

DID THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ADD BOOKS TO THE BIBLE?

**Yes, it did! We call those books...
the New Testament!**

The Bible, as we have it today, did not exist for more than 350 years after the death of Jesus. Each of the individual books existed, but they were not all put together in the collection of books that we now refer to as “The Bible,” until late in the 4th century A.D.

For more than 350 years after the death of Christ, there were disputes - among Christians - as to which books should be considered inspired Scripture. These disputes were about Old Testament and New Testament books. Revelation was a disputed book. As was Hebrews. As were 2 John and 3 John. As were James, Jude, and 2 Peter.

Plus, there were many other books not in the New Testament as we have it now, which were considered inspired Scripture by various Christian communities around the world. These included the Letter of Clement to the Corinthians, the Didache, the Letter of Barnabas, the Acts of Peter, the Acts of Paul, the Acts of John, the Apocalypse of Peter, the Apocalypse of Paul, and several others.

So, if Christians were disputing over which books should and shouldn't be considered the inspired Word of God for more than 350 years after the death of Christ, then how did we end up with the Bible as we have it today? Who finally decided which books were and which books were not the inspired Word of God? Did Christians consult the Bible for the answer? Of course not! They went to the Church. But which church? The Catholic Church.

The Council of Rome, in 382 A.D., gave us the first list from the Church of which books should be considered inspired Scripture. That list had exactly the same 73 books of the Bible that are in the Catholic Bible today - including the 7 books of the Old Testament that Protestants refer to as the Apocrypha. That list of 73 books was affirmed by the Council of Hippo in 393 A.D., the Council of Carthage in 397 A.D., and in a letter from Pope Innocent I in 404 A.D.

All Christians, everywhere, considered the books of the “Apocrypha” to be inspired Scripture - as part of their Bible - until the 1500's, when Martin Luther removed them from the Bible. The Gutenberg Bible - the first book ever made with a printing press, had those 7 books in it. The Bible Martin Luther used as a Catholic priest, had those books in it.

All Bibles everywhere had those books in them - no Bible had only 66 books - until the 1500's.

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