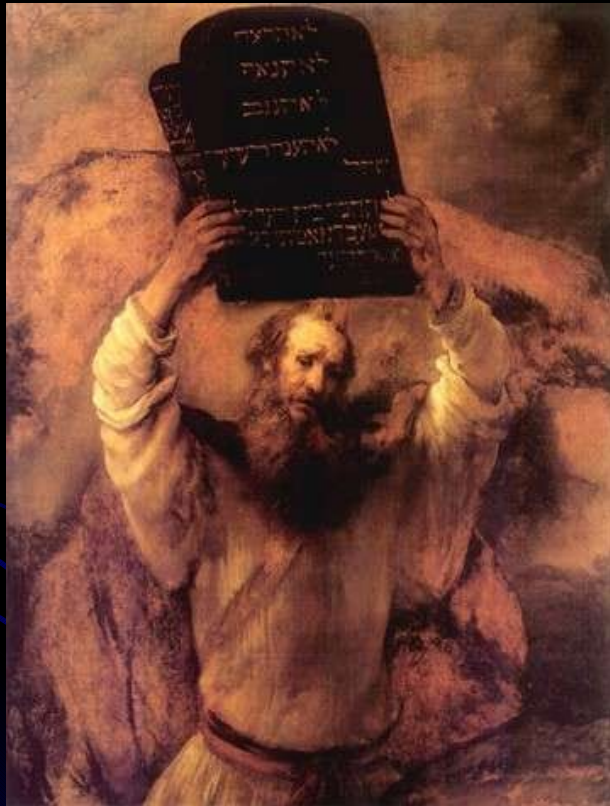


# Divine Revelation



# Revelation



We are made to KNOW, Love, and Serve God.

We can KNOW God only because he REVEALS Himself.

God reveals all the Truths necessary for our salvation.

# *Dei Verbum* (1965)

The holy synod professes that “God, the first principle and last end of all things, can be known with certainty from the created world, by the natural light of human reason.”





# Faith: Our Response to Revelation

- “The obedience of faith” must be our response to God who reveals. By faith one freely commits oneself entirely to God, making “the full submission of the intellect and will to God who reveals.”





# Scripture & Tradition

Sacred Scripture is the Word of God written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.



Sacred Tradition is the Divine Truth preserved and transmitted through Apostolic teaching.

# Holy Scripture

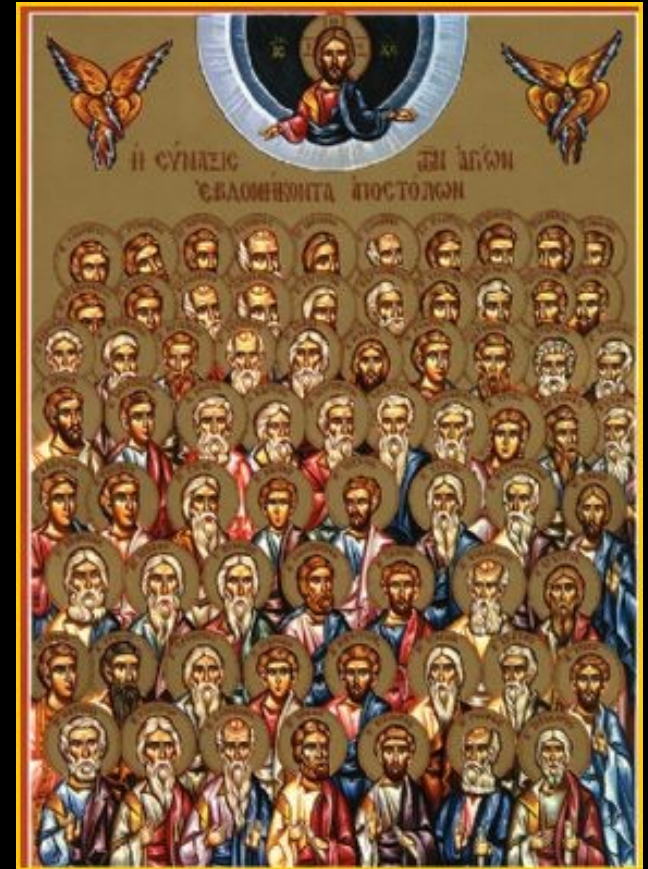


“For whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.”

