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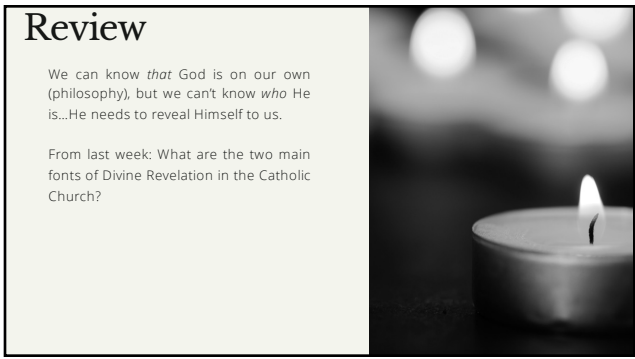
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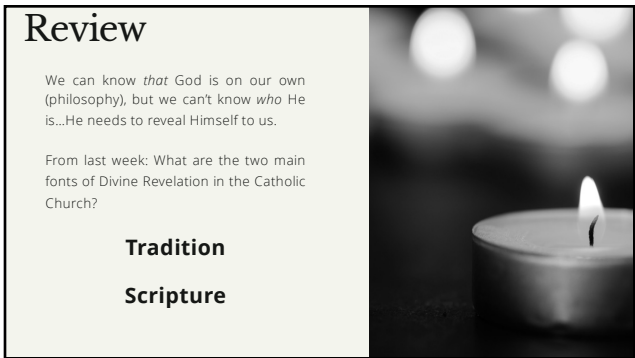
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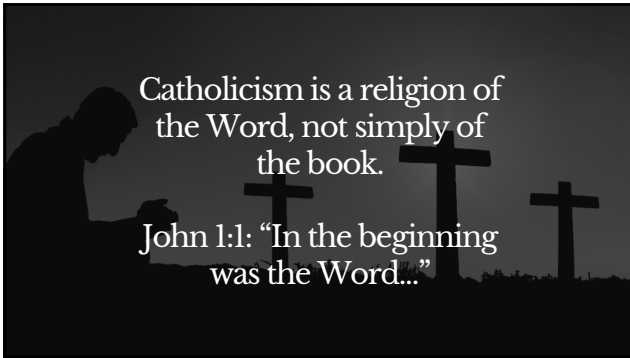
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Catholicism is a religion of  
the Word, not simply of  
the book.

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

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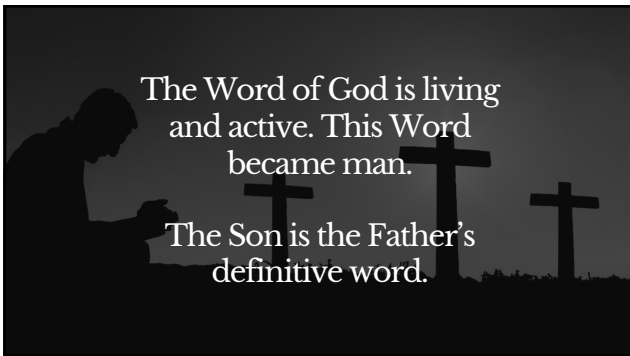
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The Word of God is living  
and active. This Word  
became man.

The Son is the Father's  
definitive word.

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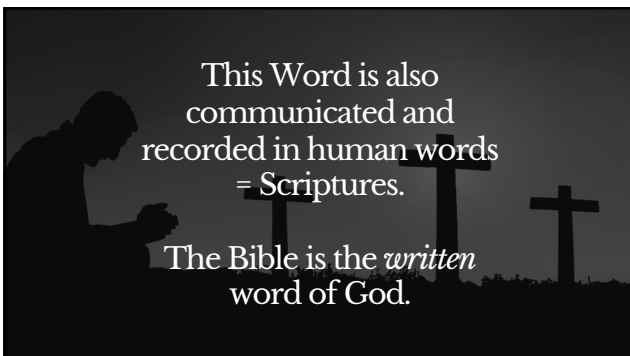
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This Word is also  
communicated and  
recorded in human words  
= Scriptures.

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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### WHAT IS INSPIRATION?

- Inspiration - "breathed into"
  - God-breathe
- Not possession, not robotic
- It is begin filled with the Holy Spirit and writing what He inspires

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## Old Testament

HOW IS GOD PREPARING THE WORLD FOR HIS SON?

- From Adam to the Maccabean Revolt (right before the time of Christ)
- Much of these were passed down orally, written down later.
  - 1) Pentateuch – Adam to Promised Land
  - 2) Historical Books – Promised Land to Maccabean Revolt (Jews against Greeks, 200BC)
  - 3) Wisdom Literature – Psalms / Advice / Theology
  - 4) Prophetic Books – God speaking to His people through prophets

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## New Testament

GOD IS REVEALED IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST & HIS CHURCH

- 1) Gospels
- 2) Acts of the Apostles
- 3) Paul
- 4) Catholic Epistles
- 5) Revelation

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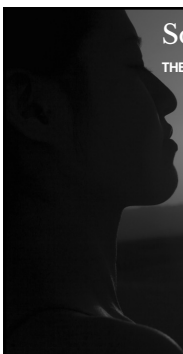
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## So...how did the Bible come to be?

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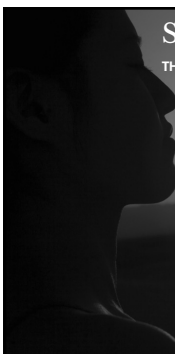
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## So...how did the Bible come to be?

### 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) definitively reaffirmed
- 4. Council of Trent (1546) definitively reaffirmed again after it came under attack by Martin Luther

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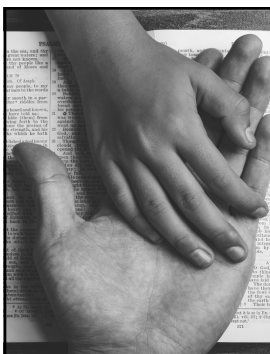
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## Differences between Catholic & Protestant Bibles

**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 - The Septuagint (LXX) was a Greek translation of the OT
  - This was widely used by some Jews and taken up by the early Church.
- Jews in 90 AD (Jamnia) 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 "pseudepigraphical" 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 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!
  - We simply believe this guidance of the Holy Spirit continues

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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?**

- Genre & Context are key
- 70 people could read a passage and you could get 70 different interpretations
- Not everything is literalistic!
  - How beautiful you are, my friend, how beautiful you are! Your eyes are doves behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats...Your teeth are like a flock of ewes to be shorn...Like pomegranate halves, your cheeks behind your veil. Like a tower of David, your neck...
  - Song of Songs

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## Interpretation

### 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

### 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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