

There are many books (Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha) referred to as “the Bible.” So, how do we know which books of the Bible are the words of God? There are six points to prove which books belong in the Bible. If the book fails in one of these points, then we know that the book does not belong in the Bible:

1) God approves of the book:

- Jesus referred to Isaiah as “scriptures” (Luke 4:17-21) and Jonah and Daniel as “prophet” (Matt. 12:39; 24:15) and quoted Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Psalms, and Zechariah as authoritative (Matt. 4:1-10; John 8:17; Mark 14:27).
- Jesus said the SCRIPTURES were the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms (Luke 24:44). And the Bible says, “ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God” (2 Tim. 3:16). Non-Christian historian Josephus recorded from the first century that the five books of Moses were “the law of Moses,” Joshua—Daniel and the twelve minor prophets were “the prophets,” and Psalms—Song of Solomon were “the psalms” (“Josephus’ Division” from Bible Doctrines, p. 53).
- Jesus said the words of God would be passed upon His disciples (John 14:26; 16:13). The chief disciple Peter referred Paul’s writings as “scriptures” (2 Pet. 3:15-16).

2) Evidence supports the book:

- The ancient Dead Sea scrolls contain all the Old Testament books of our King James Bible, except Esther (The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls by James Vanderkam).
- The Jews were in charge of the Old Testament scriptures (Deut. 32:25-26; Neh. 8:7-9). Even Paul the apostle agreed that the oracles of God were given to the Jews (Rom. 3:2). The Hebrew Masoretic Text has all the same books of our King James Bible.

- Dr. Edward F. Hills (scholar from Yale and Harvard) gives historical explanations that all the books in our King James Bible are inspired by God while the non-canonical books (Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha) are corrupt (Believing Bible Study, pp. 5-9).

- Majority of the early churches agreed with Athanasius that all of the books in our King James Bible should be officially recognized as the Bible. They did not accept the Apocrypha and Pseudopigrapha (The Biblical Canon by Dr. Lee Martin McDonald, p. 381; Believing Bible Study by Dr. Edward F. Hills, pp. 5-9). The early Christians had the words of God (Acts 13:49; Col. 3:16).

- A list of New Testament Scriptures dating to the latter half of the second century was discovered in the Ambrosian Library in Milan, Italy, in 1740. This second-century list contains all of the 27 books of the New Testament canon (History of the Lutheran Version by John Hentz, p. 60).

3) The long-lasting availability of the book:

- Isaiah 55:11 and Psalms 12:6-7 state that the words of the Lord will be preserved and not void. Jesus said His words will never pass away (Matt. 24:35). The non-canonical books (Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha) are considered by many as “lost books.” They were not available for thousands of Christians throughout hundreds of years. So, these books cannot be the words of God.

4) The blessing of God upon the book:

- Revelation 21:18-19 states that God said no more of His words are to be added further than the book of Revelation. God clearly said He will never bless a book that does not contain His words. Jesus said that people are blessed when they hear and keep the word of God (Luke 11:28). Ever since the publication of the King James Bible, both England and America, who officially used it, were blessed with success and wealth. Now, America is known for being the most powerful nation in the world. God is a Liar for blessing America if the Bible that America revered were not the words of God.

5) No errors in the book:

- Witchcraft. Apocrypha book Tobias 6:5-7, “Then the angel said to him: Take out the entrails of this fish, and lay up his heart, and his gall, and his liver for thee: for these are necessary for useful medicines. And when he had done so, he roasted the flesh thereof, and they took it with them in the way: the rest they salted as much as might serve them, till they

came to Rages the city of the Medes. Then Tobias asked the angel, and said to him: I beseech thee, brother Azarias, tell me what remedies are these things good for, which thou hast bid me keep of the fish? And the angel, answering, said to him: If thou put a little piece of its heart upon coals, the smoke thereof driveth away all kind of devils, either from man or from woman, so that they come no more to them." Doesn't this verse sound like witchcraft?

- Alms cleanse all sins. Apocrypha book Tobias 12:9, "For alms delivereth from death, and the same is that which purgeth away sins, and maketh to find mercy and life everlasting." This contradicts 1 John 1:7 that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sins, not alms or any work.