- --Romans 15:4

# *Dei Verbum*

- “Christ the Lord, in whom the entire revelation of the most high God is summed up, having fulfilled in his own person and promulgated with his own lips the Gospel promised beforehand by the prophets, commanded the apostles to preach it to everyone as the source of all saving truth and moral law, communicating God’s gifts to them.”





# What IS the Bible?

- The inspired Word of God.
- God's Revelation
- Old & New Testament
  - 46 Books of the Old Testament Canon.
  - 27 Books of the New Testament Canon.
- Various genres of writing



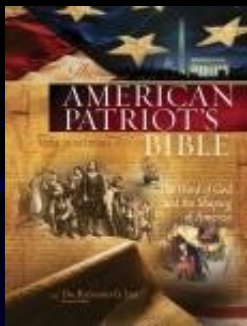
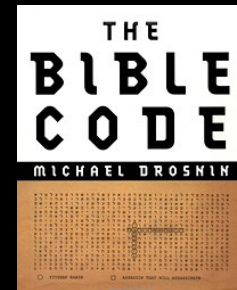
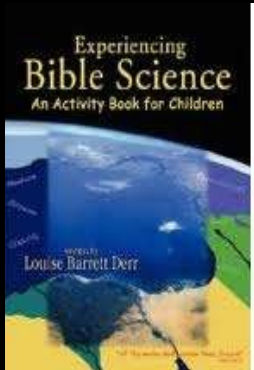
# *Divino Afflante Spiritu* (1943)



“Inspired by the Divine Spirit, the Sacred Writers composed those books, which God, in His paternal charity towards the human race, deigned to bestow on them in order ‘to teach, to reprove, to correct, to instruct in justice: that the man of God may be perfect, furnished to every good work’.”

# What the Bible is NOT

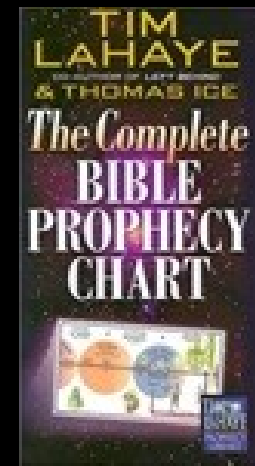
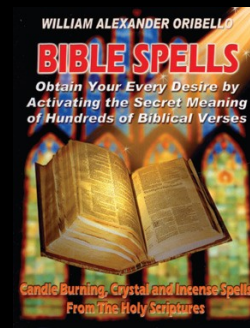
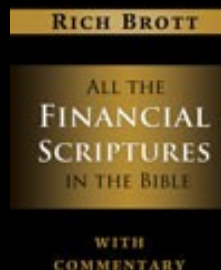
- Documentary Journalism
- A Science Textbook
- Financial Planning Advice
- A Political Party Platform
- A Secret Code
- A Calendar of Future Events
- A Book of Magic Spells



The  
Abundance  
Bible  
The Secret Teachings of  
Prosperity Health and Riches



Dr. George Mentz, JD, MBA, DSS, QFP





# Tradition *precedes* the Bible

- Where does the Bible come from?
- Who determined which texts were canonical?
- By what authority?
- By what criteria?
  - One
  - Holy
  - Catholic
  - Apostolic



# Canonical Scripture



- The Councils of Hippo, 393 A.D., and Carthage, 397 A.D. gave us the canon of Sacred Scripture as we know it today.
- By the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century these books were universally accepted by the Church.

# The Protestant “Reform” Bible



The 16<sup>th</sup>-century Protestant reformers accepted only 39 of the books in the Old Testament (only those found in the Hebrew Canon).

