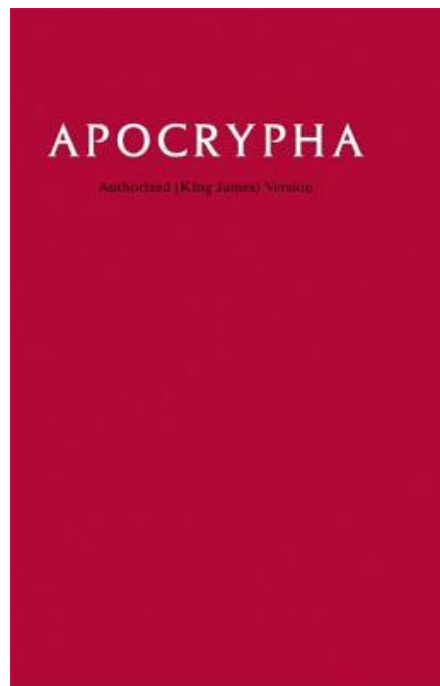




The Apocrypha: King James Version

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The KJV Apocrypha in a single volume. The Apocrypha ('hidden things') are contemporaneous with the Old Testament, but were not officially accepted as part of the Bible when the Hebrew 'canon' was set. They did, however, form part of the Greek Scriptures and came into English Bibles by that route. The writings of the Apocrypha run the whole gamut of literary genres: histories, romances, devotional works, proverbs and sermons. Many complement parts of the Old Testament and readers will recognise some familiar Biblical characters in the narratives, such as Daniel and Esther.

The Apocrypha: King James Version Details

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From Reader Review The Apocrypha: King James Version for online ebook

Brittany Petruzzi says

Great for historical insight on the Intertestamental Period. Not so great for theological truth.

Cody Alan says

Controversial, I know. Took a WHILE to get through. Some of it great narrative, and some drug for a bit. Yet, it was good history of God's people. I think the reason these books mean "questionable authority" is because of the obvious values of giving alms for eternal life, prayers to the dead, the acceptance of magic by God (These most show up in Tobit and Ecclesiasticus), and the fact that certain books are placing random pieces of their letters in between already existing letters in our Bibles (Bel and the Dragon, Rest of Esther, etc.). Some of the teachings are weird, so I can see why there is no canonization, yet still great to know and I've always wondered what filled in the gap historically. Lots about the Babylonian captivity, and less about the Assyrian. Doctrines questionable in our Bibles are reconcilable, most of the issues portrayed here aren't. Good to read.

thethousanderclub says

The Apocrypha is specifically referenced in Latter-day Saint doctrine. Joseph Smith prayed to know if he should revise the translation of the Apocrypha and here is the response in full:

"Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you concerning the Apocrypha—There are many things contained therein that are true, and it is mostly translated correctly; There are many things contained therein that are not true, which are interpolations by the hands of men. Verily, I say unto you, that it is not needful that the Apocrypha should be translated. Therefore, whoso readeth it, let him understand, for the Spirit manifesteth truth; And whoso is enlightened by the Spirit shall obtain benefit therefrom; And whoso receiveth not by the Spirit, cannot be benefited. Therefore it is not needful that it should be translated. Amen" (D&C 91).

The Apocrypha isn't completely absent from Latter-day Saint discussion, Elder Holland quoted from it in his talk The Tongue of Angels, but it's pretty close. Many Latter-day Saints probably don't even know what it is, which of course suggests that even more don't know what it contains. As an aside, when I served my two-year full time mission in Las Vegas, Nevada, a faithful Catholic debated the value of the Apocrypha and expressed his utter incredulity that it wasn't a part of our canon. Especially since that experience, I have had a lingering desire to read the Apocrypha and know for myself what it contains.

The King James version of the Apocrypha, which is the version I read, reads and feels like the Old Testament. In fact, considering most people's lack of familiarity with the Old Testament, I would posit large portions of the Apocrypha could be read to a group of contemporary Christians, Latter-day Saints included, and they wouldn't be able to determine the source as the Old Testament or the Apocrypha. As familiar as the language is, the stories, whether true or not, are unique and, for the most part, quite interesting.

Perhaps one of the largest contributions the Apocrypha makes to established biblical canons is the inclusion

of more stories in which women are key players or a major focus. There is an expanded story regarding Esther and entirely new stories about a woman named Judith and Susanna. The book of Judith is particularly meaningful for women since it shows a woman not only in a position of authority but one who demonstrates great courage and faithfulness. The book The History of Susanna centers more around legal and ethical justice rather than womanly triumph but is nonetheless an important story about protecting the innocent.

