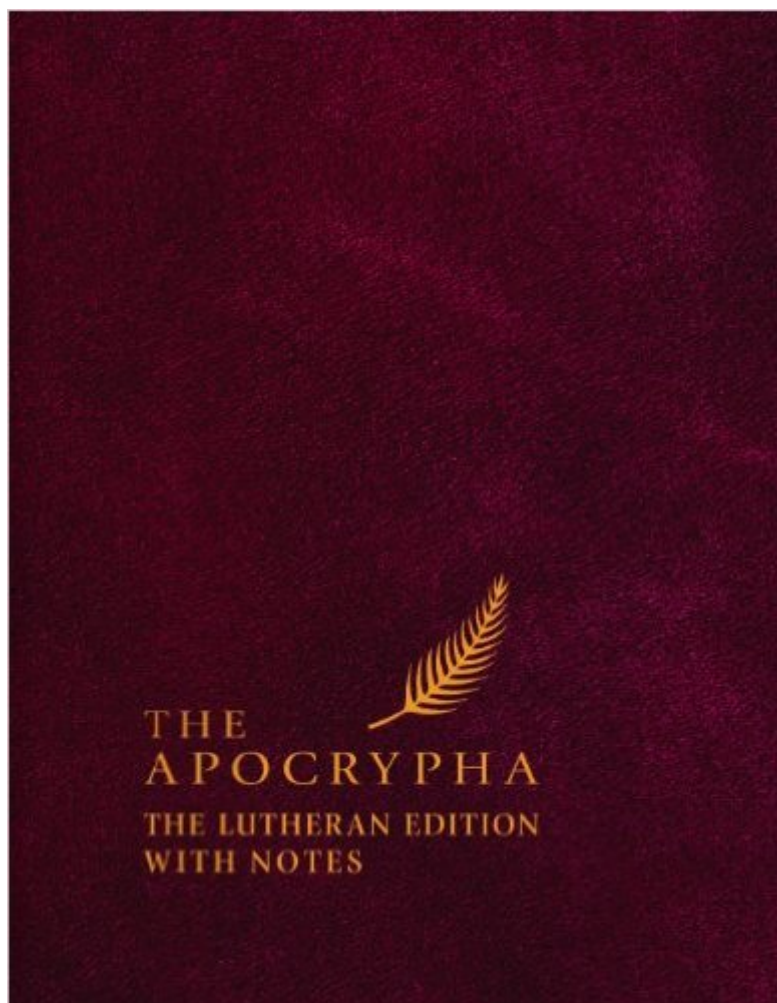


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The Apocrypha: The Lutheran Edition With Notes



Synopsis

For more than 100 years, the Apocrypha has been left out of English versions of the Bible. Concordia Publishing House is proud to announce the 2012 release of the first and only ESV edition of the Apocrypha with notes and annotations by Lutherans. Described by Martin Luther as useful texts to read, but not divinely inspired, the Apocrypha allows Lutherans to look back at their heritage and see the Bible as our forefathers would have. Furthermore, the texts of the Apocrypha are essential reading for filling in the 400-year gap between the Old and New Testaments. A key resource for understanding the New Testament's background, Concordia's The Apocrypha includes notes, maps, charts, illustrations, introductions to the books, and an extensive set of articles that provide guidance to those who are studying ancient literatures such as the Dead Sea Scrolls. This Study Bible-style treatment of the Apocrypha is certain to be the most extensive, popular edition available; especially to those eager to study the unique Lutheran perspective on these books and the time between the testaments. Features of The Apocrypha

ESV text
Lutheran notes
Maps
Charts
Illustrations
Book introductions
Helpful articles