Seven books from the Septuagint (Greek canon of Alexandrian Jews) they rejected on doctrinal grounds, and call “apocryphal.”

The Protestants rejected books that were known to and used by the Apostles, and that had been part of the Christian Bible for more than a thousand years.



# Luther's Errors



In translating the Bible into German, Martin Luther removed those books from the canon that lent support to orthodox doctrine.

He also questioned the canonicity of four New Testament books: *Hebrews*, *James*, *Jude*, *Revelation*.

“I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who create dissensions and obstacles, in opposition to the teaching that you learned; avoid them.”

- Romans 16:17

# Authenticity of the Septuagint

The large majority of Old Testament references in the New Testament are taken from the Greek Septuagint.

The Dead Sea Scrolls, (discovered in 1947) contained fragments of several deuterocanonical texts in Hebrew or Aramaic.



# Deuterocanonical Texts

(The 'second canon' of the Alexandrian Jews)

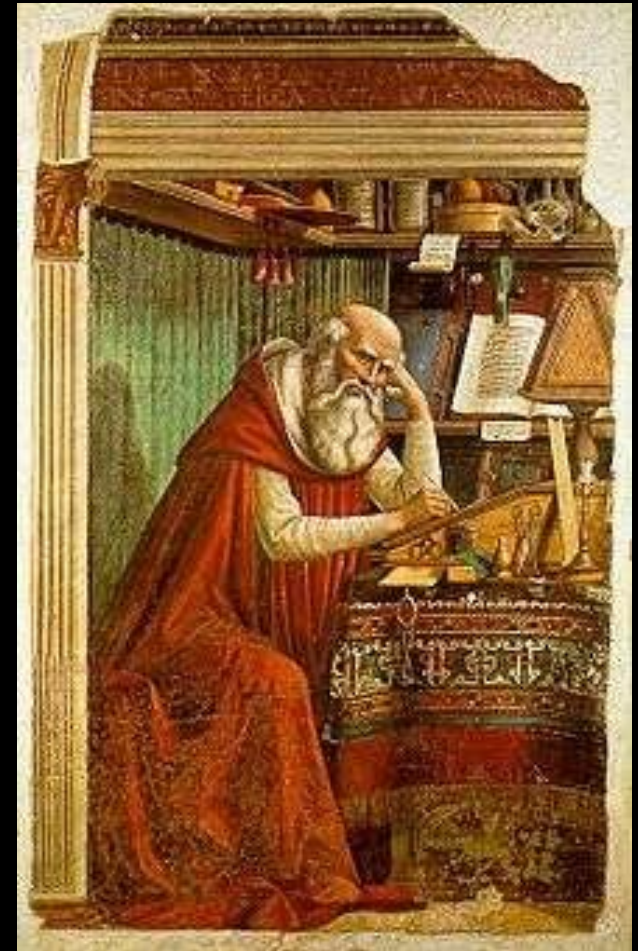
- Tobit
- Baruch
- Judith
- Wisdom
- Sirach
- 1 Maccabees
- 2 Maccabees





# The Latin Vulgate

- In the 4<sup>th</sup> century, St. Jerome translated the Greek and Hebrew texts of Scripture into Latin.
- By the Middle Ages, the *Biblia Sacra Vulgata* had become the definitive edition of the Bible throughout Christendom.



# Biblia Sacra Vulgata

- It was for hundreds of years the only Bible in use in Europe.
- It was the first book printed by a movable type press, the so-called “Gutenberg” or “Mazarin” Bible (c.1455).



# The Dogmatic Canon

In response to the Reformation the Catholic canon was solemnly defined and made dogmatic by the Council of Trent in 1546.

