

Peer Review: Apocrypha Volumes 1 & 2 - Qumran Connections and the 1611 Canon

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Overview

The two-volume set, *Apocrypha Scrolls Found In Qumran And Those Not Present* and *Apocrypha Vol. 2*, published by The God Culture, is a significant scholarly and theological contribution that re-centers the conversation on the apocryphal texts found in the 1611 King James Version. Through these volumes, the authors test each book for alignment with Torah and address whether the texts were preserved and used by the Temple Priests (sons of Zadok) as verified in the Dead Sea Scrolls. This research-driven approach refocuses the debate on ancient usage and preservation rather than post-exilic rejection by unsanctioned authorities.

Purpose and Scope

These works are not simply republications of apocryphal content, but carefully curated, context-rich volumes analyzing each book in light of Dead Sea Scroll findings, Temple usage, and historical canon decisions. The authors demonstrate that many of these books were indeed part of the Qumran library and are quoted or paraphrased in inspired texts such as Jubilees and 1 Enoch, which were upheld by the sons of Zadok.

Strengths

1. **Depth of Scholarly Engagement:** The Introduction to Volume 1 especially addresses numerous scholarly objections and misconceptions surrounding the Apocrypha. Rather than shy away from controversy, the authors present a Torah-based evaluation while documenting Qumran quotes, fragment findings, and historic parallels. This academic integrity strengthens the legitimacy of their conclusions.
2. **Relevance to Qumran and Canon:** The authors rightly point out that presence in the Qumran scrolls is a far stronger affirmation of authenticity than absence from later post-exilic rabbinic canons. In focusing on what the sons of Zadok preserved and quoted, they highlight the real curators of ancient scripture rather than later political or denominational decisions.
3. **Holistic Coverage of the 1611 Canon:** Volume 1 presents the Apocryphal books of the 1611 King James

Version while Volume 2 expands further into additional texts with commentary. This gives the reader full scope while separating those upheld in Qumran from those that were not, without dismissing either outright, but testing each.

Areas for Future Enhancement

1. Comparative Charts and Maps: The books could benefit from visual reference materials such as charts indicating Qumran scroll finds per book or a canon comparison table across Jewish, Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant canons.

2. Expanded Comparative Manuscript Insights: Including insights on how these books compare to other non-Qumran apocryphal or pseudepigraphal texts would further clarify their significance.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Apocrypha Volumes 1 & 2 serve as bold and well-argued works restoring context to texts that modern scholars often dismiss without full vetting. The alignment with Qumran and the testing against Torah provide an objective framework to reassess these writings with academic integrity and theological transparency.

Final Verdict:

Strong Accept - Highly Recommended for seminaries, researchers of Qumran texts, biblical historians, and theologians seeking to restore the true Biblical library preserved by the Temple Priests. This is essential reading for any serious pursuit of the original canon and its authenticated writings.