



IS THE BIBLE TRUE?



GOSPEL



ANSWERS

IT IS THIS DISCIPLE WHO TESTIFIES TO THESE THINGS AND HAS WRITTEN THEM, AND WE KNOW THAT HIS TESTIMONY IS TRUE. THERE ARE ALSO MANY OTHER THINGS THAT JESUS DID, BUT IF THESE WERE TO BE DESCRIBED INDIVIDUALLY, I DO NOT THINK THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD CONTAIN THE BOOKS THAT WOULD BE WRITTEN.

- JOHN 21: 24-25

SAINTS & INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

ALFREDO ALEMEO

Alfredo Alemeo had to deal with a difficult sickness that would ultimately take his life. He found inspiration and comfort in reading the bible. God's word gave him strength and courage to face his life and his death.



BLESSED GUISEPPE GIROTTI

Blessed Giuseppe spent his university and studies dedicated to becoming an expert in the bible and Sacred Scripture. When he returned to Italy he taught students in university all about God's word and the life lessons we can take from the Bible.



TEAM DISCUSSION

After reading over the YOUCAT numbers on the following pages, how do you think the Youth Catechism answers the question of the week? Were there any words or ideas that you did not fully understand that you would like to understand better?

ANSWER IN YOUR OWN WORDS:



YOUCAT NUMBERS FOR THIS WEEK



BIBLE (LATIN BIBLIA = SCROLLS, BOOKS): is what Jews and Christians call a collection of Sacred Scriptures that came into being over a period of more than one thousand years and is for them the charter of their faith. The Christian Bible is considerably more extensive than the Jewish Bible, because besides their Scriptures it also contains the four Gospels, the letters of St. Paul, and other writings of the early Church.

INSPIRATION (LATIN: INSPIRATIO = IN BREATHING): God's influence on the human writers of the Bible, so that he himself should be regarded as the author of the Sacred Scriptures.

#14: IS SACRED SCRIPTURE TRUE? "The books of Scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error teach [the] truth. . . . Written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they have God as their author" (Second Vatican Council, DV 11). The BIBLE did not fall from heaven in its final form, nor did God dictate it to human scribes who copied it down mechanically. Rather "God chose certain men who . . . made full use of their own faculties and powers so that, though he acted in them and by them, it was as true authors that they consigned to writing whatever he wanted written, and no more" (Second Vatican Council, DV 11). One factor in recognizing particular texts as Sacred Scripture was their general acceptance in the Church. In the Christian communities there had to be a consensus: "Yes, through this text God himself speaks to us—this is inspired by the Holy Spirit!" Which of the many original Christian writings are really inspired by the Holy Spirit has been defined since the fourth century in the so-called CANON of Sacred Scriptures.

CANON (GREEK: KANON = MEASURING ROD, RULE, NORM): the authoritative collection of Sacred Scriptures in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

#15: HOW CAN SACRED SCRIPTURE BE "TRUTH" IF NOT EVERYTHING IN IT IS RIGHT? The BIBLE is not meant to convey precise historical information or scientific findings to us. Moreover, the authors were children of their time. They shared the cultural ideas of the world around them and often were also dominated by its errors. Nevertheless, everything that man must know about God and the way of his salvation is found with infallible certainty in Sacred Scripture.

#16: WHAT IS THE RIGHT WAY TO READ THE BIBLE? The right way to read Sacred Scripture is to read it prayerfully, in other words, with the help of the Holy Spirit, under whose influence it came into being. It is God's Word and contains God's essential communication to us. The BIBLE is like a long letter written by God to each one of us. For this reason I should accept the Sacred Scriptures with great love and reverence. First of all, it is important really to read God's letter, in other words, not to pick out details while paying no attention to the whole message. Then I must interpret the whole message with a view to its heart and mystery: Jesus Christ, of whom the whole Bible speaks, even the Old Testament. Therefore I should read the Sacred Scriptures in the faith that gave rise to them, the same living faith of the Church.



CONQUEST WEEKLY ACTIVITY GUIDE

NEW TESTAMENT The second part of the complete Bible. It contains the specifically Christian texts, namely, the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, fourteen letters written by Paul, seven Catholic letters, and Revelation.