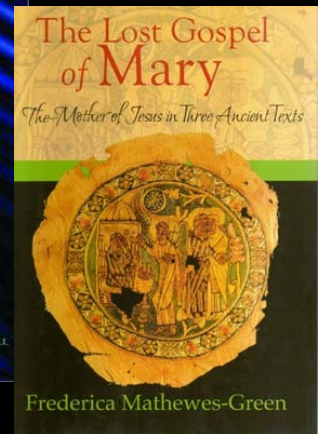
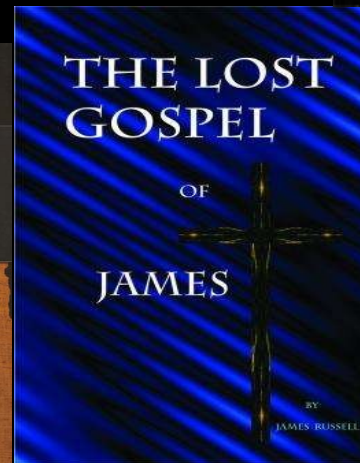
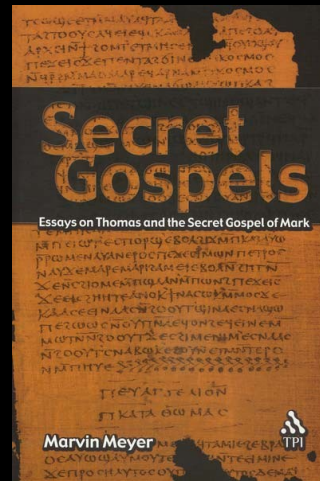
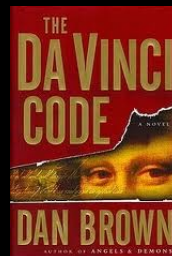
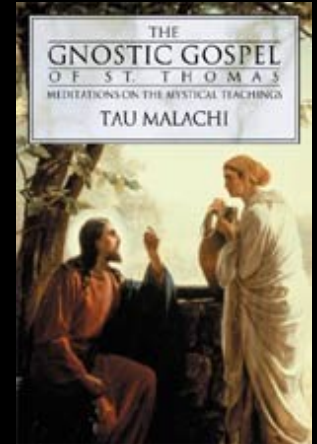
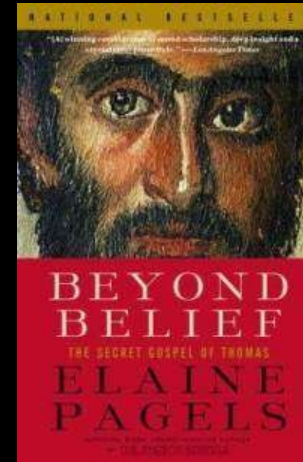
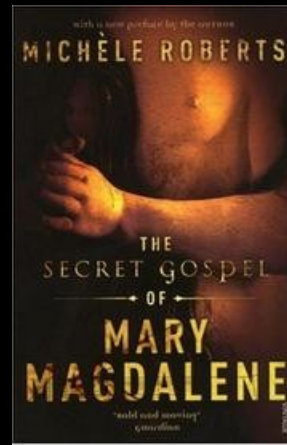
The council reaffirmed the canon that had been in use in all Christendom since the 4<sup>th</sup> Century.





# “Lost” or “Secret” Gospels?

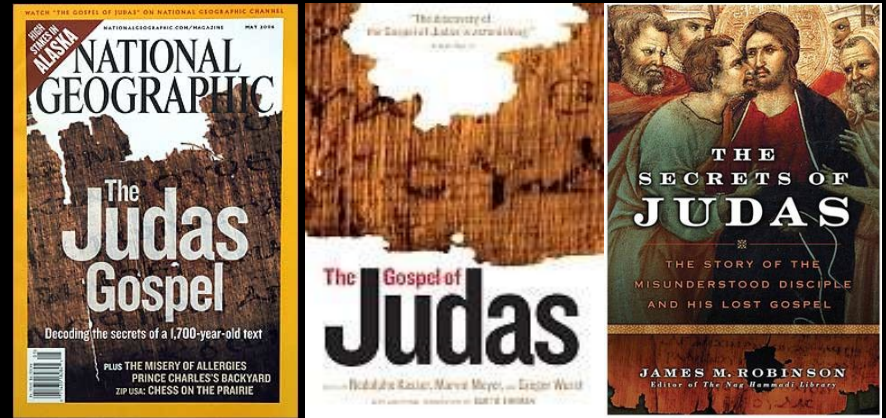
Was Jesus really married to Mary Magdalene? Did the Catholic Church suppress various secret Gospels that “tell the real truth” about Jesus and the early Church?





