

Argument 10: Canon Closed — No New Scripture — Cheat Sheet

Their Claim in One Sentence

Revelation 22:18-19 closes the biblical canon permanently; new scripture (Book of Mormon, D&C) is forbidden.

The Devastating Counter: Deuteronomy 4:2

If Revelation 22:18-19 closes the entire Bible, then **Deuteronomy 4:2** — "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it" — closes the canon at Deuteronomy. That eliminates:

- Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings
- All the Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel...)
- Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
- **The entire New Testament**

Also **Proverbs 30:5-6**: "Add thou not unto his words." Written centuries before Christ. Same logic would eliminate everything after Proverbs.

The point: "Do not add" warnings prohibit *human tampering with God's word* — not God Himself from speaking again.

Revelation 22:18-19 — What It Actually Says

- **"This book"** = the Book of Revelation (the scroll John was writing)
- The Bible as a compiled volume **did not exist** when John wrote this
- The 27-book NT canon was not settled until **397 AD** (Council of Carthage)
- Several NT books may have been written *after* Revelation

Lost Scriptures Referenced IN the Bible

Reference	Lost Text
1 Cor 5:9	Paul's earlier letter to the Corinthians
Col 4:16	Paul's letter to the Laodiceans
Num 21:14	Book of the Wars of the Lord
Josh 10:13; 2 Sam 1:18	Book of Jasher
1 Chr 29:29	Books of Samuel, Nathan, and Gad the seer
2 Chr 9:29	Book of Nathan, prophecy of Ahijah, visions of Iddo
Jude 14-15	Quotes the Book of Enoch (non-canonical in Protestant/Catholic Bibles)

The Bible itself testifies that inspired writings exist beyond its current contents.

The Canon Was NOT Quickly or Easily Settled

Date	Event
c. 140 AD	Marcion creates first "canon" — rejected by the Church
c. 170 AD	Muratorian Fragment — includes Apocalypse of Peter, omits Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter
c. 200-300	Origen notes 2 Peter, 2-3 John, James, Jude are <i>disputed</i>
325 AD	Eusebius puts Revelation in BOTH "recognized" and "spurious" categories
367 AD	Athanasius's Festal Letter — first list matching modern 27-book NT
393 AD	Council of Hippo affirms list
397 AD	Council of Carthage confirms

Christians disagree on the canon TODAY:

- Protestant: 66 books
- Catholic: 73 books
- Ethiopian Orthodox: 81 books

If God closed the canon, He forgot to tell everyone what's in it.

Key Scriptures FOR an Open Canon

Verse	Point
John 21:25	Not everything Jesus did is recorded
Amos 3:7	God reveals through prophets — no expiration date
Isa 29:11-14	Sealed book + marvelous work to come
Ezek 37:16-17	Stick of Judah + Stick of Joseph joined
Acts 3:19-21	"Restitution of all things" before Christ returns
John 16:12-13	"I have yet many things to say unto you"
2 Nephi 29:3-10	The Lord's direct response to closed-canon thinking

One-Line Objection Responses

Objection	Response
"Rev 22:18-19 closes the Bible!"	"This book" = Revelation. Apply the same logic to Deut 4:2 and you lose everything after Deuteronomy, including the NT.
"The councils settled it!"	After 400 years of disagreement. Christians still can't agree (66, 73, or 81 books). These were human decisions, not prophetic declarations.
"New scripture undermines the Bible!"	The Book of Mormon <i>confirms</i> the Bible. It's called "Another Testament of Jesus Christ."
"If we accept the Book of Mormon, we must accept the Quran!"	Each text is evaluated on its own merits. Accepting one doctor doesn't mean accepting every person who claims to be one.
"The Bible is sufficient!"	The Bible references its own missing books (Paul's lost letters, Book of Jasher). 45,000 denominations prove the Bible alone hasn't produced unity.
"Opening the canon opens the door to fraud!"	Same argument could reject Isaiah (Torah existed), Daniel (Isaiah existed), or any NT book (OT existed). God gives tests for prophets (Deut 18:20-22).

LDS Position

Article of Faith 8: "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."

Article of Faith 9: "We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God."

- Additional scripture **witnesses** the Bible, doesn't replace it
- An open canon = a God who keeps speaking
- A closed canon = a God who went silent 2,000 years ago

The Knockout Question

"Deuteronomy 4:2 says 'Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you.' If that didn't close the canon — and you accept everything from Joshua through Revelation — then why does the identical language in Revelation 22:18 close it?"

Resources

- [FAIR: Revelation 22:18-19](#)
- [FAIR: Lost Scripture](#)
- [FAIR: Closed Canon](#)
- [Church: Book of Mormon](#)