

# Holy Scripture Answers in Response to: Two Major False Doctrines of the Catholic Church

Response to Catholic Article "Founding The Church"

Response to Catholic Article "Is Salvation by Scripture Alone"

"How We Got Our Bible\_Old Testament Canon and Apocrypha"

## HOLY SCRIPTURE ANSWERS IN RESPONSE TO:

### "Founding the Church"

an ARTICLE dealing with:

The False Doctrine of the Catholic Church declaring the Pope to be the successor of the Apostle Peter, the Vicar of Christ and Head of the Church on earth.

Green = My comments.

Red = Jesus' Very Words He Speaks.

Blue = Quoted Scripture taken from New America Standard Bible (1995), published by Lockman Foundation except where another Bible version is noted.

### Matthew 16:15-19

Matthew 16:15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter (Petros) answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 I also say to you that you are Peter (Petros), and upon this rock (Petra) I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 I will give you {speaking to and teaching all 12 Apostles} the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

Vs 15 "He said to them," Notice that Jesus Christ is talking to all twelve Apostles when asking His questions and not to Peter alone. After the other Apostles gave answers to what they heard others saying about Christ in Vs 13-14, Peter being one of the twelve Apostles answered Christ correctly when Jesus asked the Apostles together in Vs 15 Who they themselves believed Christ to be. Let us go to God's Holy Word and finish looking at the rest of the verses, 16 thru 19 which The Holy Spirit Divinely Inspired.

Below is The Textus Receptus Greek Text from the written and preserved Greek manuscripts declared by the Catholic Church and the Protestant Church to be Divinely Inspired: (To be brief, look at the underlined words only, though much more could be spoken and added. The underlined Greek Words are further explained following the Greek Text)

Matthew 16:16 αποκριθειςG611 V-AOP-NSM δεG1161 CONJ σιμων  
G4613 N-NSM πετρος G4074 N-NSM ειπενG3004 V-2AAI-3S συG4771  
P-2NS ειG1510 V-PAI-2S οG3588 T-NSM χριστοςG5547 N-NSM  
οG3588 T-NSM υιοςG5207 N-NSM τουG3588 T-GSM θεουG2316 N-GSM  
τουG3588 T-GSM ζωντοςG2198 V-PAP-GSM 17 καιG2532 CONJ  
αποκριθειςG611 V-AOP-NSM οG3588 T-NSM ιησουςG2424 N-NSM  
ειπενG3004 V-2AAI-3S αυτωG846 P-DSM μακαριοςG3107 A-NSM  
ειG1510 V-PAI-2S σιμωνG4613 N-VSM βαρG920 ARAM ιωναG2495 N-  
GSM οτιG3754 CONJ σαρξG4561 N-NSF καιG2532 CONJ αιμαG129 N-  
NSN ουκG3756 PRT-N απεκαλυπενG601 V-AAI-3S σοιG4771 P-2DS  
αλλG235 CONJ οG3588 T-NSM πατηρG3962 N-NSM μουG1473 P-1GS  
οG3588 T-NSM ενG1722 PREP τοιςG3588 T-DPM ουρανοιςG3772 N-  
DPM 18 καγωG2504 P-1NS-K δεG1161 CONJ σοιG4771 P-2DS  
λεγωG3004 V-PAI-1S οτιG3754 CONJ συG4771 P-2NS ειG1510 V-PAI-  
2S πετρος G4074 N-NSM καιG2532 CONJ επιG1909 PREP ταυτηG3778  
D-DSF τηG3588 T-DSF πετρα G4073 N-DSF οικοδομησωG3618 V-FAI-  
1S μουG1473 P-1GS τηνG3588 T-ASF εκκλησιανG1577 N-ASF καιG2532  
CONJ πυλαιG4439 N-NPF αδουG86 N-GSM ουG3756 PRT-N  
κατισχουσουσινG2729 V-FAI-3P αυτηςG846 P-GSF

(Verse 16) πέτρος G4074 N-NSM Noun - Nominative (Subject; Predicate Nominative, Singular, Masculine) G4074 Πέτρος Petros

Thayer Definition:

Peter = "a rock or a stone" (literally a small rock or stone)

1) one of the twelve disciples of Jesus

Part of Speech: noun proper masculine

(Verse 18) πέτρος G4074 N-NSM Noun - Nominative (Subject; Predicate Nominative, Singular, Masculine) G4074 Πέτρος Petros

Thayer Definition:

Peter = "a rock or a stone" (literally a small rock or stone)

1) one of the twelve disciples of Jesus

Part of Speech: noun proper masculine

(Verse 18) Πέτρα G4073 N-DSF Noun - Dative (Indirect Object, "to", also location "in", "at", instrument, "with"), singular, Feminine G4073 πέτρα petra

Thayer Definition:

1) a rock, cliff or ledge

1a) a projecting rock, crag, rocky ground (Solid rock foundation)

1b) a (Large) rock, a large stone

1c) metaphorically a man like a rock (Jesus), by reason of his firmness and strength of soul

Part of Speech: noun feminine

New American Standard Concordance Definition:

petra; a prim. word; a (large mass of) *rock*: — rock (10), rocks (3), rocky (2).

## COMMENTS:

(Verse 16)

σιμων Simon - Subject

πέτρος Peter - Subject

The Apostle Simon (σιμων) Peter (πέτρος), one of the twelve, answers Jesus. Notice "Petros" is Peter's name and it means a small rock or stone.

Simon Peter is the first to answer Jesus' question in Vs 16 though Jesus asked and was teaching all 12 Apostles together. When Jesus speaks to Peter in Vs 17, He at first addresses him as Simon Barjona, his birth name. But as Jesus continues the conversation, He says in Vs 18 **I also say to you that you are Peter (Petros)**, - Jesus is merely addressing Simon Barjona by his other name = the name Jesus Himself gave to Simon earlier in the ministry before the time He appointed the twelve to be with Him and called them "Apostles" {John 1:42; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16}. Petros is Simon Barjona's name as an Apostle. In John 1:42, Jesus gave to Simon the name Peter **"Petros"**. Here in Matthew 16:18 Jesus is now addressing Peter **"Petros"** the Apostle, and nothing more. Everywhere "Petros" is used in the New Testament, it is speaking of the man, disciple or Apostle PETER. That is the ONLY way "Petros" is used in the New Testament. In both Verses 15 and 18, Petros is without the definite article "the". But, in verse 18 Jesus continues to say to Peter (Petros) and the other eleven disciples, **"..., and upon this rock (Petra) I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."** Jesus does not say **upon this rock "Petros"** BUT **upon this rock "Petra"** which is a massive rock or solid rock foundation. **"Petra"** has the definite article **"The"**, meaning **"The Rock"!!!** Jesus is telling Peter (Petros) that He (Jesus) will build His Church upon HIMSELF = **"The"** solid **"Rock"** (**"The"** solid **"Petra"**). Peter, having answered Jesus, openly confessed Jesus Christ to be **"The Christ, the Son of the Living God"**, a man who was also God clothed in flesh because Peter truly believed in his heart that the man Jesus Christ is truly God, the Son of God the Father. Since it is Peter who answered correctly, Jesus Christ ADDRESSES Peter the Apostle while still teaching the twelve: EXPLAINING HOW Peter was able to make his confession - through God the Father revealing Christ to Peter by the working of the Holy Spirit = an absolute necessity for every believer in order to BECOME a true believer and member of Christ's Body (John 6:44, 65; Matthew 11:25-27); AND, EXPLAINING to the twelve what the significance of Peter's confession is in regards to building HIS CHURCH = The Church IS the Body of Christ or the Body of individual BELIEVERS united together in CHRIST. Believers, individually, are SAVED and BECOME a member of the

