

INTRODUCTION TO SACRED SCRIPTURE

The word Bible comes from the Greek word Biblia which means 'Books'. The Bible is a "collection of many and diverse books written by different authors over several centuries for different audiences... Although composed of many books, the Bible is, at the same time, one Book, because it contains one Revelation and has one divine Author." (Apologetics and Catholic Doctrine by Archbishop Michael Sheehan, revised by Fr. Peter Joseph, 2001, p 247)

So, what does the Church tell us about Sacred Scripture?

In order to complete this introductory study, you will read through **paragraphs 11-24 of the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and paragraphs 101-141 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church** and complete the **SACRED SCRIPTURE RESPONSE SHEET (5 pages)**. The questions are in sections and tell you which paragraphs to read in order to find the answers.

The main focus is to read and understand what the compendium and the catechism tell us, not just to seek and find answers to the questions. It may be best to read through and reflect on paragraphs 11-24 and 101-141 before even looking at the questions.

You can download the relevant compendium and catechism pages from the diocesan website- '**Sacred Scripture Reading Material**'

When completed please post your Response Sheet to:

Barbara Chigwidden
PO Box 473
205 Tarcutta Street
Wagga Wagga 2650

If you need any help please do not hesitate to contact me 0429203047 or catechist@wagga.catholic.org.au

NAME: _____ PARISH: _____ DATE: _____

SACRED SCRIPTURE RESPONSE SHEET

COMPENDIUM OF THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Read paragraphs 11-17

1. Sacred Scripture

- a) Is the written form of the same proclamation of salvation as the living transmission of the word of God (Tradition)
- b) Is the written form proclaiming salvation, but differs from the living transmission of the word of God (Tradition)

Read paragraphs 18-24

2. Why is Sacred Scripture said to be inspired and to teach without error those truths which are necessary for salvation?

- a) Because the human authors knew what they were writing about and could not make a mistake
- b) Because God himself is the author of Sacred Scripture, the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors who wrote what he wanted to teach us

3. The Church exhorts all to read Sacred Scripture

- a) Rarely, because you will hear the Readings at Mass each Sunday
- b) At prayerful gatherings when you are able to discuss what you have read with others
- c) Frequently because "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ" (St Jerome)
- d) As often as possible, it is helpful to read the Bible

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHRIST- THE UNIQUE WORD OF SACRED SCRIPTURE

Read paragraphs 101-104

1. Which of the following is NOT TRUE?

- a) In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength
- b) The Church welcomes Sacred Scripture not as a human word, but as the word of God
- c) The Church does not venerate the Scriptures
- d) One and the same Word of God extends throughout Scripture

INSPIRATION AND TRUTH OF SACRED SCRIPTURE

Read paragraphs 105-108

2. Which of the following is NOT TRUE?

- a) God inspired the human authors of the sacred books making full use of their own faculties and powers therefore they are true authors consigning to writing what God wanted written and no more
- b) Christian faith is a "religion of the book"
- c) God is the author of Sacred Scripture
- d) The books of the Scripture firmly, faithfully and without error teach the truth

THE HOLY SPIRIT, INTERPRETER OF SCRIPTURE

Read paragraphs 109-114

Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written.

3. The Second Vatican Council indicated three criteria for interpreting Scripture in accordance with the Spirit who inspired it. Which of the following IS NOT one of the criteria?

- a) Be attentive to the content and unity of the whole Scripture
- b) Read within the living Tradition of the whole Church
- c) Be attentive to the imagery
- d) Be attentive to the analogy of faith

THE SENSES OF SCRIPTURE

Read paragraphs: 115-119

4. The two senses of Scripture are

- a) Literal and Imagery
- b) Literal and Spiritual
- c) Spiritual and Imagery

5. The 3 subdivisions of the Spiritual sense are:

- a) Allegorical, Moral and Anagogical
- b) Allegorical, Moral and Literal
- c) Allegorical, Anagogical and Literal
- d) Anagogical, Moral and Literal

6. Match the following by placing the corresponding letter in the box

a) The Letter		to faith
b) Allegory		our destiny
c) The Moral		speaks of deeds
d) Anagogy		how to act

THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE

Read paragraphs 120-130

7. How many books are in the Old and New Testaments?

- a) Old Testament 46 (45 if we count Jeremiah and Lamentations as one) & New Testament 28
- b) Old Testament 46 (45 if we count Jeremiah and Lamentations as one) & New Testament 25
- c) Old Testament 27 (26 if we count Jeremiah and Lamentations as one) & New Testament 46
- d) Old Testament 46 (45 if we count Jeremiah and Lamentations as one) & New Testament 27

8. List the following books as belonging either to the Old Testament or the New Testament in the table below. Ephesians, Luke, Judges, Proverbs, Micah, Philippians, 1 John, Psalms, Jeremiah, Galatians, Revelation (the Apocalypse), Jude, Song of Songs, Judith, Mark.

Old Testament	New Testament

9. Name the Four Gospels:

10. The Gospels are the heart of all the Scriptures because:

- a) They are in the middle of the Bible
- b) They are our principal source of the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Saviour
- c) They are the first books of the New Testament
- d) They were written so close to the time of Jesus

11. The order of the stages in the formation of the Gospels was:

- a) The written Gospels, the life and teaching of Jesus, the oral tradition
- b) The oral tradition of the apostles, the written Gospels, the life and teaching of Jesus
- c) The life and teaching of Jesus, the written Gospels, the oral tradition
- d) The life and teaching of Jesus, the oral tradition, the written Gospels

12. Complete the sentence (it is in one of the paragraphs you have read)

“The New Testament lies _____ in the Old and the Old Testament is _____ in the New.”

SACRED SCRIPTURE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Read paragraphs 131-133

13. Complete this famous quote of St. Jerome (found in the passage you have just read)

Ignorance of the _____ is ignorance of _____.

***See the Page 6 to complete the final part of your introduction to Sacred Scripture**

IN BRIEF

Read paragraphs 134-141

14. Complete the sentences by putting in the missing words.

134 "All Sacred Scripture is but one _____, and that one book is _____, because all divine Scripture speaks of Christ, and all divine Scripture is fulfilled in Christ" (Hugh of St. Victor, De arca Noe 2, 8: PL 176, 642).

135 "The Sacred Scriptures contain the Word of God and, because they are _____, they are truly the Word of God" (Dei Verbum, 24).

136 God is the author of Sacred Scripture because he inspired its _____ authors; he acts in them and by means of them. He thus gives _____ that their writings teach without _____ his saving truth (cf DV 11).

137 _____ of the inspired Scripture must be attentive above all to what God wants to reveal through the sacred authors for our salvation. What comes from the Spirit is not fully "understood except by the _____ action" (cf. Origen, Hom. in Ex. 4, 5: PG 12, 320).

138 The Church accepts and _____ as inspired the 46 books of the Old Testament and the _____ books of the New.

139 The four Gospels occupy a central place because Christ Jesus is their _____.

140 The unity of the two Testaments proceeds from the _____ of God's plan and his Revelation. The Old Testament _____ for the New and the New Testament _____ the Old; the two shed _____ on each other; both are _____ Word of God.

141 "The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she venerated the Body of the Lord" (DV 21): both nourish and govern the whole _____ life. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps 119:105; Is 50:4)

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____