

Salvation History

- Salvation history is the summary of God's saving actions since Creation.
- The Old Testament teaches how God prepared his people for their Savior, Jesus Christ.
The New Testament records the life and teachings of Jesus.
The tradition of the Church guides us in living these teachings in anticipation of the Second Coming of Christ.
- The Creed is a summary of salvation history.

Holy Bible

- Sacred Scripture is the inspired word of God, recorded in Seventy-three books.
- The Old Testament books are in three categories:
 - Historical books (which include the Pentateuch).
 - Wisdom books.
 - Prophetic books.
- The New Testament books include:
 - The Gospels.
 - Acts of the Apostles.
 - Epistles of Saint Paul.
 - Letters to all Christians.
 - Revelation.

Inspiration

- Sacred Scripture is inerrant, which means "without error."
- The Scriptures are inspired by God. The human writers did not add or subtract from the revelation of God.
- The Scriptures are written for and interpreted by the Church.

Magisterium

- The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church. It includes the Pope and the bishops in union with him.
The Magisterium is infallible in teaching in matters of faith and morals.
The Pope is the successor of Peter. The bishops are successors of the apostles.
The Pope has the gift of infallibility.
The bishops share in this gift when they teach in union with him.
- The Church's teaching is the same all over the world and throughout time.

Revelation: God's communication of himself, by which he makes known the mystery of his divine plan, a gift of self-communication which is realized by deeds and words over time, and the most fully by sending us his own divine Son, Jesus Christ (CCC 50).

Sacred Scripture: The sacred writing of the Old and New Testaments (CCC 101). The books which contain the truth of God's revelation and were composed by human authors inspired by the Holy Spirit (CCC 105). The Bible contains both the forty-six books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament (CCC 120).

Sacred Tradition: The living transmission of the message of the Gospel in the Church. The oral preaching of the Apostles, and the written message of salvation under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Bible), are conserved and handed on as the deposit of faith through the apostolic succession in the Church. Both the living Tradition and the written Scriptures have their common source in the revelation of God in Jesus Christ (CCC 75-82). The theological, liturgical, disciplinary, and devotional traditions of the local churches both contain and can be distinguished from this apostolic Tradition (CCC 83).

Magisterium: The living, teaching office of the Church, whose task it is to give an authentic interpretation of the word of God, whether in its written form (Sacred Scripture), or in the form of Tradition. The Magisterium ensures the Church's fidelity to the teaching of the Apostles in matters of faith and morals (CCC 85, 890, 2033).

Infallibility: The gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church whereby the pastors of the Church, the pope and bishops in union with him, can definitively proclaim a doctrine of faith or morals for the belief of the faithful (CCC 891). This gift is related to the inability of the whole body of the faithful to err in matters of faith and morals (CCC 92).

Inspiration: The gift of the Holy Spirit which assisted a human author to write a biblical book so that it has God as its author and teaches faithfully, without error, the saving truth that God has willed to be consigned to us (105).

The basic structure of the Bible:

- Seventy-three books.
- Old Testament (46), New Testament (27)

Old Testament: Laws (Pentateuch)
Historical Books
Wisdom Books
Prophetic Books

New Testament: Gospels
Acts of the Apostles (History)
Letters of Saint Paul
Letters to all Christians
Book of Revelation

The literal and spiritual senses of Scripture.

- Literal sense of Scripture: Requires one to understand a passage as it is written, taking into account its historical setting. We read textbooks and instruction manuals in the literal sense.

- Spiritual sense of Scripture: Requires us to seek the deeper significance of the text.

There are three spiritual senses:

- Allegorical – the passage as it relates to Jesus.
- Moral – the passage as it relates to each of us.
- Anagogical – the passage as it relates to the eternal.

For example, Jesus said he could rebuild the Temple in three days. The literal sense of the Temple is the building in Jerusalem where the Jews worshiped God. It was destroyed in 70 A.D. The allegorical sense tells us that Christ is the Temple destroyed and rebuilt in the three days before the Resurrection. The moral sense reminds us that we are temples of the Holy Spirit. The anagogical sense reminds us that heaven is the Eternal Temple where Jesus reigns.

SAINT JEROME

One of the greatest Fathers of the Church is Saint Jerome. Inspired by eastern monasticism, he spent his first years as a Christian living in the eastern deserts as a hermit. During this time he began to study Greek and Latin. Around 380 he traveled to Rome and began to work for the Pope. His work was to translate the Bible from Greek and Hebrew into Latin, which was the common language of that time. His translation, known as the Vulgate, is still the standard Latin version of the Bible. He also used his knowledge of Scripture to argue for the perpetual virginity of Mary and other Catholic doctrines that were being denied by heretics at that time.

BIBLICAL LANGUAGES: JOHN 1:1

Greek:

εν αρχη ην ο λογος, και ο λογος ην προς
τον θεον, και θεος ην ο λογος

Latin:

in principio erat Verbum et Verbum erat apud
Deum et Deus erat Verbum

English:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was
with God, and the Word was God.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

OLD TESTAMENT - 46 Books

LAW (PENTATEUCH) - 5

GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY

HISTORICAL BOOKS - 16

JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
1 KINGS
2 KINGS
1 CHRONICLES
2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
TOBIT
JUDITH
ESTHER
1 MACCABEES
2 MACCABEES

WISDOM BOOKS - 7

JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
SONG OF SONGS
WISDOM
SIRACH

PROPHETIC BOOKS - 18

ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
LAMENTATIONS
BARUCH
EZEKIEL
DANIEL
HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
JONAH
MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI

NEW TESTAMENT - 27 Books

GOSPELS - 4

MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN

PAUL'S LETTERS TO FRIENDS - 4

1 TIMOTHY
2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON

HISTORY - 1

ACTS

GENERAL LETTERS - 8

HEBREWS
JAMES
1 PETER
2 PETER
1 JOHN
2 JOHN
3 JOHN
JUDE

PAUL'S LETTERS TO CHURCHES - 9

ROMANS
1 CORINTHIANS
2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
1 THESSALONIANS
2 THESSALONIANS

APOCALYPTIC BOOK - 1

REVELATION