Body of Christ ONLY because of what they truly believe in their hearts  
about the man Jesus Christ as revealed to them by the Holy Spirit; AND,  
by what they confess with their mouths - because they truly believe by  
faith that which is in their hearts {Romans 10:9}. This is an absolute  
necessity: confessing Christ to be The Son of God {Fully God}; and, at the  
same time, seeing and knowing that He is truly the Son of man {Fully man}  
 - I John 4:2-3, 15. The Church or Body of Christ is built upon a solid  
 rock foundation: Christ IS that solid rock foundation Who true believers  
 must believe in for salvation = true believers hear Him, keep His Words  
 and follow Him. The Church is BUILT as more believers {living stones -  
 elect} are saved, thereby added to the Church (I Peter 2:4-10); that is,  
 they {each individual person} truly Believe in their heart and Confess with  
 their mouth that JESUS CHRIST IS THE VERY SON OF GOD = God  
 made man as revealed to them by the Holy Spirit - the very PERSON  
 Peter (Petros) confessed to be "The Son of God" as revealed to him by  
 the Holy Spirit [Romans 10:8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR  
 YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"—that is, the word of  
 faith which we are preaching, 9 that if you confess with your mouth  
 JESUS AS LORD, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the  
 dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes,  
resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting  
in salvation. Listen to the Apostle John in I John 5:4 For whatever is  
born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has  
overcome the world—OUR FAITH. 5 Who is the one who overcomes the  
world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 9 If we  
receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the  
testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.  
10 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself;  
the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not  
believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. 11 And  
the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in  
His Son {"The Rock" in whom we BELIEVE, hear and obey}. 12 He who has  
the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have  
the life.] Jesus Christ IS "The Petra" ("The Rock") upon which the Church



is built and this IS CONFIRMED elsewhere in Scripture where the Holy Spirit uses the same words "The Petra" {The Holy Spirit is ALWAYS PRECISE WITH HIS WORDS}. Let's Read where "The Petra" is used in other Written Holy Scripture text {Written, Preserved, and Divinely Inspired Greek Manuscripts}:

I Corinthians 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 and all ate the same spiritual food; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock ("Petra") which followed them; and The Rock ("The Petra") was THE CHRIST [The Rock = (η<sup>G3588</sup> θε<sup>G1161</sup> πετρα<sup>G4073</sup>) was = η<sup>G1510</sup> The Christ = ο<sup>G3588</sup> χριστος<sup>G5547</sup>]. Literal Greek Text writes "The Rock was The Christ" with Rock and Christ both having the definite article "The"!!!

ALSO,

At the very end of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus Teaches the multitudes, where every word spoken was Christ's very Words throughout Matthew Chapters 5, 6 & 7; Jesus ends His instructions on the Mount in Holy Writ with these Words:

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter [John 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God {the will of God His Father in heaven}, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."]. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' {Works done by men instead of FAITH in CHRIST resulting in OBEDIENCE to Christ} 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.' 24 **THEREFORE** everyone who hears these words of Mine and ACTS on them {OBEYS CHRIST AND KEEPS HIS WORDS}, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on

THE ROCK tnv<sup>G3588</sup> πετρα<sup>G4073</sup>). 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on The ROCK (tnv<sup>G3588</sup> πετρα<sup>G4073</sup> = Massive Solid Rock Foundation with the definite article "The").

26 Everyone who hears these WORDS OF MINE and DOES NOT ACT on them {OBEY OR KEEP THEM}, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall."

JESUS CHRIST IS "THE PETRA" ("THE ROCK")!!! HE WILL BUILD HIS CHURCH ON (HIMSELF) AND NOT ON A MERE MAN OF HIS OWN CREATION CALLED PETER (Petros - A SMALL ROCK or STONE)!!! Jesus Christ IS the Head of HIS Church and not a man named Peter, who though was precious in Christ's sight for Christ to call him to be an Apostle through whom God gave to us part of the N.T. writings (part of the Canon). Peter was called by Jesus to FOLLOW (simply OBEY) HIM and not to be the Head of HIS Church: Jesus Christ is the Head of His Church {HIS Body}: Ephesians 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His (CHRIST) feet, and gave Him (CHRIST) as HEAD OVER ALL THINGS to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Also, Colossians 1:16 For by Him (CHRIST) all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 He (JESUS CHRIST) IS also HEAD of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that HE HIMSELF WILL COME TO HAVE FIRST PLACE IN EVERYTHING. {This is GOD'S Testimony of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. When Peter, James and John were on the mount of transfiguration with Christ, God the Father spoke loud and clear: Matthew 17:5 And as he (Peter) was yet speaking, behold a bright cloud overshadowed them. And lo a voice out of the cloud, saying: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased: HEAR YE HIM. (Quote from Douay-Rheims Bible)}

John 21:20 Peter (Petros), turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following *them*; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" 21 So Peter (Petros) seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?" 22 Jesus said to him (Peter), "If I want him to remain until I come, what *is that* to you? YOU FOLLOW ME!"

And, Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them (all eleven Apostles including Petros {Peter} who was no different than the other ten Apostles - a man saved by the Mercy and Grace given to him by Christ and called by Christ to be an Apostle - a witness to testify of Christ), saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth [All authority was given to Christ the Son of God - The Solid Rock (Petra) upon whom the Church is built; and Christ did not give that authority to Peter or any other man He created but commanded Peter and the other ten Apostles to OBEY Him with these instructions:] 19 Go {A Command} therefore and make disciples of all the nations (Preach Christ - The Gospel), baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit [Baptizing those that receive Christ by Faith Alone In Christ Alone {disciples}; and, who are given the Holy Spirit by Christ Himself at that moment they REPENT and genuinely BELIEVE on Christ thereby becoming Christ's disciple], 20 teaching them to observe ALL that I commanded you (Teaching them {disciples} "ALL THE WORDS OF CHRIST" for them {disciples} to KEEP, AND NOTHING MORE); and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age (CHRIST ALONE WHO has all Authority in heaven and on earth will never leave them nor forsake them [Every person is included who by faith believes in Christ through "their words" = the New Testament they left us in WRITING - John 17:20, Please READ!]; but will go with them and will be in them while they obey and follow HIM = to guide them; give to them HIS desires; empower them and live through them by the power of the Holy Spirit He put in them; having begun the out pouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost upon/in those that believe, trust, obey and simply