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Customer Reviews

Martin Luther may indeed have declared the Apocryphal books not to be read as equal in authority to the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, but he also went through the great trouble of translating them and supported the expense of printing them between the testaments in his German Bible. This study edition is a major step toward recovering that healthful heritage of "non-canonical,

but not forgotten!" Dr. Engelbrecht, his staff, and his editorial team are to be heartily commended for their assembling of such a variety and abundance of aids to reading the text of the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical books. At the heart of the book is the complete ESV text of the expanded Apocrypha (that is, including 1 & 2 Esdras, 3 & 4 Maccabees, Prayer of Manasseh, and Psalm 151 on top of the classical collection of Apocrypha found in the Roman Catholic Old Testament). There are generous explanatory notes for each of the classical Apocryphal texts, as well as introductions orienting the reader to the historical setting of its composition, its contents, and -- in a brilliant move for orienting largely Protestant readers to these texts -- its "challenges" and "blessings" for readers. In keeping with the Lutheran emphasis of the publication, there are also sections quoting Martin Luther and Johann Gerhard on the status and value of the particular book. Regrettably, there are no annotations for the "extra" apocrypha; also regrettably, the introductions to those books only list "challenges for readers," dispensing with the section "blessings for readers.

CPH has given the church a tremendous resource in "The Apocrypha: The Lutheran Edition with Notes." The text itself has, of course, been previously available. The ESV Apocrypha has been available for three years, but only, as far as I am aware, in an Oxford Bible, an edition with very thin pages and lots of bleed through and printed in an odd font that both make it hard to read, and bound with the Old and New Testaments, but with the Apocrypha appended at the end of the NT instead of between the testaments. But the best part of this volume is found in the many articles and other resources before and after, as well as, of course, in the notes at the foot of the pages of most of the Apocryphal books. One of the neat articles is one about WHY the Apocrypha is largely not found in most English bibles today. I have to say that this is by far the best one-volume resource on the Apocrypha. Absolutely. If you are looking for further resources on the Apocrypha, there are a few available. The Anchor Bible Commentary Series has a number of volumes on the Apocryphal books. The Anchor Bible Commentators generally take a very liberal approach to the Scriptures, a point of view that usually turns me off. However, I don't know if it is my own perspective on the Apocrypha or the fact that many people feel like they just HAVE to downplay the canonical scriptures and are more fair in dealing with other texts. Either way, from what I have read in the Anchor Bible, the generally liberal bias is not such a problem with these volumes. (They are also a little older, and so are available used at very reasonable prices on .com) Another resource is The Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. This had been planned to be a two volume set on the Apocrypha.

I absolutely recommend this magnificent work to anyone who is interested in the books of the OT that are called deuterio-canonical or apocrypha. Even though this work is centered around Lutheranism's views on and interpretation of these books, Anglicans, Orthodox, and Roman Catholics will each gain a great deal from study of this masterpiece. The "Table of Contents" to this magnum opus immediately alerts the reader to the vast scope and erudition within. It is too voluminous to list in full detail. But here are the sections and many of their components:- Front Matter, including Contributors, Acknowledgements, Foreward, The Engravings, Editor's Preface, Preface to ESV Apocrypha, Features, and Reading Guide.- An Introduction to the Apocrypha and the Time Between the Testaments, covering 13 areas starting with "Getting Started" and ending with "Theological Teachings of the Time Between..."- The Appocrypha: Arrangement of Books and Title Variations- The Compositions: Judith, Wisdom, Tobit, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, Letter of Jeremiah- The Histories: 1 & 2 Maccabees- The Additions: Eshter, Susanna, Bel and the Dragon- The Prayers and Songs: Prayer of Azariah, Song of the Three Holy Children, Prayer of ManassehNOTE: Each of the above books, the books in Luther's Bible, has extensive footnotes, while those listed below do not. The same applies for the lovely engravings which are only in the books above; they are by Julius Schnorr von Carlsfeld out of his engravings for Luther's translation of the Bible (1860).- The Apocryphal Books in Other Christian Traditions: starting with three short essays and then 1 & 2 Esdras, 3 & 4 Maccabees, and Psalm 151.

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