

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