

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.
Jackson, TN 38305
oldhickorycofc.com

June 11, 2023

Volume 43, # 24

Are Books Missing From The Bible?

There is a popular assumption among some, that there are other books or epistles that should be in our Bible. The idea is that these writings have been lost down through the ages, or were intentionally left out by scribes over the years. Of course, those who make this claim, attempt to get us to accept something else as a rule of faith to go along with the Bible.

Some years ago, I had a study for several weeks with some so-called Mormon "elders." I say "so-called" because the Bible teaches that elders are older married men with children and certain other qualifications (see 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5). (Note: elders and bishops or overseers] are terms which refer to the same people; see Titus 1:5, 7 and Acts 20:17, 28.) During this study, these Mormons gave me a list of "Books the Bible talks about, but it doesn't contain, which makes it not perfect and complete." I answered this list of Books not in the Bible and gave it to the Mormons, but they decided it was time to go and never responded. I share their list and my answers to them with you here.

1. Book of the Covenant - Exodus 24:7. No missing book here. The book of the covenant was simply the book where the covenant was written. We find this covenant in Exodus and Deuteronomy.

2. Book of Wars - Numbers 21:14. "It would seem from the fragment in vv. 14b, 15 that the Book of the Wars of the Lord (v. 14a) was a collection of popular songs, like the book of Jasher (Joshua 10:13; 2 Samuel 1:18), made perhaps in the early days of the monarchy to preserve some of the most notable traditions of the tribes" (The Interpreter's Bible 11:244).

3. Book of Jasher - see answer number 2.

4. Book of the Acts of Solomon - 1 Kings 11:41. "There were other writings extant at the times covered by the biblical ones, besides those included in the Bible; inspired writers referred to them (Joshua 10:13; 2 Samuel 1:18; Acts 17:28)" (E.M. Zerr, Commentary I:110).

5. Books of Nathan and Gad - 1 Chronicles 29:29. Nathan and Gad were historians of David and Solomon's reign. See The Jewish Encyclopedia. They could certainly write things other than what God inspired them to write. And others could refer to these writings.

6. Book of Jehu - 2 Chronicles 20:34. He was another history writer and, like others, could write without God's inspiration upon him.

7. Another epistle of Paul - 1 Corinthians 5:9. If there is a missing epistle, we can be assured that the Holy Spirit saw fit to include all of that teaching in other epistles (as is here indicated). There is no evidence that any necessary Truth has been left out of the New Testament (see Matthew 24:35).

8. Another epistle of Paul to the Ephesians - Ephesians 3:3. To get another (missing) letter out of this is a grand assumption! As we have it, Paul had already written two chapters before what he was now writing. Why think he had anything else in mind?

9. A former epistle of Jude - Jude 3. This is simply wishful thinking!

10. Prophecy of Enoch - Jude 14. No mention is made in this verse of Enoch's having written his prophecies. The Holy Spirit knew of these prophecies, so informed Jude that we might know at least one of them.

If one is truly interested in Truth, he will "study to shew (himself) approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15) and believe, not fight against, the Bible. The Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia, quoted by E.M. Zerr at 1 Kings 14:19 says, "Chronicles contains a reliable history, being drawn from the official records of the Israelites." Let us not be like atheists, agnostics, or infidels and find fault with, and try to tear down, people's belief in the Bible, God's word. When we have a genuine question about something in the Bible, rather than condemn the Bible, let us really study and find out the right answer to the problem. If we have the kind of faith God expects us to have, we will trust the Bible, because we know it is God's Truth. There may be some things I do not know or understand right now, but I can have faith in the Bible because of what I do know!

I pointed out these things to the Mormons and then asked, "Since the Book of Mormon makes the claim 'that there are many plain and precious things taken away from the book' (referring to the Bible, mlg) - 1 Nephi 13:28, why don't we find the so-called 'missing' books, as listed by you, in the Book of Mormon or other 'new revelations'?" They never would give me an answer! And I think I know why - they see they are trapped! These so-called 'missing' books were never intended to be in the Bible and their "new" revelation is not from God.

