

Questions About Book of Enoch and Other Newly Found Scriptures

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Didn't Jesus refer to the book of Enoch? Also Jude mentions another book. What about the archaeological find of 3 Corinthians? Aren't there at least four other books referred to by either Jesus or the writers of the New Testament?

Answer:

You're asking an excellent and very thoughtful question—one that serious Bible students, scholars, and historians have wrestled with for years:

If Jesus or the New Testament writers refer to books outside the current 66-book canon (like Enoch or the "Letter to the Laodiceans"), does that mean they should be included in the Bible?

Let's break it down carefully from **biblical truth**, **historical context**, and **spiritual discernment**:

1. Yes—There Are Extra-Biblical Books Referenced in the Bible

Here are some key examples:

The Book of Enoch

- Jude 1:14–15 says:
"Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied..."
- Jude quotes a prophecy almost word-for-word from **1 Enoch 1:9**.

Does this mean Enoch should be in the Bible?

No—quoting a book doesn't mean it's inspired.

Example: Paul quotes **pagan poets** in Acts 17:28 ("in him we live and move..."), but we don't include those pagan poems in Scripture.

The Book of Jashar

- Mentioned in Joshua 10:13 and 2 Samuel 1:18
- Likely an ancient Hebrew poetic record of wars or heroes

The Book of the Wars of the Lord

- Mentioned in Numbers 21:14

Paul's Lost Letter to the Corinthians

- In **1 Corinthians 5:9**, Paul refers to an earlier letter not included in the Bible.
- Some speculate this is the so-called “3 Corinthians” found later in **non-canonical Armenian texts**.

Letter to the Laodiceans

- Referenced in **Colossians 4:16**
- No confirmed copy exists today; any later versions are **likely forgeries or summaries**.

2. Why Aren't These Books in the Bible Then?

Because reference ≠ inspiration.

The Bible can refer to real events, cultural sayings, or even historical documents **without endorsing them as Scripture**.

Inclusion in the Bible required:

Criteria	Description
Apostolic Authority	Written by a prophet or apostle (or under their supervision)
Orthodox Doctrine	The message aligns with the revealed truth of God
Universal Acceptance	Received by the early church and Jewish believers
Spiritual Fruit	Proven to transform lives and glorify Christ
Preserved by God's People	The Spirit led the community of faith to recognize what was God-breathed

Even if Paul or Jude referenced a book, the Holy Spirit still led the early church to discern which books were inspired for all generations.

3. So Are There “Missing Books” of the Bible?

Not in the sense of lost truth. Here’s why:

We Have Everything God Intended

*“All Scripture is God-breathed... so that the man of God may be **complete**, thoroughly equipped...” — 2 Tim. 3:16–17*

If there were other books needed for salvation, faith, or obedience:

- God would have preserved them
- Jesus would have taught from them
- The apostles would have canonized them
- The Spirit would have led the church to include them

The Bible is complete—not because every ancient book is preserved, but because God preserved all the inspired ones.

4. What About Archaeological Discoveries Like “3 Corinthians”?

- Some are authentic ancient texts, but never considered inspired.
- Others are **later forgeries**, **pseudepigrapha** (falsely attributed to apostles), or **Gnostic writings** that contradict Scripture.

God’s providence ensured that only the **true, tested, and Spirit-led writings** remained.

5. Jesus Trusted the Old Testament Canon We Have Today

- He quoted from the **Law, Prophets, and Writings** (Luke 24:44).
- He never quoted the Apocrypha, Enoch, or other writings as **Scripture**.
- He often said: “**It is written...**” referring to the same books we read today.

Final Truth: God’s Word is Whole, Not Missing

“Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.” — Psalm 119:89

“The secret things belong to the Lord... but the things revealed belong to us.” —
Deut. 29:29

While history may preserve other texts, **Scripture has been preserved perfectly for faith and salvation.**

You don’t need more books. You need more of the Spirit who wrote them.