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Catholic Bibles contain seven more Old Testament books (46) than Protestant Bibles (39). These books are Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), Baruch, and 1 and 2 Maccabees.

Catholics refer to them as the “deuterocanon,” or “second canon,” while Protestants refer to them as “apocrypha,” a term generally used to describe books that aren't part of the Bible. Protestants also have shorter versions of Daniel and Esther.

Catholic Bibles contain all the books that have been traditionally accepted by Christians since Jesus' time. Protestant Bibles contain all those books, except those contained in the deuterocanon, which was rejected by the Protestant Reformers in the 1500's. The chief reason the reformers rejected these books was because they did not support Protestant doctrines. For example, 2 Maccabees speaks approvingly of prayer for the dead, which supports the Catholic doctrine of Purgatory.

The Catholic Old Testament follows the Alexandrian canon, commonly known as the Septuagint, which was translated into Greek around 250 B.C. The Protestant Reformers followed the shorter Palestinian Old Testament, which was not officially recognized by the Jews until around 100 A.D.

In order to answer the question, “Who decided which books are in the Bible?” we must inevitably come to terms with the authority of the Church Christ founded, the Church that infallibly discerned with God's guidance which books were inspired by the Holy Spirit and which ones weren't. Practically speaking, this means recognizing that there are 46 books in the Old Testament.

For further reading on this subject, click [here](#) for a listing of resources.

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