

ANDY'S RESOURCE-OF-THE-MONTH: April 2017

My Commentary on: "The False Prophet and the Deuterocanon"

Catholic Answers Online Article → <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/the-false-prophet-and-the-deuterocanon>

The Origin of the Bible

Sacred Scripture in book form, or "the Bible," has been around for approximately 1500 years. It is comprised of Old Testament scripture and New Testament scripture. The Old Testament canon of scripture is made up of 46 books for Catholics and 39 books for Protestants. So once again, the question I ask myself is: "Why the discrepancy?" Well, in my search for an answer, I discovered a few insights that I would like share with you in this month's commentary. I have also chosen to highlight an article of interest for you to read titled, "The False Prophet and the Deuterocanon."

The Old Testament is divided into 3 parts: the Torah or the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. Jesus alludes to these in Saint Luke's gospel (see Luke 24:44). The Pharisees read from the Law and the Prophets, along with the Writings, but the Sadducees read only "the Law," the first five books of the Old Testament. At the time, the Jewish leaders had not formally closed the Hebrew canon, as they were still debating which books were the inspired writings of God. Among those debated were mainly some of the Prophets and the Writings. The Hebrew Canon of the Old Testament was not formally closed until the ninth century, and is referred to as the Masoretic Texts.

Around 250BC, Ptolemy II of Alexandria, Egypt wanted the Hebrew Old Testament writings translated into Greek, since the language of the day was Greek. 70 chosen scholars completed the Hebrew to Greek translation of "the Law" and "the Prophets." This translation is called "the Septuagint." Written later in Greek were, "the Writings," and some of the literature of "the Prophets." Most of these are part of what is called the Deuterocanonical or Apocryphal books. The Hellenistic Jews, or Jews of the Diaspora, in the first century used the Septuagint in their synagogues. Greek was the common language of the day. Aramaic and Hebrew were also secondary languages. Hebrew Scriptures were read in the Jerusalem Temple Liturgy.

The first Christians relied on the Septuagint, and later, as the New Testament writings were being written, they then also referred to the Gospel writings and New Testament epistles in their liturgy. In 382 AD, Pope Damasus summoned a council (Council of Rome) to determine which of the gospel texts and epistles were inspired by God, and could therefore be read in the liturgy. His Decree following the council lists the books that make up today's canon. These are the 46 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament. These books were translated into Latin by Saint Jerome around 400 AD; this translation is known as the Latin Vulgate.

During the time of the Reformation, the Bible was translated into English. One of the first translations was the Douay Rheims version (Catholic edition), and later the King James Version (KJV, Protestant edition). The Protestant version used the Masoretic texts of the Hebrew Old Testament, instead of the Septuagint, for their translations. Note, however, that the seven Deuterocanonical or Apocrypha books were in the first KJV translation and were removed approximately 274 years later. Interestingly enough, the first KJV also included a list of the official Feast days of all the Saints in the beginning of the book.

Note that this is a very general overview of how the Bible(s) of today came about, If you want to read more detailed explanations of the history of the Bible, then I have listed below some reference material to help you get started on this very detailed and complex subject. I have also chosen to highlight an article on this topic for you to read, which was written by Catholic Answers apologists titled, "The False Prophet and the Deuterocanon." Also, there is more information on our website in our section on Sacred Scripture for you to review.

Thanks for reading, and if you find FreeTruth.ca and our commentaries helpful in your spiritual journey, then we would like to hear from you. Contact us to let us know your thoughts.

Kindest regards,

Andy

Works Consulted:

- 1) "Loose Canons: The Development of the Old Testament"
<http://www.thesacredpage.com/2006/03/loose-canons-development-of-old.html>
- 2) "The Council That Wasn't"
<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/the-council-that-wasnt>
- 3) "Canon of the Holy Scriptures"
<https://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/canon-of-the-holy-scriptures>
- 4) "The Canon of the Bible"
<http://www.catholicapologetics.org/apo30700.htm>
- 5) Got Questions?, "What is the Masoretic Text?"
<https://www.gotquestions.org/Masoretic-Text.html>
- 6) Wikipedia, "Septuagint"
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Septuagint>
- 7) Wikipedia, "Hebrew Bible"
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_Bible
- 8) "The Myth of the Council of Jamnia and the Origin of the Bible"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9fHd86-jYU&app=desktop>
- 9) Read the original KJV Bible online.
<https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Apocrypha-Books/>