# Judas sells! 30 pieces of silver?

- These texts were not “lost” or “secret,” but known to the early church.
- They lack a direct connection to the Apostles.
- They originate from a later period (2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries).
- Many contain heretical claims, or ideas contrary to the truth of Holy Scripture.



The Media promote these “gospels” to sow doubt about canonical scripture:

*“Parishioners at morning Mass at St. John Chrysostom church in West Roxbury were buzzing yesterday over news reports about the release of the Gospel of Judas, which some scholars suggest could revolutionize people's understanding of early Christianity.”*

*Boston Globe. 4/6/06*

# Old Testament

- God's Revelation to His chosen people.
- The Sacred books of the Hebrew people.
- The Scriptures known, read, & taught by Jesus.
- The Scriptures **FULFILLED** by Jesus.



# The Savior Revealed



“In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word.”

- Hebrews 1:1-3.

# Old Testament



- The Pentateuch
- Historical Books
- Prophetic Books
- Wisdom Books



# The Pentateuch



- “Five Cases” – The first five books of the Bible.
  - *Genesis,*
  - *Exodus*
  - *Leviticus,*
  - *Numbers*
  - *Deuteronomy.*
- “Torah” – the Books of the Law of God.
- Attributed to Moses

# Historical Books



- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- Esther
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles





# Deuterocanonical Historical Texts

- Judith
- Tobit
- 1 Macabees
- 2 Macabees



# Prophetic Books

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Baruch
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos



- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi



# Isaiah, The “Fifth” Evangelist

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.”

--Isaiah 7:14.

“He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. . . .



# The Suffering Servant prophecy



But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins. Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth.

--Isaiah 53:3-7 (c. 586 B.C.)

# The Prophet Jeremiah



“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.”

--Jeremiah 1:5

“I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

--Jeremiah 31:33

# He has spoken through the Prophets

Above the firmament over their heads something like a throne could be seen, looking like sapphire. Upon it was seated, up above, one who had the appearance of a man.

--Ezekiel, 1:26



But if you would offer me holocausts, then let justice surge like water, and goodness like an unfailing stream.

--Amos, 5:23-24





# Wisdom Books



- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Songs
- Wisdom
- Sirach



# New Testament

- The books of the earliest Christian witnesses.
- Written in the first century after the death and Resurrection of Jesus
- *Gospels, Acts, Letters, Revelation.*
- Written in Greek



# Gospels

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John





# Good News

- A written record of Christ's words and deeds.
- There is in reality only one gospel running through all of the Christian scriptures, the gospel of and about Jesus Christ.

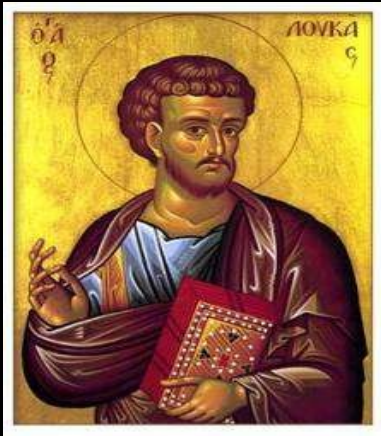


# Three-stage Gospel Development

- The teaching of Jesus as heard by Apostles—the original sayings.
- The post-Resurrection preaching of the Apostles
- The written texts of the early Church community.