FOLLOW HIM. Peter {"Petros"} was not given All Authority to be the Head of the Church but was commanded by the Head to simply OBEY and FOLLOW CHRIST = THE HEAD - THE ONE WITH ALL POWER AND AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH GIVEN TO HIM BY HIS HEAVENLY FATHER!!! Matthew 28:18-20 includes: Preaching the Gospel that the Lost might be saved and Teaching those that come to Faith in Christ "ALL THAT CHRIST TAUGHT THEM" SO THAT THEY {New Disciples} CAN ALSO OBEY AND FOLLOW CHRIST AS HIS APOSTLES DID - WHO WERE OUR EXAMPLES!!! CHRIST GIVES ALL THE COMMANDS BECAUSE HE IS THE HEAD OF HIS BODY {THE TRUE CHURCH} - NOT PETER OR ANY MAN FROM THE SEED OF ADAM!!! Our duty as His disciples {which was the same duty of His Apostles when they were living} is to HEAR HIM, KEEP HIS WORDS {Which the Apostles faithfully left us in their writings = New Testament Scriptures (John 14:26)} AND FOLLOW HIM {Matthew 7:21-27; John 10:27}!!! HIS WORDS {"ALL SCRIPTURE"} WERE given to us in the Canon of Holy Scripture which includes the O.T. Canon, the Tanakh; Christ being the Word of God "Made Flesh" {John 1:14}.

Finally,

Matthew 16:18 ...; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

The gates of Hades will not overpower the CHURCH {ALL Genuine Believers, like Peter, WHO BELIEVE IN THEIR HEARTS AND CONFESS JESUS CHRIST to be the Son of God - God made man, IS a member of HIS CHURCH (BODY)} which is built upon the solid rock Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 3:9-11 Please Read!) = The CHURCH, as said before, IS the believers in Christ whom Christ saved and who are following Him (John 10:27; Please Read). Satan CANNOT STOP THE CHURCH from preaching the Gospel and cannot stop the Holy Spirit using the Preached and Shared Gospel Truths to convict the unbelievers of their sins and convict

them that Christ is the only Savior {Acts 4:12}; and then opening their minds and hearts to hear the Gospel savingly; and then, for the Holy Spirit to give those that hear and desire to respond to the Gospel to be saved the gift of repentance and the gift of faith in Christ alone so that they might be saved and become members of Christs' Body - this is how the Church is BUILT upon Christ The Rock (**The Petra**)!!!

Preaching Christ and the Gospel truths ARE the KEYS to the kingdom given: to Peter, the disciples, and to the Church. The binding and loosing IS the authority given to the Church {ALL its Members and not just the leadership} by Christ Himself to exercise Church discipline upon those who claim to be believers but continue to willfully live-in sin = continue willfully practicing and breaking any one or more of the Ten Commandments {moral Law} of God. Also, anyone not obeying or following the teachings taught by CHRIST Himself {that enforces the keeping of the moral law of God} - Who taught the Apostles and commanded them to teach "ALL that He Taught Them" = The Holy, "God Breathed", Written Word of God given in the N.T.!!! "**ALL SCRIPTURE**" also includes the O.T. writings {The Tanakh} which were completed BEFORE the 400 years before Christ [the 400 years during which time no Word from God was spoken or given; and the same period of time during which the Apocrypha books were written and added to the already completed writings of the Prophets - this completing the Septuagint = A Jewish Greek Translation of the Old Testament Hebrew writings.] This Canon of Scripture {the Tanakh plus the New Testament writings} passed the tests for Divine Inspiration and was approved and accepted by the Catholic Church during the first thru the fourth century, many years before the Council of Trent. The Apocrypha books, during the first 400 years of the Church, were listed as good reading only and NOT to be used for Church Doctrine!!! The Apocrypha Books were not officially included as part of the Canon; but were, after many years of debate, conflict and disagreements, accepted to be part of the Canon of Holy Writ = in the 1500's at the Council of Trent - declared by men, NOT GOD. Before the Apostle John died, GOD'S TESTIMONY OF HIS SON to mankind {"**ALL**

**SCRIPTURE**} was completed with the writings of the Apostles and the 4 men closely associated with the Apostles while all were still living = who gave to us "**ALL THAT CHRIST TAUGHT THEM**"; as Christ commanded them to teach born-again believers who would come to faith in Christ through the preaching of the Gospel of Christ.

### **"BINDING OR LOOSING"**

A Scriptural example of Church Discipline {Binding or Loosing} being exercised can be found in I Corinthians 5 & 6 with II Corinthians 7:6-13 explaining the {desired} results of Church discipline exercised by the Church at Corinth; its purpose being to produce Godly Sorrow to the point of repentance in the person under discipline - turning from their sin without regret. Repentance initiates the binding = forgiving the sins of the persons being disciplined upon genuine repentance and receiving them back into the Church Body and into Fellowship; producing restoration and sanctification in the believer. Refusal to repent results in the loosing of the "so called" believer = ex-communication from the Church Body so as to hopefully bring about genuine repentance to restore the sinner to fellowship with Christ and His Body. The main place in Holy Scripture where instructions are given by Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, for Church Discipline (binding and loosing) is found in Matthew 18:15-20. Please Read!!!

Peter, after his death, had no successors who were to be the Vicar of Christ and Head of the Church on earth. The Living CHRIST is the Head of His Body, the Church; and, the HOLY SPIRIT is the "Vicar of Christ" here on earth {John 16:7-15}; and, the Word of God ("**ALL SCRIPTURE**") which is God-Breathed {authored by the Holy Spirit} is what the Holy Spirit uses to exercise His Authority as the "Vicar of Christ" on this earth [John 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:7-15; I Corinthians 2:9-12,16; I John 2:20-27 - Exceedingly important and necessary to read All these Scriptures to hear GOD speak clearly on this matter]!!! For these reasons, there were no successors after the Apostles all died!!! The Apostles ALONE were the men who were directly appointed, called and

taught by Jesus Christ Himself. They ALONE were eye witnesses of Christ, walked with Christ throughout His ministry here on earth and literally handled the Word of Truth {I John 1:1-3}!!! These men ALONE were commanded by Christ and enabled by Christ through the Holy Spirit given to them to testify of Christ (John 15:26-27) and write Holy Scripture = the New Testament.

This paper has dealt with the first Major False Doctrine of the Catholic Church using Holy Scripture Alone. The response to, "Is Salvation by Scripture Alone" deals with the second Major False Doctrine of the Catholic Church. Please read below if you desire to know the Truth which will set you Free (John 8:31-32)!!!

## HOLY SCRIPTURE ANSWERS IN RESPONSE TO:

### "Is Salvation by Scripture Alone"

an ARTICLE dealing with:

The Catholic Church False Doctrine that NOT ALL Scripture (Old Testament and New Testament) is "Inspired by God"; plus, Church Tradition and Oral Tradition has the same level of authority as the Old and New Testament Scriptures.

Green = My comments.

Red = Jesus' Very Words He Speaks.

Blue = Quoted Scripture taken from New America Standard Bible (1995), published by Lockman Foundation except where otherwise noted.

