



**SESSION 2:
PART 1:
THE BIBLE**

THE BIBLE

The Word breathed into life by God through the work of many. It is God's self-communication transmitting His divine self and divine revelation. It is meant to bring us into relationship with God.

God's revelation to us about God's own hidden and mysterious self and God's relationship to us has been given not in order that we may just speculate about it, but in order that we may live it.

- The Bible consists of 73 Books
- 46 books in the Old Testament
- 27 books in the New Testament
- *Refer to the Catholic Biblical Handout for the breakdown of sections of the Bible



THE HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

The original Hebrew (Tanak) had 3 parts:

- 1) The Law (Torah: Nab'im)
- 2) Prophets (neb'im)
- 3) Writings (Ketuvim)

The Greek (Septuagint aka LXX) had

4 Parts:

- 1) Law
- 2) Historical Books
- 3) Wisdom Books
- 4) The Prophets

The first 5 Books of the Bible are known as the Pentateuch or Torah
Torah is Hebrew meaning "Law"

The Greek version of the 5 original scrolls was known as the **Pentateuch**= which translates the 5 Scrolls or 5 books (G,E, L, N, D)

The first 5 books in the Torah and Pentateuch are:

- 1) Genesis
- 2) Exodus
- 3) Leviticus
- 4) Numbers
- 5) Deuteronomy

Key Points to a Catholic Understanding of the Bible

- The Holy Bible communicates God's love and reveals God through Mystery
- It is inspired
- OT and NT are necessary
- The Magisterium guides and preserves the interpretation
- The Magisterium plays a special role in the explanation and proclamation of the written Word of God
- Contains the divinely inspired account of God's Divine Revelation to mankind

WHO WAS SAINT JEROME?

- Saint Jerome in 377 AD became the secretary to Pope Damasus 1. Because of his expertise in Scripture, St. Jerome was commissioned to revise the Latin translations of the New Testament. He was skilled in both Greek and Hebrew. He was strongly committed to preserving the role of the Hebrew Old Testament in the Church which was referred to as “Hebrew Truth.” Initially, he was opposed to adding the extra books from the Greek translation, but did end up adding the deuterocanonical books to the Latin Vulgate

WHAT IS THE CRITERIA TO BE CONTAINED IN THE CANON?

- 1) Orthodox (in belief)
- 2) Universal (widespread)
- 3) Liturgical (used in liturgy)
- 4) Apostolic (from the apostles or their direct followers)

WHY DOES THIS MATTER TODAY?

- Due to Jerome’s hesitancy to add the deuterocanonical books and the Jewish faith landing on less books, it is believed these are some reasons why they were dropped in the Reformation

WHAT BOOKS ARE THE DEUTERO-CANONICAL BOOKS (AKA APOCRYPHA)?

- Tobit
- Judith
- 1 Maccabees
- 2nd Maccabees
- Wisdom
- Sirach
- Baruch

“To be ignorant of Scripture is not to know Christ.” St. Jerome

“All Scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correcting, for instructing in justice; that the man of God may be perfect, equipped for every good work.” St. Paul, 2 Timothy 3:16

HOW DO CATHOLICS READ THE BIBLE? THROUGH 2 SENSES: SPIRITUAL AND LITERAL

SPIRITUAL- Signs: in 4 specific ways

- 1) **Literal interpretation:** explanation of the meaning of events for historical purposes from a neutral perspective by trying to understand the text in the culture and time it was written, and location and language it was composed in. That is, since the 19th century, usually ascertained using the higher critical methods like source criticism and form criticism.
- 2) **Moral interpretation:** "the moral of the story" or how one should act now. Many of Jesus' parables and the Book of Proverbs and other wisdom books are packed with Moral Meanings
- 3) **Anagogical interpretation:** dealing with the future events of Christian history (eschatology) as well as heaven, purgatory, hell, the last judgement, the General Resurrection and second Advent of Christ, etc. (prophecies)
- 4) **Typological or Allegorical interpretation:** connecting the events of the Old Testament with the New Testament, particularly drawing allegorical connections between the events of Christ's life with the stories of the Old Testament. Also, a passage speaks directly to someone such as when St. Francis of Assisi heard the passage to sell all he had. It can also typologically point to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is the ark which held the Word of God; Judith, who slew a tyrant is a Marian type; the burning bush, which contains the fire of God but was not consumed, as Mary held the Second Person of the Trinity in her womb but was not burnt up.

