

# 500 Lost Books Of The Bible

## The Myth of the 500 Lost Books of the Bible: A Critical Examination

The claim of 500 lost books of the Bible, often circulated in religious circles and online, is a persistent misconception. While there are numerous apocryphal and pseudepigraphical texts related to the biblical period, these texts are not part of the canonized Bible as recognized by major Christian denominations. This article examines the origins of this claim, explores relevant apocryphal and pseudepigraphical literature, and clarifies the criteria for canonization.

### 1. Understanding Canonization

The process of canonization, which defines the accepted scriptures of a religion, is a complex historical and theological one. It involves selecting writings deemed authoritative and inspired by a divine source. Different faiths have different canons and different criteria for inclusion. The Christian Old and New Testaments, for example, underwent a centuries-long process of selection and authentication before being formally recognized.

#### <i>Key Criteria for Canonization:</i>

Apostolic origin or connection: Writings were often judged by their connection to the apostles of Jesus Christ.

Conformity to doctrine: The content of the writings had to align with established theological beliefs.

Widespread acceptance: The texts had to gain recognition and acceptance within the community of believers.

Internal consistency: The texts were evaluated for internal coherence and clarity.

### 2. Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

Apocrypha: These are texts considered supplementary to the biblical canon. They are often related to the period surrounding the biblical books but were not included in the final canon. Examples include the books of the Maccabees. They are sometimes included in some editions of the Bible but are not considered canonical by Protestant denominations.

Pseudepigrapha: These are writings attributed to biblical figures but were likely composed later. They often provide additional narratives and perspectives, but are not part of the canonical texts. Examples include the Book of Enoch and the Book of Jubilees.

### 3. The Myth of the 500 Lost Books

The claim of 500 lost books typically relies on conflating apocryphal and pseudepigraphical texts with the biblical canon. This conflation misrepresents the historical process of canonization and misunderstands the role of these additional texts.

### 4. Why the Canon is Closed

The biblical canon is considered closed because the process of canonization was considered complete. Adding further books after this point would fundamentally alter the theological and historical understanding of the Bible. This decision was not arbitrary but was a product of careful consideration by religious authorities over centuries.

### 5. Benefits (Nonexistent):

There are no documented benefits associated with the addition of "lost books" to the established Bible canon. The process of establishing the canon was a theological exercise guided by specific criteria and goals. Trying to add writings outside this framework would distort the message and disrupt the understanding of the text, offering no discernible advantages.

### 6. Related Topics in Detail

#### **Early Christian Literature:**

Early Christian literature, besides the canonical New Testament, provides valuable insights into the beliefs and practices of early Christians. However, it wasn't considered part of the canon for the same reasons mentioned above.

*Examples:* Writings of the Apostolic Fathers, such as Ignatius of Antioch and Clement of Rome.

#### **The Role of Oral Tradition:**

Oral tradition played a significant role in the formation of early Christian beliefs and practices. While oral tradition is important, written texts provided greater durability and consistency in theological development.

#### **Historical Context of Canon Formation:**

The process of canonization occurred in specific historical contexts, influenced by cultural and political events. Understanding these contexts is essential for interpreting the development of the Christian Bible.

Table: Comparison of Apocryphal and Pseudepigraphical Texts with Canonical Books

Feature	Apocrypha/Pseudepigrapha	Canonical Books
Authorship	Often attributed to biblical figures or later authors	Attributed to specific figures within the historical context
Inclusion in Canon	Rejected by many denominations	Included in the accepted canon
Theological Consistency	Might present divergent perspectives	Aligns with core theological beliefs
Historical Significance	Provide insights into the period	Considered fundamental to understanding faith

## Conclusion

The claim of 500 lost books of the Bible is unfounded. It misrepresents the process of canonization and the historical context in which the Bible was compiled. The canonical texts that comprise the Old and New Testaments were carefully selected and recognized as authoritative by religious communities after thorough theological evaluation and consideration of historical context. Adding additional writings would fundamentally alter the theological message and the understanding of the Bible, as well as the religious structures.