### II Timothy 3:14-17

II Timothy 3:14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture (is) inspired by God and (is) profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

The following, given below, is the Textus Receptus Greek Text from the written preserved Greek manuscripts declared by the CHURCH (Catholic and Protestant) to be Divinely Inspired: To be brief, look at the underlined words only, though much more could be spoken and added. The underlined Greek Words are further explained following the Greek Text.

II Timothy 3:15 καιG2532 CONJ οτιG3754 CONJ αποG575 PREP  
βρεφουςG1025 N-GSN ταG3588 T-APN ιερα G2413 A-APN γραμματα  
G1121 N-APN οιδαςG1492 V-RAI-2S ταG3588 T-APN δυναμεναG1410 V-  
PNP-APN σεG4771 P-2AS σοφισαιG4679 V-AAN ειςG1519 PREP  
σωτηριανG4991 N-ASF διαG1223 PREP πιστεωςG4102 N-GSF τηςG3588  
T-GSF ενG1722 PREP χριστωG5547 N-DSM ιησουG2424 N-DSM 16 πασα  
G3956 A-NSF γραφη G1124 N-NSF θεοπνευστος G2315 A-NSF καιG2532  
CONJ ωφελιμοςG5624 A-NSM προςG4314 PREP διδασκαλιανG1319 N-ASF  
προςG4314 PREP ελεγχονG1650 N-ASM προςG4314 PREP  
επανορθωσινG1882 N-ASF προςG4314 PREP παιδειανG3809 N-ASF  
τηνG3588 T-ASF ενG1722 PREP δικαιοσυνηG1343 N-DSF

(Verse 15) ιερα G2413 A-APN (Adjective - (Accusative; Direct Object, Plural, Nueter). G2413 ἱερός hieros

Thayer Lexicon Definition:

1) sacred, consecrated to the deity, pertaining to God

1a) sacred Scriptures, because inspired by God, treating of divine things and therefore to be devoutly revered

Part of Speech: adjective

(Verse 15) γραμματα G1121 N-APN (Noun - Accusative; Direct Object, Plural, Nueter). G1121 γράμμα gramma

Thayer Lexicon Definition:

1) a letter

2) any writing, a document or record



2a) a note of hand, bill, bond, account, written acknowledgement of a debt

2b) a letter, an epistle

2c) the sacred writings (of the OT)

3) letters, i.e. learning

3a) of sacred learning

Part of Speech: noun neuter

### COMMENTS:

In Luke 11:50-51 and 24:27, 44-45 - Jesus confirmed the Jewish Bible {sacred writings} = the Tanakh which is explained in the paper entitled "How We Got Our Bible: Old Testament Canon and Apocrypha" by Ryan Leasure. Please Read this paper based on verified historical facts that has never changed! [Please read ALL Scripture listed throughout this paper because it is Absolute Truth since it is "God Breathed"!!! It is only what Scripture states in and of itself that is Truth!!! Scripture clearly speaks in simple to understand language what the Holy Spirit inspired the writers to write. Don't change the wording or the definitions of the words the Holy Spirit chose to use. Scripture always must agree with Scripture if it is Absolute Truth because Truth is ALWAYS Truth and is never contradictory!!!]

(Verse 16) πασα G3956 A-NSF (Adjective - Nominative: Subject; Predicate Nominative, Singular, Feminine). G3956 πας pas

Thayer Lexicon Definition:

1) individually

1a) each, every, any, all, the whole, everyone, all things, everything

2) collectively

2a) some of all types

Part of Speech: adjective

(Verse 16) γραφη G1124 N-NSF (Noun - Nominative, Subject; Predicate Nominative, Singular, Feminine). [With "All Scripture" being the Subject of the written Greek text, the linking verb "IS" is a must and clearly understood to be necessary to complete the sentence. The rules of

grammar are in total agreement and must be applied correctly for proper interpretation.]. G1124 γραφή graphe

Thayer Lexicon Definition:

1) a writing, thing written

2) the Scripture [O.T. writings given and completed by the Prophets before the start of the 400 years before Christ.], used to denote either the book itself, or its contents

3) a certain portion or section of the Holy Scripture

Part of Speech: noun feminine

COMMENTS: The Greek words gramma & graphe are both talking specifically about the WRITINGS of the Old Testament Prophets [preserved Hebrew manuscripts] which the Apostle Paul is talking about - "sacred writings" that Timothy learned and understood in Verse 15. The Greek Words and their definitions the HOLY SPIRIT CHOSE will not allow for anything other than the already WRITTEN Sacred Words of God given to us by the Old Testament Prophets written before any of the books of the Apocrypha were written [CHRIST our Lord confirmed the Tanakh in Luke 11:50-51; 24:27, 44-45]. Gramma and Graphe are talking about the Jewish Canon of the O.T. "Sacred Writings" called the Tanakh - that is, the Holy Scripture completed by the Prophets BEFORE the Apocrypha books were written and added to the Septuagint along with the writings of the Prophets. This is historical fact verified by the Jews in that period of history as well as by the Jewish Historian Josephus!!! Jesus never quoted a single word from the Apocrypha books!!!

(Verse 16) θεοπνευστος G2315 A-NSF Adjective - (Nominative, Subject; Predicate Nominative, Singular, Feminine) G2315 θεόπνευστος  
theopneustos

Thayer Definition:

1) inspired by God

1a) the contents of the scriptures

Part of Speech: adjective

NASEC (New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance Definition:

from G2316 and G4154; God-breathed, i.e. inspired by God: — inspired by God (1)

[The literal translation of the Greek Text would be "ALL SCRIPTURE IS GOD-BREATHED". Or, "ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD". It is Clear what is meant in the Greek Text with the Holy Spirit chosen inspired Words and definitions as taken in context with the whole passage.] 16 "All Scripture" Includes The Old Testament written by the Prophets and completed BEFORE the 400 years before Christ; often quoted by Christ in the Gospels of the N.T. and quoted by the Apostles in many of the N.T. books. All Scripture also includes the New Testament - which was in the process of being written by the Apostles and some closely associated with the Apostles {Ephesians 2:20 = The Prophets, before Christ, provided the O.T.; Jesus Christ IS the corner stone or the Rock ("Petra") upon which the Church is built, WHO is proclaimed in the four Gospel accounts of the N.T. - I Corinthians 3:11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ ...; AND, the Apostles and those closely associated with the Apostles wrote the N.T.}. All that the Apostle Paul orally taught and wrote the church was specifically revealed and taught to him directly by Jesus Christ and was nothing of Paul and/or from his human wisdom and reasoning {Galatians 1:11-12; I Corinthians 1:18-2:5; Ephesians 3:1-5}. Read what the apostle Peter said, speaking of himself as well as the Old Testament Prophets in II Peter 1:16-21 {Please look up all Scriptures and read them - God's Holy Word is LIVING and speaks for itself}; and, what the Apostle Peter, speaking of the Apostle Paul, said in II Peter 3:14-16].

