

HOW IS A PROTESTANT BIBLE DIFFERENT FROM A CATHOLIC BIBLE?



The Catholic Bible consists of 73 books; 46 of them are in the Old Testament, and 27 are in the New Testament. A Protestant version includes only 66 books. The differences can be found in what are known as the Deuterocanonical (Greek for “second canon”) books.

At the end of the second century B.C., all of the books that we now include in the Old Testament were recognized as part of the official collection of books for all Jews. It is certain that neither Christ nor the apostles ever challenged the value of this work, the Septuagint, as there are many direct and indirect references to it in the New Testament. During the last century before Christ and the first century A.D., the Jews of Palestine eliminated several books from the existing collection. These books are: Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch, 1 and 2 Maccabees and parts of Esther and Daniel. These books became known as the Deuterocanonical books because, at that time, they were only found in the Christian canon. The Deuterocanonical Books have a well established history, being a part of both the Septuagint and the Vulgate (Saint Jerome’s Latin translation of Scripture).

Martin Luther rejected the Deuterocanonical books of the Old Testament because they contained verses that did not agree with his own personal teachings. For example, 2 Maccabees 12:45 says that it is “*holy and pious*” to pray for the dead. All Protestant denominations have followed Luther in his rejection of these books.

Luther also rejected the books of Hebrews, James, Jude, and Revelation because they contradicted his teachings. Later, though, these books were accepted by Protestants, leaving no differences between the New Testament of Catholics and Protestants.

From *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

SACRED SCRIPTURE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

131 “And such is the force and power of the Word of God that it can serve the Church as her support and vigor and the children of the Church as strength for their faith, food for the soul, and a pure and lasting font of spiritual life.”¹⁰⁹ Hence “access to Sacred Scripture ought to be open wide to the Christian faithful.”¹¹⁰

132 “Therefore, the ‘study of the sacred page’ should be the very soul of sacred theology. The ministry of the Word, too—pastoral preaching, catechetics, and all forms of Christian instruction, among which the liturgical homily should hold pride of place—is healthily nourished and thrives in holiness through the Word of Scripture.”¹¹¹

133 The Church “forcefully and specifically exhorts all the Christian faithful . . . to learn ‘the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ,’ by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures. ‘Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.’”¹¹²

¹⁰⁹ DV 21.

¹¹⁰ DV 22.

¹¹¹ DV 24.

¹¹² DV 25; cf. *Phil* 3:8 and St. Jerome, *Commentariorum in Isaiam libri xviii* prol.: PL 24, 17b.

What Did You Learn About 2 Timothy 3:16?

for younger saints

1. What are some of the jobs God has given you to do?
 - a. Tell others about Jesus.
 - b. Do your best at school.
 - c. Follow the Ten Commandments.
 - d. All these and more!

2. When the Pope teaches about something we must believe or how we must act,
 - a. we each get to decide if it is right or not.
 - b. the Holy Spirit promises that the Pope will be teaching the truth.
 - c. everyone votes to decide.

3. Before Jesus returned to heaven, He organized His Church by
 - a. building a nice place to worship.
 - b. appointing bishops and a Pope.
 - c. taking up a collection to pay for everything.

4. Who should read the Bible?
 - a. Only priests should read the Bible.
 - b. Only adults can read the Bible.
 - c. People of all ages (even kids) should read the Bible.

5. How often should we read the Bible?
 - a. every day
 - b. only on Sundays
 - c. only when we are looking for guidance

6. What Bible readings has the Church assigned to each Sunday?
 - a. Prophet, Wisdom, Law, and History
 - b. Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament, and Gospel
 - c. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

7. Recite your memory verse.

What Did You Learn About

2 Timothy 3:16?

for younger saints

Quiz Answers

1. What are some of the jobs God has given you to do?
 - a. Tell others about Jesus.
 - b. Do your best at school.
 - c. Follow the Ten Commandments.
 - d. **All these and more!**
2. When the Pope teaches about something we must believe or how we must act,
 - a. we each get to decide if it is right or not.
 - b. **the Holy Spirit promises that the Pope will be teaching the truth.**
 - c. everyone votes to decide.
3. Before Jesus returned to heaven, He organized His Church by
 - a. building a nice place to worship.
 - b. **appointing bishops and a Pope.**
 - c. taking up a collection to pay for everything.
4. Who should read the Bible?
 - a. Only priests should read the Bible.
 - b. Only adults can read the Bible.
 - c. **People of all ages (even kids) should read the Bible.**
5. How often should we read the Bible?
 - a. **every day**
 - b. only on Sundays
 - c. only when we are looking for guidance
6. What Bible readings has the Church assigned to each Sunday?
 - a. Prophet, Wisdom, Law, and History
 - b. **Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament, and Gospel**
 - c. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
7. Recite your memory verse. *“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Luke 1:38*

What Did You Learn About 2 Timothy 3:16? for older saints

1. Infallibility means that the Holy Spirit guarantees that
 - a. the Pope's teachings about what we must believe or how we must act will be right.
 - b. anything the Pope says is right.
 - c. only that which is printed in the Bible is right.
2. Before Jesus returned to heaven, He organized His church by
 - a. building a nice place to worship.
 - b. appointing bishops and a Pope.
 - c. taking up a collection to pay for everything.
3. What does the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* say about the Bible?
 - a. We should read the *Catechism* first and the Bible later.
 - b. That Catholics do not need to read the Bible.
 - c. The Bible is the Word of God written for us to learn from.
4. What are some of the jobs God has given you to do in your present life?
5. How many Bible readings has the Church assigned to each weekday?
 - a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
6. What Bible readings has the Church assigned to each Sunday?
 - a. Prophet, Wisdom, Law, and History
 - b. Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament, and Gospel
 - c. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

MATCHING

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 7. _____ Refutation | a. able |
| 8. _____ Correction | b. fixing something wrong to make it right |
| 9. _____ Righteousness | c. to prove something to be untrue |
| 10. _____ Competent | d. being right and just (fair) |

11. Recite your memory verse.

What Did You Learn About 2 Timothy 3:16?

for older saints

1. Infallibility means that the Holy Spirit guarantees that
- a. the Pope's teachings about what we must believe or how we must act will be right.
 - b. anything the Pope says is right.
 - c. only that which is printed in the Bible is right.
2. Before Jesus returned to heaven, He organized His church by
- a. building a nice place to worship.
 - b. appointing bishops and a Pope.
 - c. taking up a collection to pay for everything.
3. What does the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* say about the Bible?
- a. We should read the *Catechism* first and the Bible later.
 - b. That Catholics do not need to read the Bible.
 - c. The Bible is the Word of God written for us to learn from.
4. What are some of the jobs God has given you to do in your present life?
Answers will vary
5. How many Bible readings has the Church assigned to each weekday?
- a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
6. What Bible readings has the Church assigned to each Sunday?
- a. Prophet, Wisdom, Law, and History
 - b. Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament, and Gospel
 - c. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

MATCHING

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 7. __c__ Refutation | a. able |
| 8. __b__ Correction | b. fixing something wrong to make it right |
| 9. __d__ Righteousness | c. to prove something to be untrue |
| 10. __a__ Competent | d. being right and just (fair) |

11. Recite your memory verse. *The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary: (1) The Resurrection, (2) the Ascension, (3) the Descent of the Holy Spirit, (4) the Assumption of Mary into Heaven, and (5) the Coronation of Mary.*