It is a sad truth, but no book has ever been more abused, more attacked, or more criticized than the Bible. With all the attacks heaped upon it over the years, by those claiming to be its friends, as well as its enemies, not one genuine fault has ever been found which stands upon investigation. It does not contradict one scientific fact, nor has any of its history been found to be in error. It is truly the Book given by God's inspiration (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Let us put our faith in it!

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). "Let God be true, but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4).

- Michael Garrison, *Guardian of Truth*, 11/05/1992

Check Your Feet!

One of the good results when man obeys God is that his feet will not slip: "My steps have held fast to Your paths. My feet have not slipped." (Psalm 17:5). He assures the stability of His people: "He keeps the feet of His godly ones, But the wicked ones are silenced in darkness; For not by might shall a man prevail." (1 Samuel 2:9). The deer hunter is well aware of the sure-footed characteristics of his prey; the animal negotiates rough terrain with graceful ease. Such is the picture of the righteous: "The Lord GOD is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' feet, And makes me walk on my high places." (Habakkuk 3:19; cf. 2 Samuel 22:34). God guards the feet of His people!

What better guardian of Man's feet could be found? Guided by the lamp of God's Word (Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."), Jehovah's people walk in an established path of firm, level ground (Proverbs 4:26; Psalm 26:12). "He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm." (Psalm 40:2). He orders their footsteps for the greatest benefit possible: "so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed" (Hebrews 12:13). The gospel of Luke indicated that one of Christ's purposes in coming was, "TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, To guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:79). Those in darkness were the ones who had "A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil," (Proverbs 6:18), or "Their feet run to evil, And they hasten to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, Devastation and destruction are in their highways." (Isaiah 59:7; cf. Proverbs 1:16). Jeremiah declared, "Thus says the LORD to this people, "Even so they have loved to wander; they have not kept their feet in check. Therefore the LORD does not accept them; now He will remember their iniquity and call their sins to account." (Jeremiah 14:10).

Man needs the security of footsteps that are guided by the Lord! "I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word." (Psalm 119:101). "Our heart has not turned back, And our steps have not deviated from Your way," (Psalm 44:18). "The law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip." (Psalm 37:31). These are the ones who are kept in life because of the security of their footsteps (Psalm 66:9). "For You have delivered my soul from death, Indeed my feet from stumbling, So that I may walk before God In the light of the living." (Psalm 56:13).

Man on his own, without God, is certainly far from sure-footed! He needs rescue from consequences of the places wayward feet will take him. Those who have given themselves to the evil one fully intend harm to the righteous. Notice a psalm of David: "Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; Preserve me from violent men Who have purposed to trip up my feet." (Psalm 140:4).

Rejoice, that the ever-vigilant heavenly Father "will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber." (Psalm 121:3). When I perform a misstep and my foot becomes entrapped, still "My eyes are continually toward the LORD, For He will pluck my feet out of the net." (Psalm 25:15). Praise Jehovah as the Psalmist does: "For You have rescued my soul from death, My eyes from tears, My feet from stumbling." (Psalm 116:8).

Check your feet, fellow Christian! Are they "shod . . . with the preparation of the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:15)? "How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" (Isaiah 52:7; cf. Romans 10:15). Beautiful are the feet of those who carry the gospel of peace and salvation to others!

- Gary Smalley

* "Humility leads to strength. It is the highest form of self-respect to admit mistakes, and make amends for them!"

* "Many people are willing to give God the credit, but few will give Him the cash!"

* "The most impressive sermons are the ones that leave you wondering how the preacher knew about you!"

* "The minds of some people are like water: always seeking the lowest level!"

* "People who mind their own business usually succeed - they have so little competition!"

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

HEAR THE GOSPEL

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

REPENT OF PAST SINS

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

CONFESS CHRIST

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

BE BAPTIZED

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)