Continuing II Timothy 3:16 - (is) inspired by God and (is) profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

ALL of Written Holy Scripture included in the completed Canon was "God Breathed" and it ONLY INCLUDED what GOD wanted revealed to us and excluded everything else HE did not want Written as FROM HIM. GOD

gave to us ONLY that which He desired for us to have directly FROM HIMSELF {"GOD-BREATHED"} - nothing less or nothing more than HIS WRITTEN WORDS PRESERVED IN THE HEBREW AND GREEK MANUSCRIPTS = The Canon or Divinely Inspired Scriptures!!! Church Tradition and Oral Tradition are not included in the PRESERVED Greek New Testament Manuscripts.

"All Scripture" must include the N.T. (in the process of being written as in this verse of II Timothy) BECAUSE the N.T. was new revelation being given by God the Father which would explain the O.T. and its prophecies; ALL pointing to Jesus Christ, and which would complete God the Father's Testimony of His Son to the world; The New Testament being written by the Apostles who were eye witnesses of Christ, walked with Christ, taught directly by Christ, appointed directly by Christ and commanded by Christ to preach the gospel and teach the disciples ALL that He taught them with the promise from Christ given in John 14:26, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you." The New Testament also being partly written by the four men closely associated and working with the Apostles WHILE THEY ALL WERE LIVING. The Completed Canon included: the Old Testament writings already compiled in the Tanakh and confirmed by the Jews as revelation given by God through the Prophets [BEFORE the Apocrypha books were written and added to the Septuagint = The Hebrew Scriptures translated into the Greek language by 72 Jewish Scholars during the 400 years before Christ]; as well as, the New Testament revelation which was in the process of being written and which would complete ALL the revelation inspired by God. This new revelation being written in the N.T., was completed before 99 AD, before the Apostle John died. This completed Canon was agreed upon by the early Church Fathers, the Catholic Church and the Protestant Church to be Divinely Inspired. At the Council at Laodicea in 364 AD it was determined that the apocryphal books were considered useful but NOT INSPIRED BY GOD and not on the same level as the traditional canon. The Apocryphal books were never included in the Hebrew canon,

were never accepted as canonical by JESUS or the apostles, and were never accepted as Scripture by early Jewish writers. Some of the Apocrypha books contained historical, geographical, or chronological errors. The 66 Books listed in the Canon of the Holy Scriptures PASSED the tests for DIVINE INSPIRATION.

Furthermore, the Apostles had NO successors (I dealt with Matthew 16:15-19 in a different paper. It ties in very closely with this paper)! Peter gives the qualifications to be an Apostle when he led the others in appointing a replacement for Judas Iscariot in Acts 1:21-26. It clearly states the necessary qualifications to be an Apostle and one of the twelve: Act 1:21 "Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us — 22 beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." 23 So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. 24 And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen 25 to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." 26 And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

THEREFORE, NO SUCCESSORS TO PETER AN APOSTLE!!! An Apostle was one called and appointed by Christ Himself and taught directly by Christ Himself {Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16}. After all the Apostle's died and the four men closely associated with them died {two of the four men, James and Jude, were half-brothers to Christ growing up in the same household as Christ; and, the Apostles taught and ministered together with the other two, Mark and Luke}, there was NO ONE taught directly by Christ Himself and who was appointed and called directly by Christ to take any of the Apostle's places. Once the Church was started and the New Testament was WRITTEN and COMPLETED by the Apostles and those few men who were closely associated and ministered together with the Apostles, there was no further need for



Apostles! **NO man**, since the Apostles died, could claim for himself to be directly called by Christ Himself, directly appointed by Christ Himself, directly taught by Christ Himself and an eye witness who walked with Christ throughout His ministry from start to finish to be a successor of Peter in order to add to what Christ taught him face to face; because the New Testament was completed before the Apostle John died and **IN IT IS WRITTEN "ALL THAT CHRIST TAUGHT THEM"** = ALL that God desired to be written! Nothing more and nothing less, (**MATTHEW 28:18-20**; **Acts 1:1-8**)!!! Therefore, there was no need for Church tradition and oral tradition to be added to what GOD had already given!!! No need for the Apocrypha Books to be added to the Prophets writings of the O.T. No other Book ever written, except the Bible with its 66 books (**Preserved WRITTEN Hebrew And Greek Manuscripts**) **PASSED** the Tests of Divine Inspiration; and, has been received and accepted as Divinely Inspired Writings by the Church (Catholic & Protestant)!!!

The Apostle Paul was an Apostle Called and Appointed directly by Jesus Christ to be an Apostle to the Gentiles as Peter was an Apostle to the Jews. Paul was appointed by Christ {**Acts 26:12-18**}, directly taught by the revelation of Jesus Christ Himself every word he preached, taught and wrote: that he might preach the Gospel given to him to both Jews and Gentiles {**Galatians 1:8,9**}; that he might become the Apostle to the Gentiles; that he might teach and disciple all who came to faith in Christ under his Holy Spirit inspired, guided and empowered ministry; and, that he was uniquely prepared by God and used by God to WRITE the Absolute Truths of God revealed to him directly by Christ Himself {**John 14:26**} - having written most of the New Testament [**Please read Acts 26:12-20**; **Galatians 1:11-2:9**; **Ephesians 3:1-12**; Please listen and hear the clear teachings of God's Word and what these passages of "God-Breathed", Holy Spirit given Scripture are saying in such clear and simple language that any person with common sense who knows how to read can understand. And, you absolutely do not need church tradition or oral tradition to understand such clear language]. God used 4 Apostles: Matthew, John, Peter, and Paul; 2 half-brothers of Christ who lived and

grew up with Christ: James and Jude; 2 men who had close connections with, was taught by and ministered with the Apostles: Mark and Luke; and 1 unknown author of the book of Hebrews (It was unproven which one of the Apostles or which one closely associated with and ministering with the Apostles wrote the book of Hebrews) in order to give to the Church the completed written New Testament Revelation ("God-Breathed" Revelation). The Old Testament was written by approximately 26 men so that the 39 Old Testament books together with the 27 New Testament books were written, not by an act of human will but by approximately 35 men who were moved by the Holy Spirit so that the Bible with its 66 books total was written by the Holy Spirit of God Who inspired each author to write the very Words of God Himself [II Peter 1:16-21, Especially Vs 19 & 21 - Please read, and once again, you do not need church tradition or oral tradition to understand such clear and simple language Inspired by God]. The Bible IS literally "God-Breathed" according to the Greek Text in II Timothy 3:15-16 [both Hebrew and Greek WRITTEN manuscripts collected and preserved]. The Canon of Scripture is complete with the 66 books making it GOD'S Completed Revelation from/of Himself to the world and ALL of mankind!!! Church Tradition and Oral Tradition are NOT part of all the Greek manuscripts written, preserved and declared to be Divinely Inspired. Yet, church tradition and oral tradition were declared by MEN in the 1500's to be on the same level with the Holy Written Word of God - Men NOT eye witnesses, not called, not appointed or taught DIRECTLY by Jesus Christ Himself to be His witnesses OVER FIFTEEN HUNDRED YEARS AFTER the New Testament writings. Look at these Scripture writings about the men who wrote the New Testament Scriptures; Scriptures Written before 100 AD: Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 3:14; Luke 6:12-13; John 14:25-26; Acts 1:1-8; Acts 26:16-18. The decisions made at the Council of Trent are man's doing, not God's; officially declared by men in the 1500's during the three phases of the Council of Trent {Decisions made by MEN over 1500 years later to COUNTER the Absolute Truths of Holy Scripture that Martin Luther was publishing during the early