## Advanced FAQs

1. Why were certain books excluded from the canon if they claimed divine inspiration? The criteria for canonization were multifaceted and involved a combination of apostolic connections, theological consistency, and community acceptance. The process was not arbitrary but followed a specific historical and religious methodology.
2. Could newly discovered manuscripts change the understanding of the Bible's canon? New discoveries might provide insights into the development of the biblical text, but unless they satisfy the established criteria for inclusion, they would not alter the canon.
3. How do apocryphal and pseudepigraphical texts contribute to our understanding of ancient Judaism and early Christianity? These texts provide valuable insights into the religious and cultural context of the times.
4. How do different denominations view apocryphal texts? Various Christian denominations have differing views on the apocryphal texts' role. Some incorporate them into broader biblical study, while others retain a distinct separation between the canon and apocryphal writings.

5. What are the implications of the "500 lost books" claim for religious studies? The claim fosters a misconception regarding the historical and theological basis of the Bible, which hinders proper academic engagement and theological discourse.

## **The 500 Lost Books of the Bible: Myth, Mystery, and the Search for Deeper Understanding**

**Problem:** Many people are intrigued by the concept of lost books of the Bible, fueled by whispers of hidden truths and alternative interpretations. This fascination often stems from a desire to uncover a more complete understanding of biblical history, figures, and events. However, the concept of 500 lost books is a significant misconception, rife with misinformation and speculation.

**Solution:** This article will debunk the myth of the 500 lost books, explore the actual historical context of apocryphal and pseudepigraphal texts, and provide insights into why these texts are relevant (or not) to our understanding of the Bible today. We'll examine expert opinions on the canonization process, the nature of religious texts, and the enduring human fascination with the unknown.

### **The Myth of 500 Lost Books:**

The claim of 500 lost books is fundamentally misleading. There are not 500 canonical books that were intentionally removed from the Bible. Instead, the "lost books" are a collection of writings from the intertestamental period (between the Old and New Testaments), including apocryphal and pseudepigraphal texts. Apocryphal texts were considered supplementary or non-canonical by the early church, and pseudepigraphal texts, while often attributed to biblical figures, are considered to have been written by different authors later in time.

### **The Intertestamental Period and the Search for Understanding:**

The period between the Old and New Testaments (roughly 400 years) saw significant upheaval in the Jewish world, with cultural, political, and religious changes. This period yielded a large body of literature, both canonical and non-canonical. This literature reflects the diverse interpretations and concerns of the people during this time. While these texts weren't included in the final canon of the Bible, their study provides valuable context and a glimpse into the historical and religious landscape of the era.

### Expert Insights on Canonization:

Dr. [Insert Name and Credentials of a Relevant Academic], a leading expert in biblical studies, argues that the canonization process was not a simple act of selecting the "best" books but a complex process influenced by theological, historical, and community factors. He explains that the criteria for inclusion in the canon were rooted in the perceived authority and authenticity of the text within the communities that embraced them. This process wasn't about exclusion but about defining the core teachings and narratives considered essential for faith.

### Why Are These Texts Still Studied?

Despite not being part of the modern Bible, these texts remain valuable for scholars and students. They offer:

**Historical Context:** They provide insights into the religious beliefs and practices of the time, helping us understand the development of Judaism and early Christianity.

**Literary Value:** Many of these texts demonstrate the literary and artistic skills of their authors and offer a window into the diverse forms of religious expression in the ancient world.

**Different Perspectives:** They provide alternative voices and perspectives that enrich our understanding of the Bible's core narratives.

### The Relevance to Today's Readers:

The desire to uncover "lost truths" within the Bible reflects the human longing for a complete and definitive understanding of the past and the present. This desire can be tied to a need for greater spiritual clarity or an interest in understanding the origins of religious thought. While the texts are often viewed as challenging the established stories, they add depth and complexity, fostering a more nuanced understanding of faith.

### Conclusion:

The idea of 500 lost books is misleading. However, the apocryphal and pseudepigraphal texts from the intertestamental period offer valuable historical and literary insights. They provide crucial context for understanding the development of religious thought and the various perspectives on the events surrounding the Bible's writing. While these texts may not provide a hidden truth or refute existing knowledge, they contribute to a richer understanding of the complexities of the human experience and the origins of religious beliefs. This nuanced understanding is essential for those seeking to engage with biblical literature in a thoughtful and informed way.

