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## Review

We can know *that* God is on our own (philosophy), but we can't know *who* He is...He needs to reveal Himself to us.

From last week: What are the two main fonts of Divine Revelation in the Catholic Church?



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2

## Review

We can know *that* God is on our own (philosophy), but we can't know *who* He is...He needs to reveal Himself to us.

From last week: What are the two main fonts of Divine Revelation in the Catholic Church?

**Tradition**

**Scripture**



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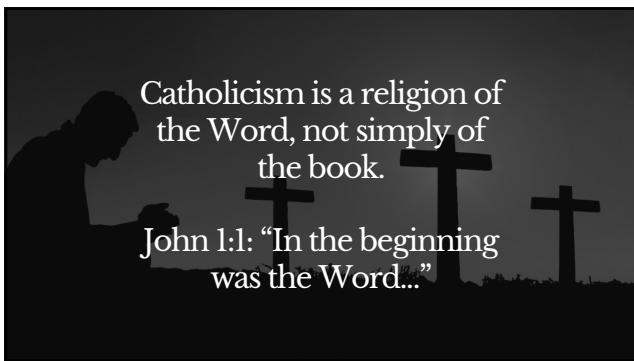
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Catholicism is a religion of  
the Word, not simply of  
the book.

John 1:1: "In the beginning  
was the Word..."

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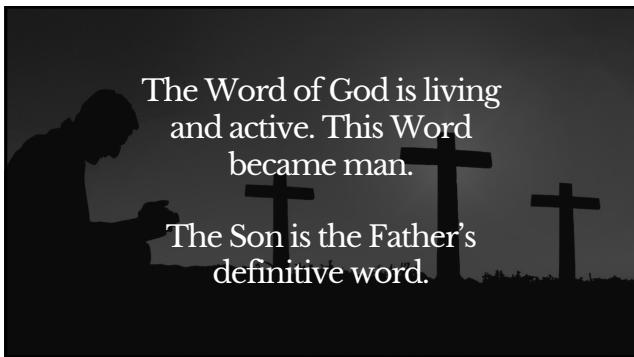
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The Word of God is living  
and active. This Word  
became man.

The Son is the Father's  
definitive word.

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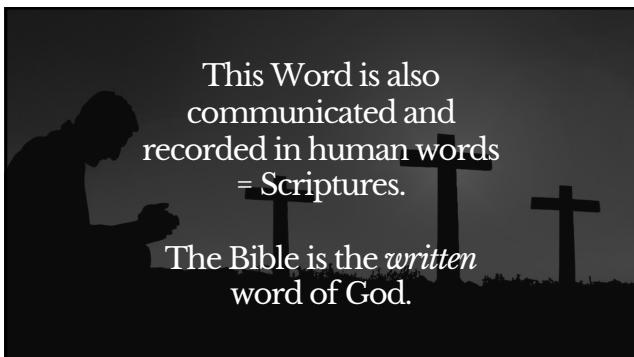
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This Word is also  
communicated and  
recorded in human words  
= Scriptures.

The Bible is the *written*  
word of God.

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# What is the Bible?

## ROOT WORDS:

- **BIBLE = BOOKS**
- **SCRIPTURES = WRITINGS**

- The Bible is not one single book. It is a collection of books!
- 73 different books total
  - 46 Old Testament Books, 27 New Testament Books
    - Testament means covenant
    - Old Testament = before Jesus
    - New Testament = about Jesus & after Jesus
- Since there are different books, also different genres
  - Always ask yourself: What is the genre? What is the context?

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# What is the Bible?

## DIFFERENT GENRES

- Epic myths - no less true than other genres!
  - ex: Genesis, Job
- History
  - ex: Exodus, Kings
- Law
  - ex: Leviticus
- Poetry
  - ex: Psalms
- Gospels
- Wisdom
  - ex: Proverbs
- Letters
  - ex: Letters of St. Paul

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# What is the Bible?

