

KNOW YOUR FAITH – XV

Bible Differences - Books

There are two major bible differences in terms of its contents. There is the Roman Catholic/Orthodox list and then the Protestant List. Due to the conquests of Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.E.) most of the Middle East and West (Spain to India) spoke some form of Greek. In time, the Jews themselves lost the use of Hebrew and began speaking Greek or Aramaic. Beginning in the 3rd Century there was a movement to translate Hebrew Scriptures into Greek and this collection of Greek/Hebrew writings became known as the Septuagint based on the mythical story that 72 scholars in 70 days translated the Torah (Five books of Moses) into Greek. This collection over time included a list of writings that include what Protestants call the Apocrypha: 14 books that were not considered “inspired.” This list of books (including the 14 Deutero-canonical books) was used by St. Jerome in 405 C.E. to create the “Vulgate” (Common) or Latin Bible. So from a lost Hebrew language to common Greek (Koine) to Latin, the official Bible of the church (until Luther) had some translation problems. (e.g., The Hebrew, *amah*, means “young woman” and not “virgin” in I Isaiah. KJV used “virgin.”) In the meantime (90 AD) following the destruction of Israel and Jews were scattered all over the world, at the Council of Jamnia, the Rabbis came up with a different list of their official writings omitting the 14 books in question. It was this list that Luther and in time other Protestants used to put together their version of the bible and often listing the 14 books in question in a separate section.