

How do we view these books?

- Are they lost books?
- Are they ignored books?
- Are they a threat to scripture?

Should Christians read the Apocrypha?

Would it rock your world...

Scripture is absolutely right, always!  
IT does NOT logically follow that everything else is WRONG!

The Pseudepigraphic books are NOT Scripture

The fact that these works are not, and never were, considered a part of the canon of Scripture is of the utmost importance. There can be no serious case made that any of these works would be in any way the *"lost books of the Bible."* The Bible, by its very nature and character cannot have lost books because it was God himself who guided the process of their writing, preservation, and recognition as the authoritative word of God. The ridiculous claim that there could be a "lost book" of the Bible is generally an attack by those secularists who do not believe that the Bible is a supernatural book to begin with. Meaning that they are fallaciously using the term "Bible" on both sides of the equation as fits their anti-supernatural bias but with an utter lack of logical consistency. Nevertheless, it is important to be very clear...these books are not Scripture, nor are they on par with Scripture, nor (with only a few exceptions) have they been viewed as scripture by any group of believers in Church History. (Enoch and the Catholic Apocrypha being the only notable exceptions to the last point).

Where did it all come from?

- The ancient world was literate...ESPECIALLY ISRAEL!
- While certain books were recognized, guarded, and protected as Scripture...there were lots of other great books!
- The sliding scale of Inspiration from a Jewish Perspective
- Targums – translations and retellings of Biblical accounts and stories – usually with paraphrases, explanations and examples. They would answer questions, interpret tricky passages, and solve apparent problems

Extra Biblical Texts Referenced in Scripture	
Book Title	Scripture Reference
1 Book of Jasher	Joshua 10:13, 2 Samuel 1:18, 2 Timothy 3:8
2 Book of the Wars of the Lord	Numbers 21:14
3 Chronicles of the Kings of Israel	1 Kings 14:19, 16:20
4 Chronicles of the Kings of Judah	1 Kings 14:29
5 The Book of Shemaiah the Prophet - Visions of Iddo	2 Chronicles 9:29; 12:15; 13:22
6 The Manner of the Kingdom	1 Sam. 10:25
7 Acts of Solomon	1 Kings 11:41
8 The Annals of King David	1 Chronicles 27:24
9 The Book of Samuel the Seer	1 Chronicles 29:29
10 The Book of Nathan the Prophet	1 Chronicles 29:29, 2 Chronicles 9:29
11 The book of Gad the Seer	1 Chronicles 29:29
12 The Prophecy of Ahijah (possibly 1 Kings 14:2-18)	2 Chronicles 9:29
13 The Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel	2 Chronicles 16:11, 2 Chronicles 27:7 and 2 Chronicles 32:32
14 The Book of Jehu <sup>[1]</sup> could be a reference to 1 Kings 16:1-7.	2 Chronicles 20:34
15 The Story of the Book of Kings	2 Chronicles 24:27
16 The Acts of Uzziah	2 Chronicles 26:22
17 The Vision of Isaiah	2 Chronicles 32:32
18 The Acts of the Kings of Israel. Also called The Acts and Prayers of Manasseh	2 Chronicles 33:18
19 The Sayings of the Seers	2 Chronicles 33:19
20 The Laments for Josiah	2 Chronicles 35:23
21 The Chronicles of King Ahasuerus	Esther 2:23, Esther 6:1, Esther 10:2, and Nehemiah 12:23
22 Book of Enoch	Jude 1:4, 1:6, 1:13, 1:14-15, 2 Peter 2:4, 3:13, and John 7:38
23 Book of Jasher	2 Timothy 3:8, 2 Samuel 1:18, Joshua 10:13
24 the Assumption of Moses	2 Timothy 3:8, Jude 9
25 Martyrdom of Isaiah	Hebrews 11:37

### Do Pseudepigraphists need Pseudepigrapha Pens?

- *Pseudo* – Fake, False, Lying
- *Epigraph* – inscription – in this sense – attributing authorship

Not all are created equal...

- These writings are collected from various times and we get them mostly from the second temple period.
- There is a great deal that we cannot know about these books.
- Great scholarly discussions can be found...but here is my breakdown of the questions that we must ask for each one:

Oh, the Possibilities!

- 1 – *They are perfectly genuine*
- 2 – *They are Malicious Lies*
- 3 – *The Work of Lunatics*
- 4 – *They are fictions written by unknown authors to make sense of History*
- 5 – *They were based upon originally valid documents and corrupted through time and transmission*

Why Pastor/teachers SHOULD be familiar with these books

- People are being exposed to them
- The New Testament authors read and respected them
- They give background and context to how the people closer to the events understood them
- They often give probable solutions to apparent scripture difficulties
- They give us a broader literary context to understand the books of the Bible

Recommended Resources

- The Messiah Texts: Jewish Legends of Three Thousand Years by Raphael Patai. Wayne State University Press (December 1, 1988)
- The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha (Two Volumes) by James H. Charlesworth. Hendrickson Publishers. (June 2016.)
- The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament in English: With Introduction and critical and explanatory notes to the several books (Two Volumes) by R.H. Charles. (not as high quality...but often can be found cheaper!)
- The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls: Their Significance for Understanding the Bible, Judaism, Jesus, and Christianity by James VanderKam and Peter Flint. HarperOne (October 12, 2004).
- The Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology by Randall Price. Zondervan Academic (November 28, 2017)
- Hermenia translations and commentaries by Nicklesburg and Vanderkam