**Should The Apocrypha Be Included In The Bible?**

David Frye / continued from the front

 These fifteen books were incorporated into the Catholic Bible because they contain teachings about prayers for the dead, purgatory and justification by faith plus works. There is no biblical justification for these false teachings (**Romans 3:24, 28; 5:9**). We believe God was silent in regard to giving Scripture during the intertestamental era. William Kimball, in The Book of Books, gives the following reasons for the exclusion of the Apocrypha from the Bible:

1. The Apocrypha was written long after the Old Testament was completed around 400 BC. It lacks the prophetic character to qualify as the inspired Word of God. [**Luke 24:27; Mark 13:31; Matt. 5:17; Acts 24:14** mention the Law and the Prophets, but not the Apocrypha.]

2. None of the apocryphal writers claimed divine inspiration – some openly denied it.

3. No Hebrew canons [collection of biblical books] include the Apocrypha, though the more liberal Greek Septuagint includes them as Scripture.

4. Josephus did not include the apocryphal books in his list of canonical books.

5. Other Jewish sources such as Philo, a Jewish philosopher from Alexandria (20 BC - AD 40), quoted extensively from the Old Testament but never quoted from the Apocrypha… though he was acquainted with it.

6. Jewish scholars at the Canonical Council of Jamnia (AD 90) did not recognize the Apocrypha as divinely inspired.

7. The Palestinian Jews rejected the apocryphal books.

8. Jerome, (AD 340 - 420) rejected the Apocrypha saying they *“were in no sense a portion of God’s Word.”* However, after his death, they were added to his translation of the Bible known as the Latin Vulgate which formed the basis for all Roman Catholic translations until the mid-twentieth century.

9. The apocryphal books contain numerous historical, factual and geographical inaccuracies… as well as blatant myths. Nebuchadnezzar is called the King of Assyria in the Book of Judith – he was the king of Babylon [**Daniel 1:1**].

10. The apocryphal books teach false doctrines, promote questionable ethics and contradict the Bible. The books of Tobit and Judith make salvation dependent upon meritorious works. Tobit teaches that almsgiving will deliver a person from death. Ecclesiasticus teaches that almsgiving will make atonement for sin.

11. Jesus and the other New Testament writers never quoted the Apocrypha. [Some claim that Jude 14 is a quote from the book of Enoch, and **Hebrews 11:35** is a reference to II Maccabees.] [“Jesus and the apostles… omission of any quotations from The Apocrypha actually entails a rejection of these books” (Christian Apologetics; Geisler, p. 366).]

12. Many early church fathers spoke out against the authenticity of the Apocrypha.

13. No council of the Christian church for the first four centuries recognized the apocryphal books as inspired of God.

14. Many Roman Catholic scholars rejected the Apocrypha. [“Even up and through the time of Reformation (AD 1517); some Roman Catholic Scholars, including Cardinal Cajetan who opposed Luther, did not accept the Apocrypha as authentic Old Testament books.” (Christian Apologetics; Geisler, p. 365)