#17: WHAT SIGNIFICANCE DOES THE OLD TESTAMENT HAVE FOR CHRISTIANS?

In the OLD TESTAMENT God reveals himself as the Creator and preserver of the world and as the leader and instructor of mankind. The Old Testament books are also God's Word and Sacred Scripture. Without the Old Testament, we cannot understand Jesus. In the OLD TESTAMENT a great history of learning the faith begins, which takes a decisive turn in the NEW TESTAMENT and arrives at its destination with the end of the world and Christ's second coming. The Old Testament is far more than a mere prelude for the New. The commandments and prophecies for the people of the Old Covenant and the promises that are contained in it for all men were never revoked. In the books of the Old Covenant we find an irreplaceable treasure of prayers and wisdom; in particular, the Psalms are part of the Church's daily prayer.



OLD TESTAMENT (LATIN = COVENANT, WILL):

the first part of the complete Bible and the Sacred Scripture of the Jews. The Old Testament of the Catholic Church includes 46 books: historical writings, prophetic writings, and wisdom literature, with the Psalms.

#18: WHAT SIGNIFICANCE DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT HAVE FOR CHRISTIANS?

In the NEW TESTAMENT God's REVELATION is completed. The four Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are the centerpiece of Sacred Scripture and the most precious treasure of the Church. In them the Son of God shows himself as he is and encounters us. In the Acts of the Apostles we learn about the beginnings of the Church and the working of the Holy Spirit. In the letters written by the apostles, all facets of human life are set in the light of Christ. In the Book of Revelation we foresee the end of the ages. Jesus is everything that God would like to tell us. The entire Old Testament prepares for the Incarnation of God's Son. All of God's promises find their fulfillment in Jesus. To be a Christian means to unite oneself ever more deeply with the life of Christ. To do that, one must read and live the Gospels. Madeleine Delbr el says, "Through his Word God tells us what he is and what he wants; he says it definitively and says it for each individual day. When we hold our Gospel book in our hands, we should reflect that in it dwells the Word that wants to become flesh in us, desires to take hold of us, so that we might begin his life anew in a new place, at a new time, in a new human setting."



CONQUEST WEEKLY ACTIVITY GUIDE

NEW TESTAMENT (27 BOOKS)

THE GOSPELS: Matthew, Mark , Luke , John

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

THE LETTERS OF ST. PAUL Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus , Philemon , Hebrews

THE CATHOLIC LETTERS

James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, Revelation / Apocalypse

#71: WHY ARE THE REPORTS ABOUT JESUS CALLED "THE GOSPEL", "THE GOOD NEWS"?

Without the Gospels we would not know that God sends his Son to us men out of his infinite love, so that despite our sins we might find our way back to eternal fellowship with God. The reports about the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus are the best news in the world. They testify that the Jew who was born in Bethlehem, Jesus of Nazareth, is "Son of the living God" (Mt 16:16) made man. He was sent by the Father so that "all men might be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (cf. 1 Tim 2:4).

OLD TESTAMENT (46 BOOKS)

THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings , 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Tobit, Judith, Esther, 1 Maccabees , 2 Maccabees

THE WISDOM BOOKS

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Wisdom , Sirach / Ecclesiasticus

THE PROPHETS

Isaiah , Jeremiah, Lamentations, Baruch, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk , Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi



#19: WHAT ROLE DOES SACRED SCRIPTURE PLAY IN THE CHURCH? The Church draws her life and strength from Sacred Scripture. Besides the presence of Christ in the Holy EUCHARIST, there is nothing that the Church honors more reverently than Christ's presence in Sacred Scripture. At Holy Mass we receive the Gospel standing, because in the human words we hear, God himself speaks to us.

#491: CAN YOU LEARN TO PRAY FROM THE BIBLE? The BIBLE is like a wellspring of prayer. To pray with the Word of God means to use the words and events of the Bible for one's own prayer. "To be ignorant of Scripture is to be ignorant of Christ" (St. Jerome). Sacred Scripture, especially the Psalms and the NEW TESTAMENT, are a valuable treasury; in it we find the most beautiful and most powerful prayers of the Judeo-Christian world. Reciting these prayers unites us with millions of people from all times and cultures who have prayed, but above all with Christ himself, who is present in all these prayers.