## DIFFERENT TIMES

- Beginning of Time
- 2000BC
- 500BC
- 100AD
- End of Time

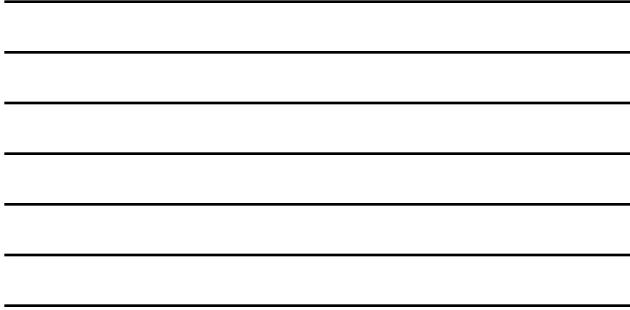
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# What is the Bible?

## DIFFERENT HUMAN AUTHORS

- Pentateuch - Moses & Editors
- Psalms - David
- 4 Gospel Writers
- Paul, Peter, James...
- ...etc.

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# What is the Bible?

## SO WHAT BRINGS THIS LIBRARY TOGETHER?!

- Authorship
- God is the Author of Scripture
- This is what makes the Bible different, we believe it is the inspired Word of God
  - Yes, He utilized human authors to write the Books, but it was done in and through His Inspiration!
  - God is revealing Himself in human language and through human perspectives and history
    - These words are ALIVE because our God is ALIVE!
    - Scripture is God's love letter to us!

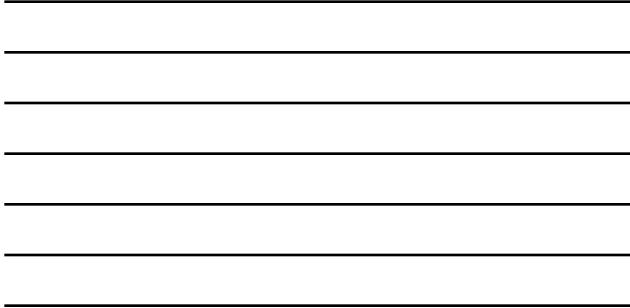
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A high-contrast, black and white silhouette of a person's profile, facing right. The person appears to be wearing glasses. The background is dark, and there are some faint, indistinct shapes that could be trees or buildings in the distance.

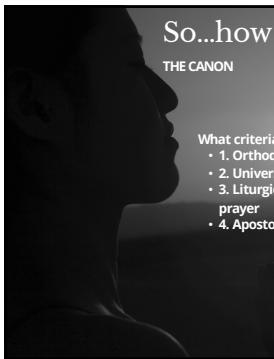
# So...how did the Bible come to be?

## THE CANON

- Canon means "ruler" or "list"
  - The canon in this use is the books that are determined to be inspired by God
- Who has the authority to determine the canon?
  - The apostles: Jesus gave them His authority and they passed on that authority
    - The early church leaders spoke about which books/letters were truly inspired by the Holy Spirit
  - There are important documents that didn't make the canon, but are still helpful for our understanding of the early Church. Ex: Didache, Shepherd of Hermas

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## So...how did the Bible come to be?

### THE CANON

What criteria did they use for determining the Canon?

- 1. Orthodoxy - right worship/teaching
- 2. Universal - applies to everyone and is widely accepted
- 3. Liturgical - the reading was used in the Mass or in group prayer
- 4. Apostolic - some connection to the apostles/time of Jesus

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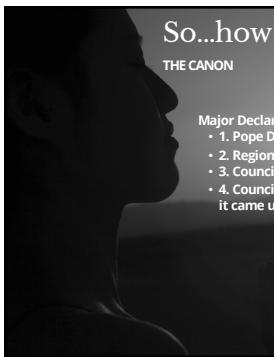


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## So...how did the Bible come to be?