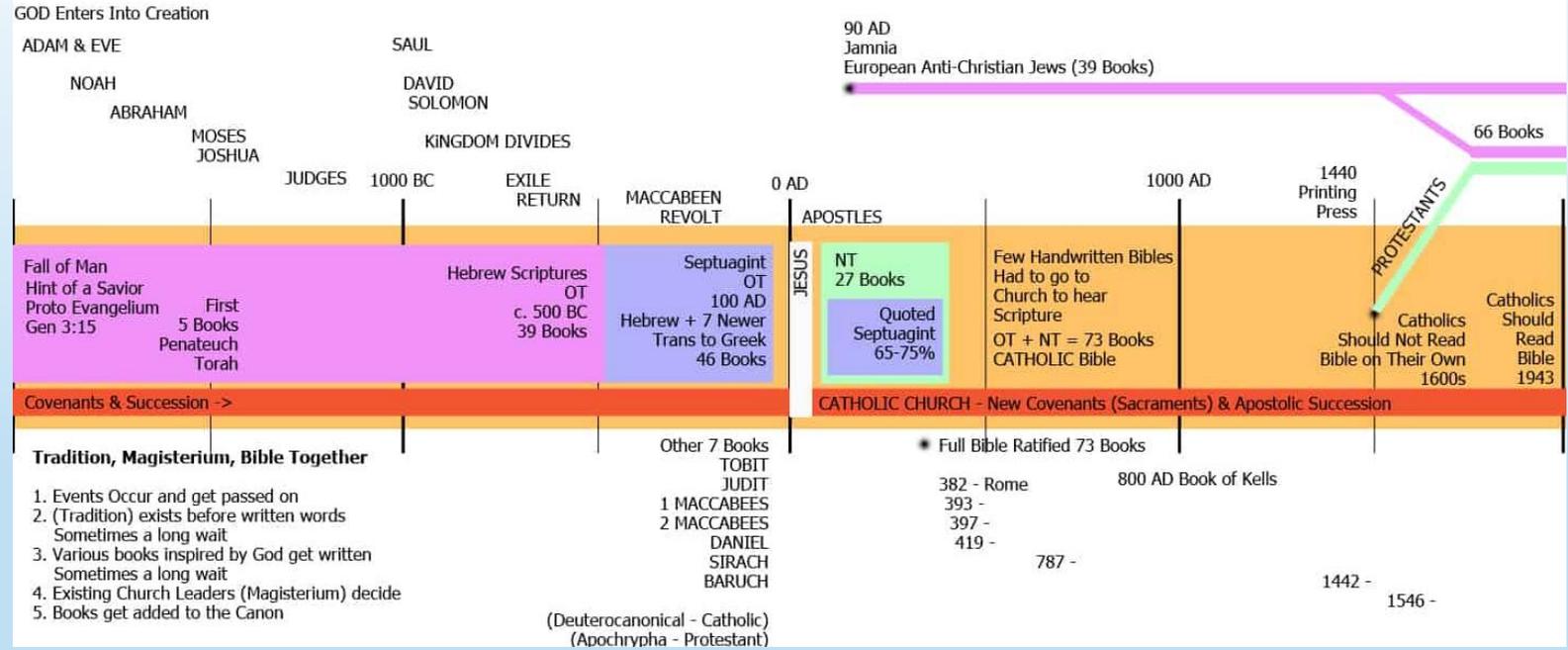
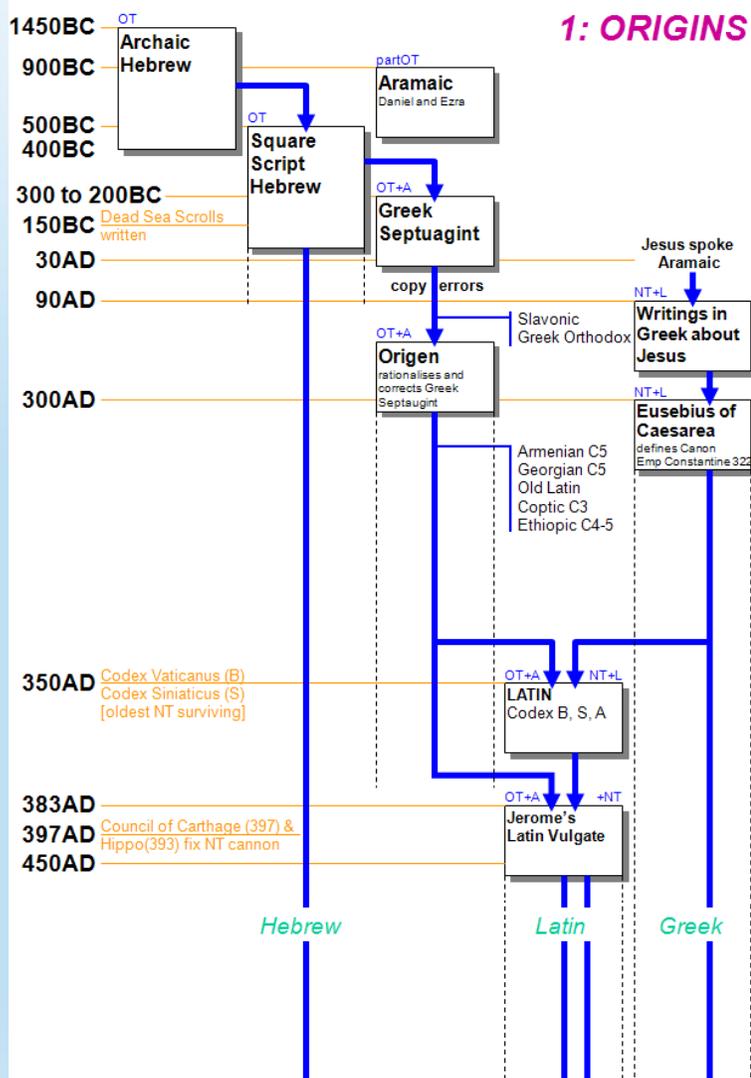
LITERAL- What is literally contained in the context

