

## BIBLE Q&A:

### Q: Why is the Apocrypha rejected from the canon of Scripture?



**A:** The Apocrypha is rejected from the canon of Scripture for numerous reasons.

I. Besides the fact that Jesus and the apostles never once quoted from it; and aside from its obvious lack of inspiration and anointing (it "just doesn't sound like" scripture; "My sheep hear My voice," John 10; etc.) – there are many solid reasons for rejecting its contents from being included with the canonical scriptures.

A. The Apocrypha contains chronological errors and statements contrary to history.

Baruch 1:2 (comp. Jeremiah 43:6-7)

Bel and the Dragon 22 (Xerxes did it); Bel and the Dragon 33

Tobit 1:4 (He could not have been "still a young man," or even born yet.

The rebellion of the northern tribe against Jerusalem in 1 Kings 12:19-20

took place around 922 B.C.)

B. It contains geographical errors.

Tobit 1:4; 6:1; 9:2 (This was an 11 day journey.)

C. Many false teachings are represented, and evil practices that the inspired Word of God condemns are condoned.

1. Prayers for the dead.

2 Maccabees 12:44, 45, etc.

2. Salvation by good works (almsgiving, etc.).

Sirach 3:34, 14, 30; 30:11-12 2; Esdras 7:7; 8:33, 36; Tobit 12:9, 8a; 14:11

3. The use of magic.

a. In demon exorcism.

Tobit 6-8

- b. In healing.

Tobit 11

- c. "Good luck" (fortune).

Sirach 8:19

- 4. The intercession of angels.

Tobit 12:15 (Raphael)

- 5. Suicide.

2 Maccabees 14:41-46

- 6. Mourning for the dead.

Sirach 38:16-23 (especially verses 20-21)

- 7. Sinless lives of Old Testament personalities.

Prayer of Manasseh 8

- D. Some of the miracles and events described are simply fabulous and silly.

Tobit 6:2-7, 16-17, etc. (placing incense smoke on the organs of a man eating fish to ward off evil spirits; the demon was in love with the woman and had killed her last seven husbands on their wedding night)

- E. Only three divisions of the Old Testament are described in Luke 24:44. Matthew 23:35 and Luke 11:51 also witness the arrangement and compass of the Old Testament – not allowing for any books outside the time from Genesis to 2 Chronicles.

- II. Knowledge of the Bible must be accompanied by wisdom and discernment, as well as a pure heart, for the scriptures can be misused.

- A. Many who lack spiritual understanding twist and distort the meaning of the scriptures "unto their own destruction."

2 Peter 3:16

- B. Satan quoted the scriptures to Jesus when tempting Him in the wilderness.

Matthew 4:6

- C. In the last days, scripture says, many will "heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" (2 Timothy 4:34). These are "ever learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the Truth" (2 Timothy 3:7; Ecclesiastes 12:12). It is because they seek to partake intellectually of what can only be appreciated in the spirit (1 Corinthians 2:14).

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