER  
WISDOM OF SOLOMON  
SIRACH  
BARUCH  
LETTER OF JEREMIAH  
SONG OF THREE  
SUSANNA  
BEL AND THE DRAGON  
PRAYER OF MANASSEH  
  
1 MACCABEES  
2 MACCABEES  
3 MACCABEES  
  
PSALM 151

**Jesus Endorsed the Hebrew OT** (not the Greek OT, *which includes the Apocrypha*):

- The Apocrypha was added into the OT when the Hebrew OT was translated into Greek during the third century BC.
- “There are many similarities between the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament. The Protestant Old Testament has the same books as the Hebrew Bible, but the books are arranged in different orders. The Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Oriental Orthodox churches include the Deuterocanonical books, which are not included in the Hebrew Bible.”<sup>1</sup>
- This is how Jesus identified the OT; note the phrase that is **bolded and underlined**:  
NAS **Luke 11:49-51** ... “I will send to them

prophets and apostles, and *some* of them they will kill and *some* they will persecute, in order that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, **from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah...**” // Abel was murdered in Genesis 4, while Zechariah was murdered in 2 Chronicles 24; those are the first and last books of the Hebrew Bible.

- Jesus never quoted from the Greek OT; see this article:  
[https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart\\_don/faq/bible-authoritative-word/question17-jesus-view-of-the-old-testament.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/bible-authoritative-word/question17-jesus-view-of-the-old-testament.cfm)

Hebrew Bible ( <i>tanakh</i> )	Protestant Bible
<p><b>Books of Moses (<i>torah</i>)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genesis</li> <li>• Exodus</li> <li>• Leviticus</li> <li>• Numbers</li> <li>• Deuteronomy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Law (Pentateuch)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genesis</li> <li>• Exodus</li> <li>• Leviticus</li> <li>• Numbers</li> <li>• Deuteronomy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prophets (<i>nevi'im</i>)</b></p> <p><b>Former</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joshua</li> <li>• Judges</li> <li>• Samuel</li> <li>• Kings</li> </ul> <p><b>Latter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isaiah</li> <li>• Jeremiah</li> <li>• Ezekiel</li> <li>• The Twelve (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Historical Books</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joshua</li> <li>• Judges</li> <li>• Ruth</li> <li>• Samuel (books 1 and 2)</li> <li>• Kings (books 1 and 2)</li> <li>• Chronicles (books 1 and 2)</li> <li>• Ezra</li> <li>• Nehemiah</li> <li>• Esther</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Wisdom Books</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job</li> <li>• Psalms</li> <li>• Proverbs</li> <li>• Ecclesiastes</li> <li>• Song of Solomon</li> </ul>
<p><b>Writings (<i>ketuvim</i>)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psalms</li> <li>• Proverbs</li> <li>• Job</li> <li>• Song of Solomon</li> <li>• Ruth</li> <li>• Lamentations</li> <li>• Ecclesiastes</li> <li>• Esther</li> <li>• Daniel</li> <li>• Ezra-Nehemiah</li> <li>• Chronicles</li> </ul>	<p><b>Prophets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isaiah</li> <li>• Jeremiah</li> <li>• Lamentations</li> <li>• Ezekiel</li> <li>• Daniel</li> <li>• The Twelve (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew\\_Bible](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_Bible)



foolish to pray for the dead. <sup>45</sup> But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. <sup>46</sup> Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be absolved from their sin.

#### What does the Bible Say?

<sup>NAS-95</sup> **Luke 16:19-30** “Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. <sup>20</sup> And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> and longing to be fed with the *crumbs* which were falling from the rich man’s table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. <sup>22</sup> Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.”

<sup>23</sup> “In Hades [the rich man] lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup> And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.’”

<sup>25</sup> “But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and *that* none may cross over from there to us.”

<sup>27</sup> “And [the rich man] said, ‘Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father’s house-- <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers-- in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’”

<sup>29</sup> “But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them [your brothers] hear them [the OT Scriptures].’”

<sup>30</sup> “But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’”

<sup>31</sup> “But [Abraham] said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”

3. Intercession by saints: <sup>NAB</sup> **2 Maccabees 15:11** When he had armed each of them, not so much with the security of shield and spear as with the encouragement of noble words, he cheered them all by relating a dream, a kind of waking vision, worthy of belief. <sup>12</sup> What he saw was this: Onias, the former high priest, a noble and good man, modest in bearing, gentle in manner, distinguished in speech, and trained from childhood in all that belongs to excellence, was praying with outstretched arms for the whole Jewish community. <sup>13</sup> Then in the same way another man appeared, distinguished by his white hair and dignity, and with an air of wondrous and majestic authority. <sup>14</sup> Onias then said of him, “This is a man who loves his fellow Jews and fervently prays for the people and the holy city-- the prophet of God, Jeremiah.” // Jeremiah died many years before Maccabees was written. I am not aware of any reference outside of the Apocrypha that refers to believers who have died who are praying for people on earth.

#### **Two Examples of Great Faith in the Apocrypha:**

- 2 Maccabees 6:18-31
- 2 Maccabees 7:1-42

Note: The NAB is The New American Bible for Catholics, authorized by the Vatican, September 18, 1970