



# In Scriptural Defense of the Catholic Faith

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## What Makes the Catholic bible different from most protestant bibles, and why?

### I. Difference between Catholic and Protestant Bibles

#### A. Number of books

- Catholic Bible contains 7 more books than Protestant versions, all in the Old Testament: Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), Baruch, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees
- Some Protestant Bibles (Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran) include these books under the title “Apocrypha” while Catholics refer to them as “Deuterocanonical.”

#### B. Extra text material in Esther and Daniel

- Esther: extra verses 10:4 - 16:24
- Daniel: 3:23b (Prayer of Azariah), and chapters 13, 14

### II. Why the difference - did the Catholic Church add the extra books and verses or did the Protestants remove them? Who decided what books were inspired Scripture?

#### A. Catholics, Eastern Orthodox and Protestants all agree in principle that the Holy Scriptures are inspired by the Holy Spirit. If inspiration by the Holy Spirit is the rule or measure of Holy Scripture, then why the discrepancy in the Old Testament?

- No fixed canon of the Old Testament existed at the time of Jesus and his disciples.
- Most quotations of the Old Testament by New Testament authors were cited from a Greek version named the Septuagint, since Greek was the common written language of the time.
- The Septuagint included the deuterocanonical books, and was used by the early church.

#### B. Biblical canon councils (meetings of authoritative Christian leaders determining inclusion of texts or books as inspired Scripture, as well as other dogmatic and doctrinal discussions and decisions.)

- Council of Rome 382 AD: Led by Pope Damasus of Rome, recognized same list of books in the Biblical canon as confirmed at the Council of Trent, and used today in the Catholic Church.
- Synod of Hippo 393 AD: Led by a council of bishops (including St. Augustine), with similar results to the Council of Rome.
- Councils of Carthage (2) 397 AD and 419 AD: These councils reaffirmed the canons decreed by Synod of Hippo.
- Council of Florence 1431-1449 AD: A dogmatic affirmation of the full canon of Scripture, Old and New Testaments, including the deuterocanonical books.
- Council of Trent 1545-1563 AD: Another official affirmation of the complete canon of the Bible.

### III. Denial of deuterocanonical books as inspired Scripture

#### A. Protestant Reformation 16th century

- Martin Luther rejects the deuterocanonical books as non scriptural, and challenges four New Testament books as well - Hebrews, James, Jude and Revelation.