

## God Wrote a Book: The “Missing Books” of the Bible

### Opening Discussion

1. Have you ever heard the Bible is missing books?
2. What do you know about the gospel of Thomas or Mary or Peter?
3. How can we know the Bible is not missing any books God intended us to have?

The 66 books of the Old and New Testaments are the only books which meet the criteria of \_\_\_\_\_.

### 1. What books might be “missing”?

- The Apocrypha
- The church fathers
- Gnostic writings:

### 2. Are these “missing books” qualified to be in Scripture?

“Constantine commissioned and financed a new Bible, which omitted those gospels that spoke of Christ’s human traits and embellished those gospels that made him godlike.” The DaVinci Code, Dan Brown, 325

“In treating the canon of Scripture they declare at the same time that in matters of faith and morals the tradition of the Church is, together with the Bible, the standard of supernatural revelation.” **From New Advent (Catholic site) Regarding the actions of the Council of Trent on April 8, 1546**

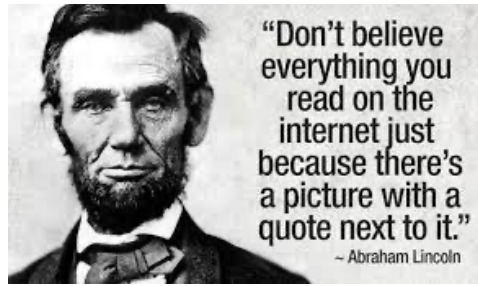
**49** Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’ **50** so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, **51** from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. **Luke 11:49-51**

“The Apostles received the Gospel for us from the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ was sent forth from God. So then Christ is from God, and the Apostles are from Christ.” **1<sup>st</sup> Clement 42**

“I do not enjoin you, as Peter and Paul did. They were Apostles.” **Ignatius to the Romans, 4**

“I did not think myself competent for this, that being a convict I should order you as though I were an Apostle.” **Ignatius, Letter to the Trallians, 3:3**

“These things, brethren, I write to you concerning righteousness, not because I take anything upon myself, but because you have invited me to do so. For neither I, nor any other such one, can come up to the wisdom of the blessed and glorified Paul. He, when among you, accurately and steadfastly taught the word of truth in the presence of those who were then alive. And when absent from you, he wrote you a letter, which, if you carefully study, you will find to be the means of building you up in that faith.” **Polycarp to the Philippians, chapter 4**



20 O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," 21 for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. 1 Timothy 6:20

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. 1 John 4:2

18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. 20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— 21 "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. Colossians 2:18-23

20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols . . . 24 But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. Revelation 2:20, 24

Jesus says: "Look, a sower went out. He filled his hands (with seeds), (and) he scattered (them). Some fell on the path, and the birds came and pecked them up. Others fell on the rock, and did not take root in the soil, and they did not put forth ears. And others fell among the thorns, they choked the seeds, and worms ate them. And others fell on good soil, and it produced good fruit. It yielded sixty per measure and one hundred twenty per measure." The Gospel of Thomas 9

Jesus said, "It is I who am the light over all. It is I who am the entirety: it is from me that the entirety has come, and to me that the entirety goes. Split a piece of wood: I am there. Lift a stone, and you will find me there." The Gospel of Thomas 77

Simon Peter said to them, "Mary should leave us, for females are not worthy of life." Jesus said, "See, I am going to attract her to make her male so that she too might become a living spirit that resembles you males. For every female (element) that makes itself male will enter the kingdom of heaven." The Gospel of Thomas, 114

#### Fill in the Blank Answers:

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The 66 books of the Old and New Testaments are the only books which meet the criteria of God-breathed Scripture.