

## THE DEUTEROCANONICAL WRITINGS

Deutero-canonical (from Greek deuterios meaning "second"; thus, second canon)  
Why second canon?

The Language of the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and in Jesus's time it was translated into Greek, the Septuagint version, from which Jesus quoted. That was the first canon or original Old Testament.

When the Gospels and epistles of the apostles began to be written, they were not yet considered part of sacred inspired "canon" writings; not until Christ authorized them. How did Christ authorize them since He was crucified before they were written? Christ gave St. Peter the keys of His kingdom and transferred all authority on earth to Peter including what was to be considered canon for all the faithful to follow His words. This authority was passed on to St. Peter's successors, the Popes of the Roman Church.

At the Council of Rome in 382, with Pope St Damasus I presiding, the Church canonized 46 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament including 7 deutero-canonical books. St. Jerome was chosen to translate from the original languages and compile them all into the universal language of that day, Latin Vulgate (common), we now call "the Holy Bible". This was ratified by the councils at Hippo (393), Carthage (397, 419), II Nicaea (787), Florence (1442), and finally the Council of Trent (1546).

These "deutero-canonical" books were included in almost every Bible until the Edinburgh Committee of the British Foreign Bible Society excised them in 1825. It is historically demonstrable that Catholics did not add the books: *Protestants took them out.*

### Deuteronomy 4:2

"You shall not add to the word that I speak to you, neither shall you take away from it: keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."

St. Jerome recognized and submitted to the ultimate authority of the Church after Christ, St. Peter as well as his successors to authorize which books were to be included in God's Holy Canon scripture; "the Bible".

St. Augustine wrote, "We have no other assurance that the books of Moses, the four Gospels, and the other books are the true word of God, but by the canon of the Holy Catholic Church."

St. Jerome's complete Latin Vulgate Bible, now the Douay Rheims Bible also includes:

1. Tobit
2. Judith
3. Additions to Esther (Vulgate Esther 10:4-16:24)
4. Wisdom
5. Ben Sira, also called Sirach or Ecclesiasticus
6. Baruch, including the Letter of Jeremiah (Additions to Jeremiah in the Septuagint)
7. Additions to Daniel:
  - o Song of the Three Children (Vulgate Daniel 3:24-90)
  - o Story of Susanna (Vulgate Daniel 13, Septuagint prologue)
  - o The Idol Bel and the Dragon (Vulgate Daniel 14, Septuagint epilogue)