years of the Reformation - starting the Reformation in Germany [Martin Luther who was guided by the HOLY SPIRIT {I Corinthians 2:9-13} through God's written Word ALONE as he studied from Erasmus' Greek New Testament produced from written and preserved Greek manuscripts available at the time]. Martin Luther translated from Erasmus' Greek New Testament to produce "Luther's Bible" in the German language FOR the common people to be able to read God's Precious Absolute Truth's that the Catholic Church forbade to be read by common people at that time and many years thereafter. Martin Luther greatly desired to bring the Catholic Church BACK TO SCRIPTURES ALONE - The Written Holy Scriptures based on the written and preserved Greek manuscripts which ALONE were "God Breathed"; and, from which the Catholic Church departed!!! The Catholic Church also officially added the Apocrypha books of the Old Testament as part of the Old Testament Canon, and much man-made doctrine into the Church through the decisions made during the Council of Trent and were guilty of doing what the Pharisees did in Matthew 15:1-9. Search History to see the time frame when it was officially declared by men to be on the same level of Holy Scripture; Again, in the 1500's during the three phases of the Council of Trent - after Martin Luther stirred the waters of the Reformation as he was TRYING to give to the common people the ability to read God's Precious Word for themselves to know God's Truths, TO LEARN OF CHRIST FOR SALVATION; AND, to bring the Catholic Church back to "God-Breathed" Holy Written Scripture ALONE = God the Father's Full Testimony of His Son Jesus Christ. That is why Church Tradition and oral Tradition is not part of the New Testament Canon and the Apocrypha Books are not part of the Old Testament Canon. God DID NOT include them in HIS Divinely Inspired Word {Preserved Written Manuscripts, both Hebrew and Greek}!!! As Jesus our Lord said in John 5:39, "You search the Scriptures [The Hebrew O.T. writings from the Prophets, specifically the Tanakh (Confirmed by Christ Himself in the New Testament: Luke 11:50-51; 24:27, 44-45) - BUT, the N.T. had not yet been written by Christ's

appointed Apostles for Christ to refer to] because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; ..."

The Apostle John also said in I John 5:9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son. 10 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son [God gave ALL of Holy Writ (I Peter 1:10-2:3; II Peter 1:16-21) to Testify of His Son as well as testifying audibly at Jesus' Baptism and at the Mount of Transfiguration - which accounts were written in Holy Scripture for ALL of mankind to understand that the LIVING JESUS CHRIST IS the Only Begotten Son of God the Father; and, that JESUS CHRIST was sent by God the Father to save His People from their sins (Matthew 1:21)]. 11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. The Apostle John, writing to born-again believers making up the Church, the Body of Christ, who were being plagued by false doctrines in the church (common people who the Catholic Church forbade to read Holy Scripture for themselves; some not even in Church leadership), said this: I John 2:20 But you have an anointing [The Holy Spirit CHRIST puts in us when He saves us, {Ezekiel 36:24-27, Vs 27}] from the Holy One (Christ), and you all know. 21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. 24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us:



eternal life. 26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. 27 As for you, the anointing (Holy Spirit) which you received from Him (Christ) abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things (John 16:13-15), and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you (I Corinthians 2:9-16) you abide in Him.

[Following is my personal testimony which is an Eternal Life/Eternal Death difference from all those who believe and trust the "one and only true Church" with its Doctrines [the Catholic Church] to give them Eternal Life and bring them to heaven upon their last breath in this life!!! Jesus Christ has given to me His Eternal Life!!! Has your "only one and true Church" given you Eternal Life? OR, are you struggling to earn/keep Eternal Life by your own doings (works), or by your own human efforts {an impossibility Romans 8:6-9}? AND, do you truly believe in a christ the Catholic Church teaches cannot take away ALL your sins because His death on the cross is not sufficient to do so; therefore, you must go to a place called "Purgatory" to pay the debt of your sins committed after believing in Christ {Doctrines taken ONLY from the Apocrypha books which are CONTRADICTIONARY to the whole of Holy Spirit "God-Breathed" written Hebrew manuscripts collected and preserved, from which Christ our lord quoted; AND, CONTRADICTIONARY to the New Testament collected and preserved Greek Manuscripts which are "Divinely Inspired"}? [A lie not consistent with Written Holy Scripture, Isaiah 53:5-6; II Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:8-9; I Peter 3:18; Hebrews 10:9-18 - A Must Read to understand GOD'S TRUTH!!! But, do not read into it to make it fit your own beliefs and what you have been taught. Just listen to what it clearly says and hear God's Word for what it says without reading other words into it. God says what He means and means what He says in understandable yet clear language!!!] Jesus clearly said, John 10:14 "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me,". ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN that JESUS CHRIST THE LIVING SON OF GOD KNOWS YOU AND YOU KNOW HIM PERSONALLY? I AM CERTAIN because of HIS transforming, saving



touch when HE birthed me into HIS Kingdom and into HIS Church {HIS BODY = THE TRUE CHURCH}, making me part of His Body at which time HE also put His Holy Spirit in me to live in me forever {Romans 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.}!!! I was then baptized in OBEDIENCE to CHRIST, AFTER being saved {Acts 2:41; 8:35-38}, as an outward sign to the world that HE HAD saved and changed me on the inside and I now belong to Him as an Adopted Son of God - I am now a follower of Christ my Living Lord and Savior [NOT a follower of the "one true church" which claims, according to the testimony of MEN, to be the "one only and true church"!!!]. I have been literally buried with Him in His death on the cross and raised to new life in Christ through His Resurrection - and now I am in living union with Him by His doing (I Corinthians 1:30)!!! Water Baptism didn't save me but was only done in obedience to Christ after being born-again, as an outward sign to the world that Christ is now my Lord and Savior and I am now HIS DISCIPLE because CHRIST birthed me into His kingdom. Only CHRIST saves!!! Praise His Holy Name!!! What is your testimony about the Living Christ Who Alone Saves? The "one only true church" and its false doctrines you trust in cannot save you but Jesus Christ the Living Son of God sent from Christ's Heavenly Father CAN!!! Have you humbled yourself as a sinner and fled to CHRIST for salvation? Jesus Christ came into this world to save sinners, not righteous people. [John 6:37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out."] This is the huge difference between you, my beloved neighbor, and me. It is an Eternal Life vs Eternal Death difference! Your trust IS ALL in your "one only true church" and ITS DOCTRINES {the Catholic Church}; and my TRUST is in the Living Person - The Son of God Who Alone truly SAVED ME from my sins, forgave all my sins, put His Holy Spirit in me, and made me an adopted Child of God - member of His Body = the TRUE CHURCH;

AND, I believe and TRUST in His Holy, Eternal and Living Written Word (John 5:36-39, especially Vs 39; I Peter 1:23-25, especially Vs 25) = Christ The Living Word of God made flesh (John 1:14)!!! You have to be born again BY CHRIST alone and the working of the HOLY SPIRIT alone [Not water baptism as an infant or adult] in order to be baptized with the Holy Spirit by CHRIST and become a member of the TRUE CHURCH = a BELIEVER {one who fully believes CHRIST ALONE, totally trusts CHRIST ALONE and continues to follow CHRIST ALONE}!!! YOU follow a "church" and not a PERSON!!! Jesus Christ said in John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" CHRIST puts His Holy Spirit {Living Water} in us at that moment HE ALONE saves us!!! I Corinthians 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD". PRAISE HIM AND HIS HOLY NAME!!! I KNOW AND LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED ME {I John 4:15-19; Ephesians 1:3-14}; HE LIVES IN ME by HIS DOING!!! Can you honestly say the same? If not, Jesus Christ is at the door of your heart speaking and saying, Mark 1:15, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Matthew 11:27 "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son determines to reveal Him. 28 Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOUL(s). 30 For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light."