The other books throughout the Apocrypha follow similar patterns present in the Bible, such as: a collection of pithy sayings and words of wisdom, historical accounts of corrupt leaders, people, and the inevitable justice of God, and heavenly visions and visitations. If you've read and studied the Bible, you'll be right at home. The interesting exercise, especially as a Latter-day Saint, is attempting to determine what is inspired and what is not. I certainly didn't make any kind of extensive and prayerful examination of the text and its spiritual truthfulness, but I did find valuable spiritual insights which are more than likely true. (Coming back to Holland's talk, if he feels comfortable enough to quote from it in General Conference we can be assured at least some of it is true just as Doctrine and Covenants section 91 states). On the other hand, I could see, especially in the second book of Maccabees, some curious and frankly out of place commentaries which gave me pause regarding their veracity. Just as the first book of Maccabees states: "Also that the Jews and priests were well pleased that Simon should be their governor and high priest for ever, until there should arise a faithful prophet" (Emphasis added). Without a prophet, who is actually doing the writing and is it actually endorsed by the Lord?

In the end, the Apocrypha is a fascinating addition to existing scriptural knowledge, albeit unnecessary from a devout Christian's perspective. It doesn't reveal too much regarding the Christian faiths, mostly because there are so many Christians who don't accept and embrace it in the same way they do the Bible. I enjoyed reading it and love being able to say I have, but I have no plans to continue my study of it.

<http://thethousanderclub.blogspot.com/>

Connor Longaphie says

I would encourage all Christians to read these books

Michael says

Mostly forgettable; I can see why these books didn't make it into the Bible. Ecclesiasticus is good, but the only must-read here is II Esdras, which rivals any of the prophetic books of the Old Testament in power.

Ruben says

So I finally got around to reading the Apocrypha. It took me a while to finish it. I started sometime last year, stopped, and then picked it up again about six months ago. These books are very good for understanding the history of the intertestamental period, but definitely lacked the feel of the rest of the Bible. Even if Christians don't read it for doctrinal teaching, it is a good read to understand the context of Jesus' time, the religious zeal of the Pharisees, etc. Many parts of the Ecclesiasticus felt like it were copying Proverbs. Considering that the people of that time were very familiar with Proverbs, it doesn't surprise me if they were quoting it. I liked the Prayer of Manassah quite a bit. I think that one, and Ecclesiasticus were my favorite books contained herein.

James Kiester says

This is a good addition to biblical reading and studies.

???? ??????? says

I didn't like the interventions and comments on the original scripts. Most of them were unable to provide argument, let alone having any persuasive logic to its rhetoric prejudgment.

Daniel Poe says

Got the KJV Apocrypha just for reading pleasure and to seek out errors and contradictions between the Bible and the Apocrypha. I enjoy this book as a literary piece but as a Christian, I don't study doctrine with it.

E. says

Yes, the KJV translators did translate the Apocrypha along with the Old and New Testaments....

Andrew Barger says

Out of curiosity more than anything else, I recently read the King James Version of the Apocrypha published in 1611 by the Church of England. Yes, you read it right, the Apocryphal books were published alongside the normal books of the Bible in the revered King James version.

There are those who believe Apocrypha is bad word to describe heretic books. Nothing could be further from the truth. These books missed the cut by a hair. Many are thought to be 100% historically accurate just, for one reason or another, not sanction by God as he worked through individuals to write them.

They read like many Old Testament books. In other words, they are a bit dry in places. Some of the stories are quiet good although lacking character generation that we take for granted today. "The Idol Bel and the Dragon" is the only suspect one in my view. It's a little far out there, but then isn't the story of Noah's Ark, the parting of the Red Sea, David and Goliath, etc? would be more at home in a collection of fantasy short stories. Middle Unearthed: The Best Fantasy Short Stories 1800-1849

Many more books have been uncovered than those found in the original King James Version of the Bible. Those can be found in other compilations.

What would really make these books shine is background information about the author, when they were discovered, why they were excluded from the normal Biblical books, annotations, etc. Still, if you are

curious, it is worth your time to sit down and read the books of the Apocrypha.

#ApocryphaReview #KingJamesApocrypha

Vicki says

Finally finished the last of Dad's books that Mom let me borrow. I think I'm going to skip the one on numerology since I'm not having any trouble falling asleep these days.

Bronson Pace says

D&C sections 91.

Logan says

Very instructive from a historical perspective. Some very interesting stories and interesting to see how the Jews were learning from their prior apostasy from God. Not to be treated as Scripture of course, but still valuable for learning about that time period and our spiritual ancestors.

Stacy says

I registered a book at BookCrossing.com!
<http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/3588723>
