

Why do Catholics have "extra" books in their Bible?

As stated above, the New Testament came into existence in the 4th Century when it was defined by the Catholic Church. The decisions of the Councils of Hippo and Carthage were later ratified by the councils of Second Nicea (787), Florence (1440), and Trent (1525-46). For over 1100 years, all Christians had the same books in their Bibles. It was not until the advent of Protestantism that the books of the Canon were called into question. Martin Luther wanted to remove (among other books) James, Hebrews, 2 Peter, and Revelation. A careful study of the books that were removed from the Protestant Bible reveals that the reason for their removal (or attempted removal) was mainly doctrinal: James 2:21-26 - refutes the Protestant doctrine of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone apart from perseverance in doing good (Sola Fide); 2 Peter 2:1-3 warned against "false prophets" within the Church who would "bring in destructive heresies"; 2 Maccabees 12:45 - perhaps the strongest Scriptural evidence of the existence of Purgatory; The Book of Judith - a prefigurement of the role of the Virgin Mary in defeating Satan.

There is no list of included books anywhere in the Bible, which leads us back to the inevitable conclusion that no Christian can believe the Bible is the inspired word of God unless he believes in the authority of the Catholic Church, the "pillar and bulwark of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15), who defined it.

(2 Maccabees 12:45; Matthew 19:26; John 10:16, 17:11; 1 Timothy 3:15; James 2:21-26; 2 Peter 2:1-3)[12]

Catholicism Frequently Asked Questions from the Transporter Information Services.

Special thanks to Fr. Francis Peffley.

[Transporter Information Services](#)