

## The Revised Standard Version and the Apocrypha

Christians everywhere should protest against the decision to print the Apocrypha as part of the Revised Standard Version, and to label the entire book as "The Holy Bible".

God led the writers of the books of the Old and New Testament in such a way that what they wrote is actually the Word of God, is free from error, and is an infallible guide for Christians in their life and practice.

The so-called Apocryphal books of the Old Testament -- the fourteen books which are to be added to the Revised Standard Version -- are books written by godly Jews and containing only their fallible human ideas. They are in no sense the Word of God, nor can they ever become the Word of God. The Jews did not consider these books as part of the Word of God. Jesus Christ did not set His seal upon them as He did upon the actual books of the Old Testament. They are never quoted in the New Testament. There is no evidence that any of the Apostles ever considered any one of these books as, in any sense, a part of the Word of God.

It is true that many people in the Middle Ages became confused and thought that some of these books were part of the Word of God. This is because they were included in copies of the Vulgate. However, the man who translated the Vulgate into Latin from the original Hebrew never intended that they should be so included. St. Jerome, the learned translator of the Vulgate, wrote an introduction in which he strongly and clearly expressed his belief that only the books that are today included in our Old Testament belong in the Bible, and that the so-called Apocrypha are in no sense a portion of God's Word. Others urged him to translate these books, but he continually refused to do so. Eventually he gave in to their pressure to the extent that he translated two of the books, but he did these two very rapidly, not giving them a fraction of the careful attention that he gave to every portion of what he considered to be the inspired Word of God.