The literal sense refers to **the sense of the words themselves**; it is "that which has been expressed directly by the inspired human authors."

It has been variously described as the verbal or grammatical sense, **the plain sense, the sense the human author intended, the sense the divine author intended, the historical sense, and even the obvious sense**. Underlying these various descriptions is the notion that "the literal sense is the meaning conveyed by the words of Scripture."

The literal sense is discovered by careful and attentive study of the biblical text using all **interpretive tools** available, such as grammatical aids, archaeological evidence, historical and literary analyses, sociological and anthropological studies, and whatever else can be called upon to expand one's knowledge of the historical and literary context of the text and thereby gain a better understanding of the literal sense of the biblical text.

This importance was reiterated in Pope Pius XII', "Let the Catholic exegete undertake the task, of all those imposed on him the greatest, that namely of **discovering and expounding the genuine meaning of the Sacred Books**. In the performance of this task let the interpreters bear in mind that their foremost and greatest endeavor should be to discern and define clearly that sense of the biblical words which is called literal."



HOW DID THE BIBLE COME TOGETHER OVER TIME?

SESSION 2: PART 2

**THE STORY OF
SALVATION**

GOD GAVE LIFE

**GOD HAS A PURPOSE
AND A PLAN**

**WE ARE A PART OF
THIS PLAN**



MAJOR PARTS OF SALVATION HISTORY: CREATION, THE FALL, AND REDEMPTION



Creation

- We are God's beloved children, created in God's own image and likeness



Fall

- Through the sin of Adam and Eve, all humanity lost unity with God and then has an inclination to sin called concupiscence.



Redemption

- Jesus came to put us back into right relationship with God and to restore us from our fallen nature to instead share in the family of God in unity.



Parousia (The end of time as we know it, yet to come)

- When God will be all in all in the 2nd Coming of Christ

WHAT IS A COVENANT?

A covenant is more than a mere impersonal contract, in which two parties agree to an exchange of goods and services. A covenant binds persons together beyond the mere contractual agreement. Marriage is a prime example. While marriage has “contractual” elements and promises, it is a covenant that binds two persons together. Marriage obviously binds two persons in a unique way, but all covenants bind persons together in some way.

The New Covenant in Christ binds together God to His people with a future promise of redemption. It also binds God’s People to one another (cf. Ephesians 2:11-22).



A good definition of “covenant” is found in Our Sunday Visitor’s *Catholic Encyclopedia: Revised Edition*, (ed. Rev. Peter M.J. Stravinskias). The following three sentences provide a beginning definition:

A solemn promise, fortified by an oath, concerning future action. The oath might be expressed in words or in a symbolic action.... Both the Sinai covenant and the covenant in Christ’s blood brought into being a People of God and called for complete surrender to God in response to His love (p. 289).