CHRIST ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES AND ALWAYS DOES EXACTLY WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO!!! John 6:37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out."

MY PRAYER FOR YOU MY BELOVED NEIGHBOR IS: THAT YOU PERSONALLY KNOW THE LIVING CHRIST IN YOUR HEART AND ARE IN CHRIST BY HIS DOING ALONE BEFORE YOU TAKE YOUR LAST BREATH HERE ON EARTH; AND, THAT THE **HOLY SPIRIT BEARS WITNESS** WITH YOUR SPIRIT THAT CHRIST KNOWS YOU AS HIS OWN AND LIVES IN YOU EVIDENCED BY A CHANGED LIFE THAT YOU HAD NO PART IN CHANGING!!! ONLY THOSE IN CHRIST BY HIS DOING WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE FOR HIM IN THIS LIFE - ENABLED BY HIS LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT, AND SPEND ETERNITY WITH HIM IN HEAVEN UPON LEAVING THIS EARTH!!! THEN YOUR SOUL WILL BE FILLED WITH LOVE, PRAISE, GRATITUDE AND THANKSGIVINGS FOR/TO HIM FOR HIS: ETERNAL LIFE, FORGIVENESS OF SINS AND TRANSFORMING POWER WORKING IN YOU BY HIS LOVE, MERCY AND GRACE HE POURS IN/UPON YOU THOUGH YOU HAVE NOT, DO NOT AND NEVER WILL DESERVE IT!!! IT IS ALL BY HIS GRACE ALONE AND NOTHING OF OUR HUMAN: WORKS, ABILITIES, WISDOM, REASONING ABILITIES, EFFORTS TO PLEASE GOD, Etc. Etc. Etc.!!! I JOHN 5:11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

## "How We Got Our Bible: Old Testament Canon and Apocrypha" (Can access on Internet)

by [RYAN LEASURE](#) · Published July 15, 2021 · Updated January 15, 2023

This is part three of a nine-part series on how we got our Bible. [Part one](#) addressed the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture. [Part two](#) explained the formation and preservation of the Old Testament text. This post will address issues surrounding the Old Testament canon and [the apocrypha](#).

## Canon

Before going any further, we must first establish what we mean when we say "canon." We are not, of course, referring to the weapons of bygone eras. Rather, canon refers to an ancient measuring stick cut from a reed-like plant which was used as an infallible standard—much like a yard stick. The term was later applied to the biblical texts that the church received in its collection of authoritative books.

## The Tanakh

The Jewish order of the Old Testament was and is radically different from how we typically order our books. From an early time, it appears that the Jews had a threefold division of the Hebrew canon. This threefold division is often referred to as the Tanakh based on the three divisions—Torah (Law), Nevi'im (Prophets), and Ketuvim (Writings). This final division could sometimes be called "the Psalms" since Psalms was the first and largest book among the writings and was often representative of the whole. Also note that Jews combined several books. So while their canon contains the same content as our protestant Bibles, their Bible only has twenty-four books instead of thirty-nine. Consider the breakdown below from Genesis to Chronicles

<b>Law (Torah)</b>	<b>Prophets (Nevi'im)</b>	<b>Writings (Ketuvim)</b>
Genesis	Joshua	Psalms
Exodus	Judges	Job
Leviticus	Samuel	Proverbs
Numbers	Kings	Ruth
Deuteronomy		Song of Songs
	Isaiah	Lamentations
	Jeremiah	Ecclesiastes
	Ezekiel	Esther
	The Twelve	Daniel
		Ezra-Nehemiah
		Chronicles

## The Septuagint (250-150 BC)

After Alexander the Great Hellenized the known world, Jewish scholars realized they needed to translate the Hebrew scriptures into Greek so that more people could read them. Legend has it that seventy-two Jewish translators (six from each of the twelve tribes), over the course of seventy-two days, each translated the text from Hebrew to Greek independently, and all seventy-two translations came out the exact same. The translation, therefore, came to be known as the Septuagint (from the Latin *septuaginta* meaning "seventy") and is often represented by the Roman numerals LXX.

A couple of points are worth noting about the Septuagint. First, this translation changed the order of the books to the order that we are more familiar with today. That is to say, it changed from the threefold division of the Tanakh to our current order of law, history, poetry, major prophets, and minor prophets. Furthermore, the Septuagint also included the Apocrypha.

## The Apocrypha



The Apocrypha consists of a dozen or so Jewish books written during [the intertestamental period](#). These books contain history, poetry, wisdom literature, and prophecy. Probably most famous among the Apocrypha are first and second Maccabees. These books detail the Jewish rebellions and reclamation of the temple from the Syrians. While these works contain much historical value, they also contain disputable material. This is especially true of second Maccabees which teaches that saints in heaven intercede for people on earth (15:11-16) and that prayers and sacrifices can be offered for the dead (12:39-46). Roman Catholics use this last text to justify belief in purgatory and the practice of indulgences.

Tobit, another Apocryphal book, contains a fanciful story about a devout Jewish man in exile who is blinded by bird droppings in his sleep. His wife Sarah, also had troubles of her own. A demon had killed seven of her previous husbands on her wedding night. So God sent the angel Raphael to help Tobit and Sarah conquer the demon. Ultimately, they use a fish heart and liver to drive out the demon from the wedding chamber. Finally, Tobit's son rubs fish gall on Tobit's eyes to heal his blindness. This story is entirely fanciful.

Another book, known as Judith, describes God's deliverance of the Jewish people. In this story, Judith seduces an Assyrian king only to cut off his head during his drunken stupor. We have no evidence that this story ever occurred. Moreover, this book erroneously states that Nebuchadnezzar was king of Assyria, not Babylon.

Other Apocryphal books include Sirach (wisdom literature similar to Proverbs), Baruch (not written by Baruch), Wisdom of Solomon (not written by Solomon), and additions to Daniel (Susanna and Bel and the Dragon).

### Why The Bible should not Include the Apocrypha

You are probably familiar with the Protestant/Catholic/Orthodox debates over whether the Apocrypha belongs in our modern Bibles. In the

remaining space, I'd like to offer five reasons why I don't believe the Bible should include the Apocrypha.

