

Is the Apocrypha to be considered a divinely inspired work?

The Apocrypha is most easily recognizable as a set of books that are located within the books of the Old Testament in some Bible, especially Bibles that are identified as official “Roman Catholic” Bibles. The Apocrypha are accepted as being identical to scripture by the Roman Catholic Church but they are not identified as such by the Protestant Church.

1. What is the history of the Apocrypha?

NT: Often published under the names of apostolic writers during the second and later centuries.

Mostly deliberate fabrications and never any serious claim to canonicity.

Provide details of Christ's early life and apostle's early life.

Attempt to gain acceptance for heretical ideas. Reduced teaching of grace; increased legalism.

Growing veneration of Mary.

Protoevangelium of James; Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew; Gospel of the Nativity of Mary;

History of Joseph the Carpenter; Gospel of Thomas; Gospel of the Infancy;

Gospel of Nicodemus; Gospel of Philip; Gospel of the Egyptian; Acts of Paul; Acts of John;

Acts of Andrew; Acts of Peter; Acts of Thomas

OT: 1-3 Esdras; Tobit; Judith; Rest of Esther; Wisdom of Solomon; Ecclesiasticus; Baruch;

Letter of Jeremiah; Additions to Daniel; Prayer of Manasses; 1-2 Maccabees

Jews uniformly denied canonical status. Appeared in the LXX as an addendum.

Council of Carthage (397) - Accepted except 1-2 Esdras; Prayer of Manasses.

Reformers repudiated as unworthy & contradictory. Considered profitable and good to read.

1827 British & Foreign Bible Society and American Bible Society excluded them.

Written between 300 B.C. And A.D. 100 in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek.

2. What are the requirements to be included in the canon of scripture?

2 Thessalonians **2:1-2**

Malachi **3:6**

2 Timothy **3:16-17**

Colossians **4:16**

2 Peter **1:20-21; 3:15-18**

Numbers **23:19**

Deuteronomy **18:18-22**

In order for a writing to be scripture, it must be “God breathed” and written by the inspiration of God. It is important for the written message that is understood to be written by God to agree with what God has already written. If it is in disagreement (like what it takes to be saved, the identification of the Messiah) with the recognized scriptures then it is to be rejected as scripture. For the NT scriptures, one of the primary expectations is that the author is an apostle or directly related to an apostle. Furthermore the writings of scripture were quickly spread and read amongst the other churches. Any prophetic predictions that are made must conform to what really happens. If a prophecy does not come true, then the entire writings are suspect and are to be rejected.

3. Why were they rejected by the Protestants?

Tobit **12:9**

Sirach 3:30

Wisdom **8:19-20**

Romans **4:3-5**; Acts **16:30-31**;

Leviticus 17:11; Galatians 2:16

Luke **18:18-20**

Sirach **12:4-7**

Luke **6:27-31**

The Apocraphal writings contradict scripture in several places. In regard to the way of salvation and the concept of good. Some of the OT Apocrapha writing identify the Messiah as being the heavenly Son of Man, like Daniel but embellished by Enoch. Others describe the Messiah as an earthly Davidic King in the Psalms of Solomon.