### THE CANON

Major Declarations of the Canon (73 Books):

- 1. Pope Damasus in 382AD at the Council of Rome
- 2. Regional Synods of Carthage (397) and Hippo (393)
- 3. Council of Florence (1442) definitely reaffirmed
- 4. Council of Trent (1546) definitely reaffirmed again after it came under attack by Martin Luther

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## Differences between Catholic & Protestant Bibles

**NEW TESTAMENT:**

- Same 27 Books
- Martin Luther didn't like the Letter of St. James, but wasn't able to deny its canonicity

**OLD TESTAMENT:**

- Protestants have 39 Books, Catholics have 46
- Books omitted: Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch, 1 & 2 Maccabees, and parts of Daniel

**WHY? LANGUAGE!**

- Majority of the Old Testament Books were written in Hebrew, but some (or parts of some) were written in Greek.
- 250 BC - there was a Greek translation of the OT
- It was widely used by Greeks, and taken up by the early Church
- Jews in 90 AD (Judas) rejected the Septuagint because it was "un-Jewish"
  - This was only some of the Jews - they didn't have an authoritative structure
  - Also didn't realize there were Hebrew originals of some of the books they rejected.

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## Differences between Catholic & Protestant Bibles

MARTIN LUTHER

- recognized that Jews at his time didn't use the LXX and questioned it.
- He didn't like 2 Maccabees that includes things like praying for the dead ended up rejecting the LXX and called those 7 books "deuterocanonical" and put them at the end of the OT
- He made similar arguments about books in the NT, but couldn't find an argument to reject them
  - ex: called the Epistle of St. James an epistle of straw...
- These books were completely rejected in Protestant bibles by 1827

#### AUTHORITY: WHO GETS TO INTERPRET SCRIPTURES

- Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation for no prophecy ever came through human will, but rather human beings moved by the holy spirit spoke under the influence of God. - 2 Peter 1:20-21
- Church has the authority to interpret - we see this in history
  - Who determined the canon? The Catholic Church
  - Who determined the Nicene Council? The Catholic Church

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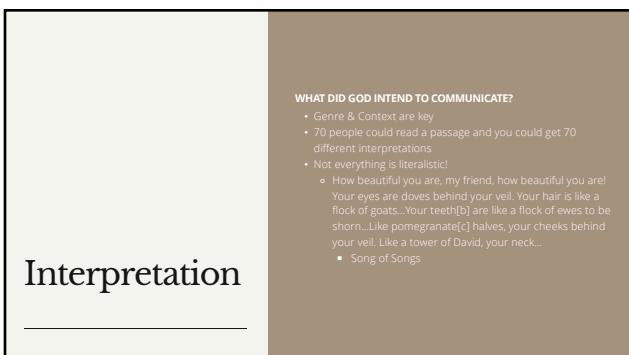


## Differences between Catholic & Protestant Bibles

#### NEW TESTAMENT AUTHORS (AND JESUS) QUOTE THE LXX

- 340 places where the New Testament cites the Septuagint but only 33 places where it cites from the Masoretic Text rather than the Septuagint
- In Mark 7:6-7, Jesus quotes the LXX of Isaiah 29:13 when he says, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.'"

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## Interpretation

## WHAT DID GOD INTEND TO COMMUNICATE?

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## Interpretation

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### SENSES OF SCRIPTURE

- 1) Literal – what the author intended.
- 2) Spiritual – signs & symbols
  - a) Allegorical – How it relates to Christ.
  - b) Moral – how it relates to how we act.
  - c) Eschatological – how it relates to the end-times.
- Example: Crossing of the Red Sea
  - Literal: Hebrews being delivered from slavery by God.
  - Spiritual
    - Allegorical – Christ, as man, leading us from slavery to sin
      - Baptism.
    - Moral – leaving behind a life of sin.
    - Eschatological – passing from earth to heaven.

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## God speaks

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### GOD NEVER SPEAKS TO ME!

- A primary way that God speaks to man is through the Scriptures! Though the same message is given to all, it is offered and received differently – we all have a different relationship with God!
  - Important to foster our praying with Scripture.
  - The Gospels or the daily readings is a good place to start.

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