

11. "Haven't certain books of the Bible been lost?"

No. The supposedly lost books of the Bible that have been found, the so-called gospels of Thomas, Philip, and Mary Magdalene, were not lost gospels; they were pseudo gospels that the early church rejected as uninspired, spurious writings. The Christian church was familiar with these documents but purposely left them out of the Bible, easily recognizing that they were not divinely inspired.

We too can be certain these books do not belong in the Bible. First, they were not written by any of the apostles or their close associates (such as Mark or Luke). Most scholars, Christian and non-Christian, date these Gnostic gospels to the second and third centuries, long after the time of Christ. Secondly, these writings contradict authentic revelation.

You can be absolutely confident that God, who inspired the men to pen the words of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21), saw to it that none of the inspired writings were lost. We would be foolish to think that an all-knowing, all-powerful God could lose track of books He intended to put in the Bible (or anything else for that matter).

On the Bible:

"I must say, that having for many years made the evidences of Christianity the subject of close study, the result has been a firm and increasing conviction of the authenticity and plenary inspiration of the Bible. It is indeed the Word of God."

Simon Greenleaf (1783-1853), professor and founder of Harvard Law School. Correspondence with the American Bible Society, November 6, 1852.

"For eighteen centuries every engine of destruction that human science, philosophy, wit, reasoning or brutality could bring to bear against a book has been brought to bear against that book to stamp it out of the world, but it has a mightier hold on the world today than ever before. If that were man's book it would have been annihilated and forgotten hundreds of years ago."

R.A. Torrey (1856-1928), author and dean of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. Charles Leach and R.A. Torrey, *Our Bible: How We Got It and Ten Reasons Why I Believe the Bible Is the Word of God* (The Bible Institute Colportage Association, 1898).