## 1. The Apocrypha Acknowledges that Prophets Weren't Speaking during its Time

Consider the following texts from 1 Maccabees:

So there was great distress in Israel, the worst since the time when the prophets ceased to appear among them (1 Macc. 9:27).

The Jews and their priests have resolved that Simon should be their leader and high priest forever, until a trustworthy prophet should arise (1 Macc. 14:41).

And laid up the stones in the mountain of the temple in a convenient place, until there should come a prophet to show what should be done with them (1 Macc. 4:46).

Notice how all three of these verses indicate God was not speaking through prophets during their time.

## 2. Jews Never Accepted the Apocrypha as Scripture

Consider the following quotation from first century Jewish historian Josephus:

From the death of Moses to the time of Artaxerxes, who was king of Persia after Xerxes, the prophets who followed Moses have written down in thirteen books the things that were done in their days. The remaining four books contain hymns to God and principles of life for human beings. From Artaxerxes to our own time a detailed record has been made, but this has not been thought worthy of equal credit with the earlier records because there has not been since then the exact succession of prophets.<sup>1</sup>

Josephus indicates that after the time of Artaxerxes (465-424 BC), Jews continued to write books (the Apocrypha), but these books were not on par with Scripture, because the prophets had stopped speaking.

Moreover, the Babylonian Talmud, which is a sacred collection of Rabbinical traditions, notes that "after the latter prophets Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi had died, the Holy Spirit departed from Israel" (Yoma 98). In other words, special revelation ceased after the time of these prophets. Therefore, we should not consider the Apocrypha as Scripture since it followed after these prophets.

Finally, around the year AD 90, a council of Jewish leaders gathered at Jamnia to figure out how to reconstruct Judaism after the fall of Jerusalem and the temple. As they discussed their sacred books, they merely reaffirmed the universal practice of all Jews that the Apocrypha did not belong in their Bible.

### 3. The New Testament Never Refers to the Apocrypha as Scripture

The New Testament authors quote from the Old Testament hundreds of times. Often they preface their quotes with phrases such as "it is written" or "Scripture says." Consider the following examples:

As it is written: None is righteous, no, not one (Rom 3:10).

Scripture says, They will look on him whom they have pierced (John 19:37)."

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion (Heb 3:7-8).

Never once do the New Testament authors do something similar with an Apocryphal text. This omission is telling considering the fact that the New Testament authors usually quoted from the Septuagint which contained the Apocrypha. Meaning, the New Testament authors were well

aware of the Apocryphal texts. They simply never refer to them as Scripture.

#### 4. Jesus Affirmed the Three-Fold Division of the Tanakh

Two quotations from Luke indicate that Jesus believed in a closed Old Testament Canon that did not include the Apocrypha. Consider Luke 24:44:

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.

In this text, Jesus makes a clear affirmation of the threefold division of the Old Testament—Apocrypha not included. Also consider Luke 11:51:

From the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation.

By speaking of Abel (the first biblical martyr) and Zechariah (the last biblical martyr), Jesus indicates that the Old Testament canon concluded with Chronicles (traditional order of the Tanakh). It is worth noting that several martyrs died in the Maccabees. Jesus doesn't mention them because he didn't consider Maccabees as part of his Bible.

#### 5. The Catholic Church didn't Grant Authority to the Apocrypha until Later

The earliest Old Testament canonical list from a Christian comes from Melito of Sardis (AD 170). His canon leaves out the Apocrypha. Origen's canonical list in the mid-third century also leaves out the Apocrypha. Additionally, Athanasius, Cyril of Jerusalem, Gregory of Nazianzus, and the Council of Laodicea leave the Apocrypha out of their canon.

Sometime in the fourth century though, the Apocrypha started to gain acceptance in some circles as demonstrated by some of the canonical lists (St. Augustine and the Council of Hippo) and biblical manuscripts (Codex Sinaiticus and Vaticanus). Of course, St. Augustine also persuaded his friend Jerome to include the Apocrypha in the Latin Vulgate in AD 404. That said, Jerome prefaced the Apocryphal writings by stating:

Therefore as the church indeed reads Judith, Tobit, and the books of Maccabees, but does not receive them among the canonical books, so let it also read these two volumes for the edification of the people but not for establishing the authority of ecclesiastical dogmas.<sup>2</sup>

Jerome made a clear delineation between Scriptural texts and the Apocrypha. Scripture established church doctrine. The Apocrypha was for mere edification alone.

For the next thousand years, the Catholic Church was hardly unified on the Apocrypha. William of Ockham, influential medieval theologian, echoed Jerome's sentiments when he wrote that apocryphal texts "are read for the edification of the people, but not for the establishment of doctrine."<sup>3</sup> Even Cardinal Cajetan, a chief opponent of the Protestant Reformers and appointee of Pope Leo remarked:

The Latin church is greatly indebted to Jerome on account of his separation of the canonical from the uncanonical books. . . those books and any others there may be like them in the Canon of the Bible are not canonical in the sense of establishing point of faith; yet they can be called canonical for the edification of the faithful.<sup>4</sup>

Despite being far from unified, [the Council of Trent](#) official granted canonical status to the Apocryphal text in what can only be seen as a counter-Reformation move.



## Council of Trent

Main article: Council of Trent [Article taken off internet:

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page))]

Pope Paul III convoked the Council of Trent

The council issued condemnations on what it defined as Protestant heresies and it defined Church teachings in the areas of Scripture and Tradition, Original Sin, Justification, Sacraments, the Eucharist in Holy Mass and the veneration of saints. It issued numerous reform decrees.[29] By specifying Catholic doctrine on salvation, the sacraments, and the Biblical canon, the council was answering Protestant disputes. [30]The council entrusted to the pope the implementation of its work, as a result of which Pope Pius VI issued in 1566 the Roman Catechism, in 1568 a revised Roman Breviary, and in 1570 a revised Roman Missal, thus initiating the Tridentine Mass (from Trent's Latin name Tridentum), and Pope Clement VIII issued in 1592 a revised edition of the Vulgate.

The Council of Trent is considered one of the most successful councils in the history of the Catholic Church, firming up Catholic belief as understood at the time. It convened in Trent between 13 December 1545, and 5 December 1563, in twenty-five sessions for three periods. Council fathers met for the 1st–8th sessions in Trent (1545–1547) and for the 9th–11th sessions in Bologna (1547) during the pontificate of Pope Paul III.[29] Under Pope Julius III, the council met in Trent (1551–1552) for the 12th–16th sessions. Under Pope Pius IV the 17th–25th sessions took place in Trent (1559–1565).

### List of doctrinal decrees

Decree	Session	Date	Chapters
The Holy Scriptures	4	8 April 1546	1
Original sin	5	7 June 1546	4
Justification	6	13 January 1547	16
Sacraments	7	3 March 1547	1
Baptism	7	3 March 1547	none
Confirmation	7	4 March 1547	none
Holy Eucharist	13	11 October 1551	8
Penance	14	15 November 1551	15
Extreme Unction	14	4 November 1551	3
Matrimony	24	11 November 1563	10

<b>CultsSaintsRelicsImages</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4 December 1563</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Indulgences</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4 December 1563</b>	<b>1</b>