## FAQs:

1. Why weren't these books included in the Bible? The criteria for inclusion in the biblical canon were complex and varied; this often stemmed from factors such as authorship, theological alignment, and community acceptance.
2. Are these books historically reliable? The historical accuracy of these texts varies. Scholars assess the documents critically to understand their potential value.
3. Can these texts challenge my beliefs? Potentially, these texts may encourage deeper reflection and a broader perspective on the development of religious thought.
4. Where can I find more information on these texts? Academic journals, university libraries, and reputable online resources provide detailed studies and interpretations of these texts.
5. How can I approach these texts with a critical eye? Engaging with these texts requires careful consideration of their historical context, authorship, and theological implications.

By understanding the nature of these texts and the processes behind their inclusion or exclusion from the Bible, we can appreciate their place in the broader story of religious thought and history. This understanding helps readers navigate the rich tapestry of religious expression and fosters a more informed and meaningful engagement with the Bible.

1. Understanding the eBook 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
  - The Rise of Digital Reading 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
  - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - 500 Lost Books Of The Bible User Reviews and Ratings
  - 500 Lost Books Of The Bible and Bestseller Lists
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- 500 Lost Books Of The Bible eBook Subscription Services
- 500 Lost Books Of The Bible Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating 500 Lost Books Of The Bible eBook Formats
  - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - 500 Lost Books Of The Bible Compatibility with Devices
  - 500 Lost Books Of The Bible Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
  - Interactive Elements 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
- 8. Staying Engaged with 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
  - Setting Reading Goals 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of 500 Lost Books Of The Bible
  - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
  - Integration of Multimedia Elements
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2020-02-12 2020 Reprint of 1926 Editions. Full facsimile of the original editions and not reproduced with Optical Recognition software. This edition includes two titles published into one bound volume. Rutherford Hayes Platt, in the preface to his 1963 reprint of this work, states: First issued in 1926, this is the most popular collection of apocryphal and pseudepigraphal literature ever published. The translations were first published, under this title, by an unknown editor in *The Lost Books of the Bible* Cleveland 1926, but the translations had previously been published many times. The book is, essentially, a combined reprint of

earlier works. The first half, *Lost Books of the Bible*, covers the New Testament. The second half of the book, *The Forgotten Books of Eden*, includes a translation originally published in 1882 of the First and Second Books of Adam and Eve, translated first from ancient Ethiopic to German and then into English by Solomon Caesar Malan, and a number of items of Old Testament pseudepigrapha, such as reprinted in the second volume of R.H. Charles's *Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament* (Oxford, 1913). 2020 Reprint of 1926 Editions Full facsimile of the original editions and not reproduced with Optical Recognition software This edition includes two titles published into one bound volume

1992

2017-09-15 Some differences between Catholicism and Protestantism can be tricky to grasp, but one of them just requires the ability to count: Catholic bibles have seventy-three books, whereas Protestant bibles have sixty-six - plus an appendix with the strange title *Apocrypha*. What's the story here? Protestants claim that the medieval Catholic Church added six extra books that had never been considered part of the Old Testament, either by Jews or early Christians. Catholics say that the Protestant Reformers removed those books, long considered part of Sacred Scripture, because they didn't like what they contained. In *Why Catholic Bibles Are Bigger*, Gary Michuta presents a revised and expanded version of his authoritative work on this key issue. Combining the historical

record from pre-Christian times to the Patristic era to the Reformation and its aftermath, he traces the canon controversy through the writings and actions of its major players. What's the story here? Protestants claim that the medieval Catholic Church added six extra books that had never been considered part of the Old Testament

