

Old Testament Introduction

Assignment regarding the Apocrypha

Instructions:

Read the Apocryphal books of Tobit and Judith. Prepare a one page (typed, double spaced) explanation why these books are not in the Bible. You do not need to do a lot of historical research...your general knowledge should be enough to guide you.

Be careful that your criticisms, however, are genuine and not specious or such as could be applied to any phenomenal literature. If you can read and see no reason for their exclusion...read them again.

We are a bit prejudiced in this corner, of course, and some of the apocryphal books read better...some worse. But this should give you an idea of why the Jewish community, much of the Christian community, and the totality of the reformation community have always rejected these books as being part of the canon.

Incidentally, there is a lot of extra-biblical literature in both the Old and New Testament periods for which some extravagant claims are made. But the Apocryphal books are given far more attention than any others.

Enjoy yourself.

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