

How is the Catholic Bible Different from the Protestant Bible?

The Catholic Bible and the Protestants Bible contain the same number of Books in the New Testament (27 Books) but differ in the number of books in the Old Testament. The Catholic Old Testament has 46 Books while the Protestant's Old Testament has only 39 Books. Catholic Bible has 73 Books in total while the Protestants has 66 Books. The seven books excluded in the Protestants' Old testament compilation are Baruch, Sirach, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Tobit, Judith and the Wisdom of Solomon, plus portions of Esther and Daniel. Catholics accept these 7 Books because they existed in and were read in the 1st and 2nd Jerusalem Temple and by the Jews in the Diaspora and on their return these Scrolls were read in the Temple and in the Synagogues up until during the time of Jesus. These books became excluded from the Bible by the Protestant Reformers in the 1500s calling them extra biblical apocrypha and pseudepigraphal (false authorship) literature. The Catholic position has always been that these books are sacred scriptures as there are commentaries on them in the Mishnah and the Talmud (Jewish Old testament biblical commentaries). This Catholic position is vindicated as over 700 ancient Jewish extant originals of these manuscripts were discovered in 1947 around the Dead Sea and the Qumran and other manuscripts are still being discovered elsewhere in their preserved oriental languages.

The Catholic Bible also differ from the Protestant Bible in the authoritative translations and interpretations of some original texts. For example, The Catholic version retains "virgin" in Isaiah 7:14, and considered it a prediction of the Virgin Birth but the Protestant versions translates it as "young woman." Also, in translating the Old Testament names of God, Catholic versions, renders the forms beginning in "El" as "God" and Yahweh as "the Lord." The Jerusalem Bible carried "Yahweh" directly into the English text. Protestants disputes about correct interpretations of the Bible dividing Protestantism into fundamentalists and evangelicals; majorly arguing about the meaning of the authority of the Bible and the way it ought to be interpreted. Fundamentalists often take a literal reading of the Bible, seeing the Bible as the word of God that should be read word for word. In contrast, evangelicals have an authoritative reading of the Bible, viewing the Bible as inspired by God and stressing that portions of the Bible should be read allegorically or symbolically rather than literally.

Catholics have always been agreed on the Magisterium's translations and interpretation of texts of the Bible. Around 1220-1260 A.D, the first complete vernacular Bible translation in Western Europe was produced from manuscripts containing the Septuagint (LXX) (the Greek translation of the Torah). The Council of Trent in 1546 recognized only the Latin Vulgate as authentic translation from the Hebrew and Greek originals and declared vernacular translations legitimate only as elucidations of the Vulgate edition by the Roman Index of 1564. This declaration have continued to influence the attitudes which Catholic authorities adopted towards the manifold "new" translations which were published following the advent of humanism and Protestant reformation.