

New Testament Apocrypha

Explanation

The word *apocrypha* derives from a Greek word meaning “hidden away.” It was originally used to refer to books kept hidden away since they had not been canonized. Many of these books claim to have been written by the apostles. It is not impossible that some of them derive, at least in part, from actual apostolic writings. Some apocryphal books exist today; others remain lost. Some existing books have been available since ancient times; others have been rediscovered during the past century as a result of archaeological research.

Chart 18-10 groups these apocryphal books in a wide variety of genres including gospels, apocalyptic writings (book of Revelation), treatises, letters, acts, and liturgies. The chart gives the titles of these apocryphal writings, known in whole or by fragmentary remains, or simply mentioned in other writings. These writings are useful in tracing the change and development of various ideas in the early centuries of Christianity. If studied carefully and with enlightenment of the Spirit, New Testament apocryphal writings, like the Old Testament Apocrypha, can be beneficial, although “there are many things contained therein that are not true, which are interpolations by the hands of men” (D&C 91:2).

References

- Edgar Hennecke, *New Testament Apocrypha* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1963).
Stephen J. Patterson, “Apocrypha, New Testament,” *ABD*, 1:94–97.
C. Wilfred Griggs, “Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha,” *EM*, 1:55–56.

New Testament Apocrypha

1. GOSPELS AND RELATED FORMS

Narrative Gospels

The Gospel of the Ebionites

The Gospel of the Hebrews

The Gospel of the Nazoreans

The Gospel of Nicodemus (The Acts of Pilate)

The Gospel of Peter

The Infancy Gospel of Thomas

P. Egerton 2 (a fragment of an unknown narrative gospel)

P. Oxy 840 (a fragment of an unknown narrative gospel)

The Protevangelium of James

Revelation Dialogues and Discourses

The (First) Apocalypse of James

The (Second) Apocalypse of James

The Apocryphon of James (a revelation discourse cast in an epistolary framework)

The Apocryphon of John

The Book of Thomas the Contender

The Dialogue of the Savior

The Gospel of Mary

The Gospel of Philip

The Epistula Apostolorum (a revelation discourse cast in an epistolary framework)

The Gospel of the Egyptians (distinct from the Coptic Gospel of the Egyptians)

The Letter of Peter to Philip (a revelation discourse cast in an epistolary framework)

Pistis Sophia

The Questions of Mary

The Questions of Bartholomew

The Second Treatise of the Great Seth

The Sophia of Jesus Christ

The Two Books of Jeu

Bodlian Copt. MS d54 (a fragmentary dialogue between Jesus and John)

Sayings Gospels and Collections

The Gospel of Thomas

The Synoptic Sayings Source

The Teachings of Silvanus

2. TREATISES

On the Origin of the World

The (Coptic) Gospel of the Egyptians

The Gospel of Truth

The Hypostasis of the Archons

The Treatise on Resurrection (a treatise cast in epistolary form)

The Tripartite Tractate

3. LETTERS

The Abgar Legend

The Correspondence between Paul and Seneca

The Epistle of Pseudo-Titus

Paul's Letter to the Laodiceans

4. APOCALYPSES

The (Coptic) Apocalypse of Elijah

The (Arabic) Apocalypse of Peter

The (Coptic) Apocalypse of Peter

The (Greek/Ethiopic) Apocalypse of Peter

The (Coptic) Apocalypse of Paul

The (Latin) Apocalypse of Paul

The Apocalypse of Sophonias

The Apocalypse of Thomas

The Ascension of Isaiah (chap. 6–11)

The Christian Sibyllines

The Concept of Our Great Power

The Book of Elchasai

V and VI Ezra

Melchizedek

The Mysteries of St. John the Apostle and the Holy Virgin

5. ACTS

The Acts of Andrew
The Acts of Andrew and Matthias
The Acts of John
The Acts of Paul (and Thecla)
The (Coptic) Act of Peter
The (Greek) Acts of Peter
The Acts of Peter and the Twelve
The Acts of Philip
The Acts of Thomas
The Kerygmata Petrou

6. LITURGICAL MATERIALS

Homilies

The Interpretation of Knowledge
The Kerygma of Peter
The Testimony of Truth
A Valentinian Exposition

Psalms

The Odes of Solomon

Prayers

On the Anointing
On Baptism A
On Baptism B
On the Eucharist A
On the Eucharist B
A Prayer of the Apostle Paul