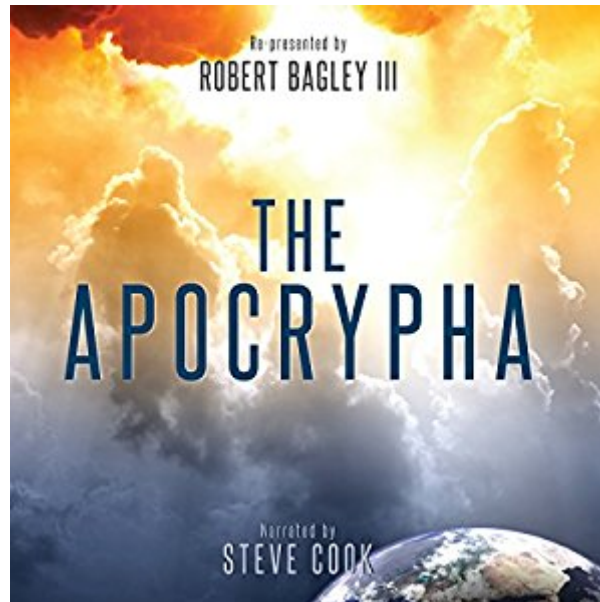




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The Apocrypha



Synopsis

Since 382 AD, when Saint Jerome began his historic revision of the Latin Bible, up to the present day version of these works, the books known collectively as the Biblical Apocrypha, or simply "the Apocrypha" have been distinguished by controversy, acceptance, inclusion, exclusion, and curiosity. The word "Apocrypha" originates from the Greek word ἀποκρυφός; which means "hidden", referencing to its selective state in different renditions of books - consequently, many have sought to discover why this is so. For many, this relates to a sense of the forbidden has swirled around these books, even though the Apocrypha was included in the Old Testament of the ancient historic churches. Others feel that it plays against their personal beliefs as well as the beliefs of others. When Jerome settled in Bethlehem in 388, he devoted the last 34 years of his life to translating the Old Testament from its original Hebrew text into Latin. He, as many other scholars to follow him, made notes about the Apocryphal books and their relative value in terms of scripture. Jerome completed "the Vulgate" in 405 AD. Upon his death on September 30th 420 AD Jerome was buried in Bethlehem making the Latin Vulgate the standard Bible for the Western world. The Apocrypha is considered to be valuable because it was included in the Greek translation of the primary Old Testament, named the Septuagint, or LXX, of the early Church. Seventy scholars completed the Septuagint, which roughly translated actually means "the Seventy". This translation would soon be known as the Old Testament which Jesus and His Apostles would have known. The books called the Apocrypha were written during the third to the first centuries BC. They would get their origins from such diverse places such as Alexandria (Egypt), Antioch (Syria), and Israel. Some of these books were written in Greek.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 16 hours and 26 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Rb3 Solutions, LLC

Audible.com Release Date: August 24, 2017

Language: English

ASIN: B07523RJGX

Best Sellers Rank: #39 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism

#81 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Additional Texts >

Apocrypha & Pseudepigrapha #117 in [Bible Study & Reference > Wisdom Literature](#)

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