2015

2024-10-22 Step into the enchanting narrative of creation with Rutherford Platt's captivating work, *The First Book of Adam and Eve*. This imaginative retelling invites readers to explore the lives of the first humans in a world filled with wonder and profound experiences. What if the story of Adam and Eve was more than just a tale of temptation and exile? Platt's evocative prose delves deep into the emotions and thoughts of Adam and Eve as they navigate their newfound existence in the Garden of Eden. With rich descriptions and thoughtful insights, this book breathes life into their joys, struggles, and the complexities of their relationship with each other and the divine. As you journey through the pages, you'll discover the profound themes of innocence, love, and the quest for knowledge. This engaging narrative challenges conventional interpretations, encouraging readers to reflect on the timeless lessons of humanity. Are you prepared to rediscover the origins of mankind through a fresh lens? This book is more than a retelling; it's an exploration of human nature and the choices that define us. Platt's unique perspective offers a rich

tapestry of storytelling that will resonate with anyone seeking a deeper understanding of these iconic figures. Don't miss the chance to experience this extraordinary tale! Purchase The First Book of Adam and Eve today and embark on a journey through the dawn of humanity! Don't miss the chance to experience this extraordinary tale Purchase The First Book of Adam and Eve today and embark on a journey through the dawn of humanity

1998 Over 300,000 people have studied Books of the Bible. Now, the study has been updated, based on the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Using a workbook style, Books of the Bible allows you to discover the biblical text on your own or with a group. This 26-session book-by-book survey covers all the books in the Bible. Designed for persons who are not well-acquainted with the Bible, this resource is clearly written and easy-to-use, drawing the reader into the biblical text. Although you will page through the entire Bible by the end of the study, Books of the Bible only deals with major themes. An excellent primer for persons to gain confidence to tackle a more in-depth study, such as Genesis to Revelation, Journey Through the Bible, or Disciple Bible Study. Books of the Bible has informational articles about major sections of the Bible, and review pages at the end of major portions of the study. Questions for group discussion are included in all 26 sessions. In addition, there is an article for the leader and a pronunciation guide at the

end of the study. 26 sessions / 60 minutes Using a workbook style Books of the Bible allows you to discover the biblical text on your own or with a group This 26 session book by book survey covers all the books in the Bible

2011-05 YOU will find between these covers all the ecclesiastical writings of early Christian authorities that are known to exist, and yet were omitted from the authorized New Testament. They are published here as a matter of record. Whether they are canonical or not, at least these writings are of very great antiquity. Origins are noted in paragraphs at the front of each book. This will enable the reader to form his own conclusions as to the genuineness of the writings. These writings are a vivid picture of the minds of men in the post-Apostolic period of the Church. Discount the statements from the historical viewpoint as you will-there remains in these gospels and epistles an earnestness of purpose, and zeal to express a message, similar to that of our authorized Bible. An interesting question naturally arises as to why these writings were cast out in the selection of the material that has come down to us in the authorized version. The compilation of the Bible was not an act of any definite occurrence. It was a matter complicated and abstruse. It was an evolution at the hands of Churchmen of various beliefs and purposes. In the formulation of early church doctrines there was dissension, personal jealousy, intolerance, persecution, bigotry. That out of

this welter should have arisen the Bible, with its fine inspiration, would seem to present a plausible basis for belief in its Divine origin. But who can deny that under such vicious and human circumstances much writing of as pure purpose and as profound sincerity as other that is included in the authorized Bible, must have been omitted? The story of the first council of Nice, when Arius was commanded by the Bishop of Alexandria to quit his beliefs or be declared a heretic, and his writings were ordered destroyed, is eloquent of many things that happened. Good men were engaged on both sides of the ecclesiastical controversies. Thank you for checking out this book by Theophania Publishing

1926

1996

2010-06 1 Chronicles 29:29 Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer, 2 Chronicles 9:29 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, first and last, are they not written in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer against Jeroboam the son of Nebat?http:

//THEBOOKOFNATHANTHEPROPHET.com A Documented Lost Book of a Prophetic Bible 1 Chronicles 29 29 Now the acts of David the king first and last behold they are written in the book of Samuel the seer and in the book

of Nathan the prophet and in the book of Gad the seer 2 Chronicles 9 29 Now the rest of the acts

2018-08-01 You're probably missing some of the most interesting books of the Bible. In the Jewish tradition, the five books known as The Five Scrolls perform a central liturgical function as the texts associated with each of the major holidays. The Song of Songs is read during Passover, Ruth during Shavuot, Lamentations on Tisha B'av, Ecclesiastes during Sukkot, and Esther during the celebration of Purim. Together with the five books of the Torah, these texts orient Jewish life and provide the language of the faith. In the Christian tradition, by contrast, these books have largely been forgotten. Many churchgoers can't even find them in their pew Bibles. They are rarely preached, come up only occasionally in the lectionary, and are not the subject of Bible studies. Thus, their influence on the lives and theology of many Christians is entirely negligible. But they deserve much more attention. With scholarly wisdom and a quick wit, Williamson insists that these books speak urgently to the pressing issues of the contemporary world. Addressing themes of human sexuality, grief, immigration, suffering and protest, ethnic nationalism, and existential dread, he skillfully guides readers as they rediscover the relevance of the Five Scrolls for today. Together with the five books of the Torah these texts orient Jewish life and provide the language of the faith In the Christian tradition by contrast these

books have largely been forgotten

2015 The Encyclopedia of Lost and Rejected Scriptures: The Pseudepigrapha and Apocrypha - Section One - Lost Scriptures of the Old Testament - First Book of Adam and Eve, Second Book of Adam and Eve, First Book of Enoch, Second Book of Enoch (Secrets of Enoch), Third Book of Enoch (Hebrew Enoch), Jubilees, Jasher - Section Two - Apocalyptic Writings and the End of Days - Apocalypse of Abraham, Apocalypse of Thomas, 2 Baruch, War Scroll (Sons of Dark vs. Sons of Light) - Section Three - Lost Scriptures of the New Testament - Gospel of Philip, Gospel of Mary Magdalene, Apocryphon of John, Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Judas, Acts Chapter 29 - - Section Four - The Life and Times of Jesus - Infancy Gospel of James, Infancy Gospel of Thomas, Life of Joseph The Carpenter, Letters of Pilate, Life of Saint Issaa - Section Five - The Apocrypha - 1 Esdras, 2 Esdras, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, 3 Maccabees, 4 Maccabees, Letter (Epistle) of Jeremiah, The Prayer of Azariah, 1 Baruch, Prayer of Manasseh (Manassas), Bel and the Dragon, Wisdom of Sirach, Wisdom of Solomon, Additions to Esther, Tobit, Judith, Susanna, Psalm 151, 1 Clements, Shepherd of Hermas, The Didache The major books of the Pseudepigrapha and apocrypha in one volume Page 4 of cover

2015-09-01 This accessible reference offers short and to-the-point answers to fifty pressing questions people have about God, the Bible, and Christianity, including - Are

there errors or contradictions in the Bible? - Do science and faith conflict? - Is hell a real place? - What will heaven be like? - Is it possible to prove God exists? - Why did Jesus have to die? - Does God hate sex? - Do Christians have to go to church? - and many more This book is for those who want a clear introduction to the essential teachings of Christianity to help them grow in faith and in preparation to share the basics of Christian belief. This book provides short and to the point answers to pressing questions about God the Bible and Christianity including What will heaven be like Can a Christian be demon possessed Do science and faith conflict Is hell a

1999 The publication of the King James version of the Bible, translated between 1603 and 1611, coincided with an extraordinary flowering of English literature and is universally acknowledged as the greatest influence on English-language literature in history. Now, world-class literary writers introduce the book of the King James Bible in a series of beautifully designed, small-format volumes. The introducers' passionate, provocative, and personal engagements with the spirituality and the language of the text make the Bible come alive as a stunning work of literature and remind us of its overwhelming contemporary relevance. The introducers' passionate, provocative and personal engagements with the spirituality and the language of the text make the Bible come alive as a stunning work of literature and remind us of its

overwhelming contemporary relevance

2019 The idea of the Bible as Holy Scripture, a non-negotiable authority straight from God, has prevailed in Western society for some time. And while it provides a firm foundation for centuries of Christian teaching, it denies the depth, variety, and richness of the text. Barton argues that the Bible is not a prescription to a complete, fixed religious system, but rather a product of a long and intriguing process which has inspired Judaism and Christianity, but still does not describe the whole of either religion. He argues that it must be read in its historical context-- from its beginnings in myth and folklore to its many interpretations throughout the centuries. -- adapted from jacket And while it provides a firm foundation for centuries of Christian teaching it denies the depth variety and richness of the text

2019-06-06 'An entertaining and insightful human story of obsession about books.' Daily Telegraph 'A lively tale of historical innovation, the thrill of the bibliophile's hunt, greed and betrayal.' New York Times T he never-before-told story of one extremely rare copy of the Gutenberg Bible, and its impact on the lives of the fanatical few who were lucky enough to own it. For rare book collectors, an original copy of the Gutenberg Bible - there are only forty-six in existence - is the undisputed gem of any collection. The Lost Gutenberg recounts five centuries in the life of one particular copy of the Bible from its very creation by Johannes Gutenberg in Mainz, Germany, to

its ultimate resting place, in a steel vault under the protection of the Japanese government. Margaret Leslie Davis draws readers into this incredible saga, inviting them into the colourful lives of each of its fanatic collectors along the way. Exploring books as objects of desire across centuries, Davis will leave readers not only with a broader understanding of the culture of rare book collectors, but with a deeper awareness of the importance of books in our world. Exploring books as objects of desire across centuries Davis will leave readers not only with a broader understanding of the culture of rare book collectors but with a deeper awareness of the importance of books in our world

1908

2006-01-01

2006 Ancient scriptures, hidden from the world for centuries, have recently attracted unprecedented popular attention. Some were found among the ancient library of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Others include assorted mystical writings known as Kabbalah, and a host of books that never made it into the Bible, called Apocrypha (which means hidden) and the Pseudepigrapha (called false writings by those who suppressed them). Additionally, there are the Gnostic texts of Nag Hammadi - a location in Egypt where a treasure trove of lost books was discovered in the middle of the twentieth century. Collectively, they comprise the Lost Bible. For centuries, these manuscripts were systematically suppressed because their liberating messages of

individual power and worth challenged the authority and pet philosophies of political and religious leaders. Additionally there are the Gnostic texts of Nag Hammadi a location in Egypt where a treasure trove of lost books was discovered in the middle of the twentieth century Collectively they comprise the Lost Bible

2012 This is the extended and annotated edition including \* an extensive annotation of more than 5.000 words about the history and evolution of the book we call 'The Bible' This volume contains all the Gospels, Epistles and other pieces that were attributed in the first four centuries to Jesus Christ and his companions. Contents: The History of The Bible The Lost Books of The Bible INTRODUCTION TO THE LOST BOOKS OF THE BIBLE PREFACE The GOSPEL OF THE BIRTH OF MARY The PROTEVANGELION The First Gospel of the Infancy of Jesus Christ Thomas's Gospel of the Infancy of Jesus Christ The Epistles of Jesus Christ and Abgarus, King of Edessa The Gospel of Nicodemus The Apostles' Creed. The Epistle of Paul, The Apostle of the Laodiceans The Epistle of Pau the Apostle to Seneca, with Seneca's to Paul The Acts of Paul and Thecla The First Epistle of Clement to the Corinthians The Second Epistle of Clement to the Corinthians The General Epistle of

Barnabas The Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians, of the Ephesians to Ignatius The Epistle of Ignatius to the Magnesians The Epistle of Ignatius to the Trallians The Epistle of Ignatius to the Romans The Epistle of Ignatius to the Philadelphians The Epistle of Ignatius to the Smyrnaeans The Epistle of Ignatius to Polycarp The Epistle of Polycarp to the Philippians The Shepherd of Hermas The Second Book of Hermas, called his Commands. The Third Book of Hermas, which is called his Similitudes. Letters Of Herod And Pilate. Connecting Roman History With The Death Of Christ At Jerusalem. Letter Of Herod To Pilate The Governor. Letter Of Pilate To Herod. The Epistle Of Pontius Pilate, Which He Wrote To The Roman Emperor Concerning Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Report Of Pilate The Governor, Concerning Our Lord Jesus Christ; Which Was Sent To Augustus Caesar, In Rome. The Report Of Pontius Pilate, Governor Of Judea; The Trial And Condemnation Of Pilate. The Death Of Pilate,Who Condemned Jesus. The Lost Gospel According To Peter This is the extended and annotated edition including an extensive annotation of more than 5 000 words about the history and evolution of the book we call The Bible This volume contains all the Gospels Epistles and other pieces that