

## **A Word about the Apocrypha**

The Apocryphal books which are included only in Catholic Bibles are Old Testament books (and extra chapters) which were found only in the Septuagint. Coverdale was the first to distinctly separate the Apocrypha in the English Bible, but the books have a long history of rejection as the authoritative Word of God. They were rejected from the Hebrew canon as formed around A.D. 100, and most of the early church fathers concurred. The Syrian version omits them, Jerome refused them a place in the Vulgate, and Luther separated them out, giving them the title of "Apocrypha", meaning "secret" or "hidden". The Catholic Church did not accept them as authoritative until 1546 at the Council of Trent.

References to "New Testament Apocrypha" are in regard to writings of the early church and were not included in the books approved at the Council of Trent or found in Catholic Bibles. These epistles of the church fathers are often found in ancient manuscripts of the New Testament. The early church did not compose a NT canon, as such, until the beginning of the 3rd century. There has been some canonical debate, particularly against Hebrews, Jude, and Revelation, and for the Epistles of Clement, but generally, the books which have been the most universally accepted have always been the same books as are now in our New Testament.

### **Catholic Bible Apocrypha**

1 Esdras (Vulgate 3 Esdras)  
2 Esdras (Vulgate 4 Esdras)  
Tobit  
Judith  
Rest of Esther (Vulgate Esther 10:4-16:24)  
Wisdom  
Ecclesiasticus (also known as Sirach)  
Baruch and the Epistle of Jeremy (all part of Vulgate Baruch)  
Song of the Three Children (Vulgate Daniel 3:24-90)  
Story of Susanna (Vulgate Daniel 13)  
The Idol Bel and the Dragon (Vulgate Daniel 14)  
Prayer of Manasses  
1 Maccabees  
2 Maccabees

### **Biblical Pseudepigrapha (200 BC to 200 AD)**

3 Maccabees  
4 Maccabees  
Assumption of Moses  
Ethiopic Book of Enoch (1 Enoch)  
Slavonic Book of Enoch (2 Enoch)  
Book of Jubilees  
Greek Apocalypse of Baruch (3 Baruch)  
Letter of Aristeas  
Life of Adam and Eve  
Martyrdom and Ascension of Isaiah  
Psalms of Solomon  
Sibylline Oracles  
Syriac Apocalypse of Baruch (2 Baruch)  
Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs