

Is the Apocrypha Inspired

Is the Apocrypha inspired? The answer is surprisingly simple.

1) God entrusted the Jewish nation with the Scriptures. Throughout the Bible, we are told that it was the Jews who were given the Scriptures.¹ The Psalmist writes, that God “declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and His judgments to Israel. He has not dealt thus with any [other] nation.”² And the apostle Paul confirms that the Word of God was entrusted to the Jews when he writes: “What advantage then has the Jew, ...Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.”³ And Jesus confirms that salvation is of the Jews.⁴ Therefore the Hebrew Bible is God’s inspired Word and it is identical to the books of our KJV Old Testament (though the books are in different order). In other words, God has entrusted the Scriptures to the Jews, and their Hebrew Bible is the same as our Old Testament, and neither include the Apocrypha.

2) The New Testament quotes from the Old Testament Scriptures about 300 times, but never quotes from the Apocryphal books. This shows that the New Testament writers did not consider the Apocrypha inspired.

3) Jesus repeatedly referred to the Hebrew Scriptures as the Word of God, but never did He refer to any other books as inspired.⁵

4) The books of the Old Testament claim to be the Word of God hundreds of times with such expressions as “The Word of the Lord came to me” or “Thus says the Lord”, yet the Apocrypha never claims to be the Word of God – in fact it denies being inspired.⁶

5) First Maccabees is considered the most valuable historical Apocryphal book and it acknowledges that there were no prophets in those days⁷ – which means the writings of this period cannot be inspired because God only spoke His Word through His prophets.⁸

6) While our Old Testament contains hundreds of verifiable prophecies to substantiate its inspiration, the Apocrypha contains no specific verifiable prophecies.

¹ Deuteronomy 7:6; 33:2-4; Psalm 78:5; 103:7; Malachi 4:4; Acts 3:25; Romans 9:4-5

² Psalm 147:19-20.

³ Romans 3:1-2; 9:4-5

⁴ John 4:22. See also Isaiah 2:3 and Luke 24:44-47

⁵ Matthew 4:4; 7:13; Luke 4:4; 8:11; 8:21; 11:28; John 10:35

⁶ 2 Maccabees 2:24-32; 15:39-40

⁷ 1 Maccabees 4:46; 9:27; 14:41

⁸ Luke 1:70; Acts 3:18; 2 Peter 1:21

7) The entire inspired Word of God has one consistent theme focusing on the Messiah, yet the Apocrypha does not maintain this theme.

8) The Apocrypha encourages the unbiblical practice of praying to the dead,⁹ even though God calls this an abomination in the Law of Moses.¹⁰

9) The Apocrypha includes offensive material which contradicts God's Word.¹¹

10) The Roman Catholic Church did not officially canonize the Apocrypha until the Council of Trent in 1546 A.D.

In summary, though the books known as the Apocrypha contain some valuable historical accounts, relate some godly wisdom, and include references to the Scriptures, they are not the inspired Word of God.

⁹ 2 Maccabees 12:38-46

¹⁰ Deuteronomy 18:9-12

¹¹ Ecclesiasticus 22:3; 25:19; 25:24 are demeaning to woman. Tobit is a romance, entirely devoid of historical value. 1 Esdras includes legends about Zerubbabel.