

Question by student. I spoke to a Roman Catholic bishop once and I asked him if he could tell me where I could find a good ~~argument~~ presentation of Roman Catholic arguments on this point. And he recommended two books, one of ~~which~~ was an introduction to the Bible in four volumes - one of the volumes, he said, had a good treatment of it. I tried to get the volume and it is out of print, been out of print for years. The other one which he lent me was the Catholic Encyclopedia - the article of the canon. We want to now look at

C - The Apochrypha 1. What does the term Apochrypha mean? Anyone that knows Greek knows that _____ means hidden, that Apichrypha means hidden and Spochryphal book then if you take the word literally means a hidden book. In the early days of the Christian church and even before the time of the Christian church there were groups which said - These books of the scripture are fine books for the public to use, they give great spiritual truths but there are also hidden books, books which are kept in a little group and we don't let anyone else see them. If you are initiated into our group you get to go through certain ceremonies and you show certain spiritual insight, you become a member of our group and then you can read the hidden books. And these hidden books are books which are kept privately in our little group and which give us the great truths. That is the true meaning of the word Apochryphal. No book which we today call the ~~Apichrypha~~ Apochryphal books, no one of these books was a hidden book therefore strictly speaking and literally that word does not apply at all. These little groups, these various sects claimed that those were authoritative books, they were books that God has given to them. When these people came along and they said that you say that Christ is God, there is nothing to that, course it is true that Christ is divine. But actually Christ was produced by an divine agency in a certain way and He has great powers. They say that is just your understanding of Christ in the N.T. but here we have our hidden books that give us the real truth and they tell us the real facts about Christ and they give us the answer. Most Christians said well, your hidden books are just junk. So it came about that the other people in the church, when they would say I believe this and they would say it is in one of my hidden books and you ask what book it is and so hidden books came to mean bad books. Therefore the word Apochrypha which originally meant hidden came to mean in the usage of the church, not hidden, but harmful; a book which means false doctrine, a book which is dangerous and misleading. That is what the word came to mean. That is the sense in which the Roman Catholics and the Protestants today use the word Apochrypha.