- Babylon captivity for seven generations. Apocrypha book Baruch 6:2, "And when you are come into Babylon, you shall be there many years, and for a long time, even to seven generations: and after that I will bring you away from thence with peace." This completely contradicts the Bible saying that the Babylonian captivity lasts for seventy years, not seven generations (Jer. 29:10).

- Nonsense of Antiochus' death. Apocrypha book 2 Maccabees 9:5-6, 18, "But the Lord Almighty, the God of Isreal, smote him with an incurable and invisible plague: or as soon as he had spoken these words, a pain of the bowels that was remediless came upon him, and sore torments of the inner parts; And that most justly: for he had tormented other men's bowels with many and strange torments. So that the worms rose up out of the body of this wicked man, and whiles he lived in sorrow and pain, his flesh fell away, and the filthiness of his smell was noisome to all his army. But for all this his pains would not cease: for the just judgment of God was come upon him: therefore despairing of his health, he wrote unto the Jews the letter underwritten, containing the form of a supplication, after this manner." How is it possible that Antiochus' body was rotting away, tormented by an incurable plague, being eaten up by worms while writing a letter to the Jews?

- Wrong calculation of years and age. Apocrypha book Tobit 1:3-5; 14:11, "I Tobit have walked all the days of my life in the ways of truth and justice, and I did many almsdeeds to my brethren, and my nation, who came with me to Nineve, into the land of the Assyrians. And when I was in mine own country, in the land of Israel being but young, all the tribe of Nephthali my father fell from the house of Jerusalem...Now all the tribes which together revolted, and the

house of my father Nephthali, sacrificed unto the heifer Baal...When he (Tobit) had said these things, he gave up the ghost in the bed, being an hundred and eight and fifty years old; and he buried him honourably." Tobit claims to have been alive when Israel revolted (931 B.C.) and when Assyria conquered Israel (722 B.C.) (Observe timelines in Old Scofield Reference Bible). These two events were separated by over 200 years and yet the total lifespan of Tobit was 185 years.

- Contradiction with Jude. Pseudepigrapha book Enoch 1:9, "Behold, he will arrive with ten million of the holy ones in order to execute judgment upon all. He will destroy the wicked ones and censure all flesh on account of everything that they have done, that which the sinners and the wicked ones committed against him." But Jude 14 says "ten thousands" not "ten million." Jude 14 says "convince all that are ungodly," not "destroy the wicked ones." Jude 14 says that God convinces sinners what "they have ungodly committed and of their hard speeches," but Enoch 1:9 drops "and of their hard speeches." Didn't God say He despises subtraction of His words? (Rev. 22:19)

6) No full-proof argument against the book:

- Bible Critic Argument #1: But there are different early churches and Christians that claim some Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha writings as "scripture."

Christian Answer: Even if they did, those writings contradicted at least one of the five points listed above. So, those writings cannot be "scripture."

- Bible Critic Argument #2: But there were some early churches and Christians that did not approve some of the books in the King James Bible as the word of God. The Dead Sea scrolls skipped the Book of Esther.

Christian Answer: Even if they did, the majority of early churches, Christians, and evidences approved all of the books in the King James Bible as the word of God (Look at Point 2). Remember that men cannot be dependable as the final authority; remember that Points 1-5 clearly prove that the books in our King James Bible are the word of God.

- Bible Critic Argument #3: But the Catholic Council of Nicea at 325 A.D. gave us the books of the Bible. So, the final authority ought to be the Catholic church.

Christian Answer: It is true that a Catholic council gave us the books of the Bible. This actually proves that Christians were not being bias and picked whatever book that they want to fit their beliefs. The Catholic church is not the final authority, because they contradict the Bible that they chose. Besides, there are evidences that support the books in the King James Bible (Look at Points 1-2) before the Catholic Council of Nicea.

In conclusion, let me say that I know for certain that all the books in the Bible are the right books. They are the words of God. All other books that are used as "Bible" are not

the words of God and filled with errors. I have no doubt that the Bible is the word of God.

(Please click on this link for Part 1: http://bbcenglish.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=266:the-authority-of-the-bible-part-1&catid=53:doctrine&Itemid=88).