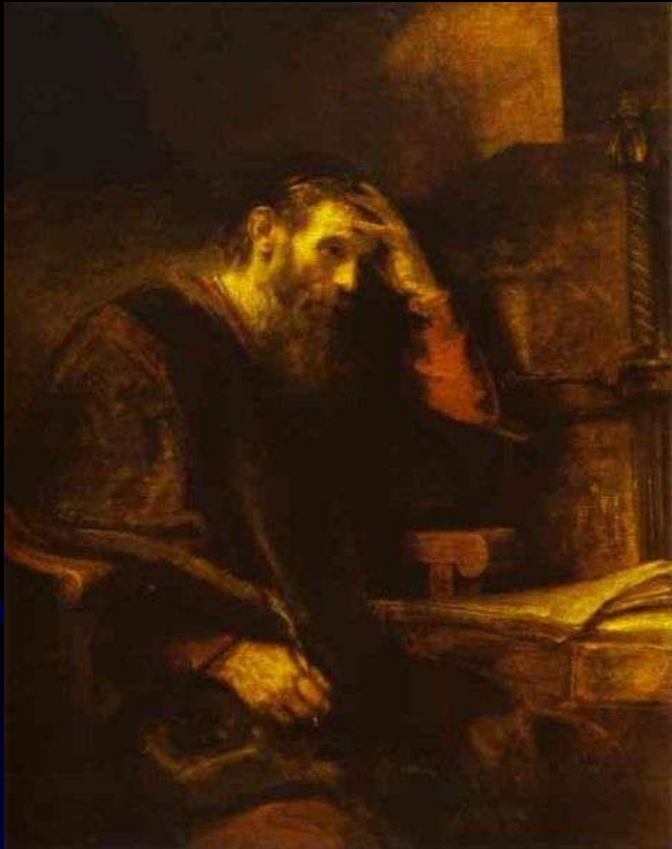


# Acts of the Apostles



This second book of St. Luke's Gospel describes how the salvation promised to Israel in the Old Testament and accomplished by Jesus has now under the guidance of the holy Spirit been extended to the Gentiles

# Letters of St. Paul



- Romans
- 1 Corinthians
- 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 Thessalonians
- 2 Thessalonians
- 1 Timothy
- 2 Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon
- Hebrews

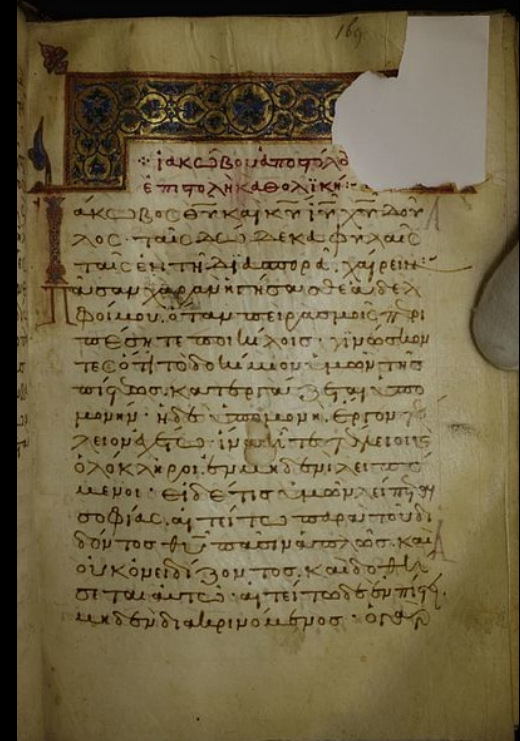




# Catholic Letters



- James
- 1 Peter
- 2 Peter
- 1 John
- 2 John
- 3 John
- Jude



# Revelation



“One of the elders said to me,  
"Do not weep. The lion of the  
tribe of Judah, the root of David,  
has triumphed, enabling him to  
open the scroll with its seven  
seals.” —*Revelation 5:5*

“Worthy are you,  
Lord our God, to  
receive glory and  
honor and power, for  
you created all  
things; because of  
your will they came  
to be and were  
created.”

● --*Revelation 4:11*

# Revelation 12:7-8

- Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.



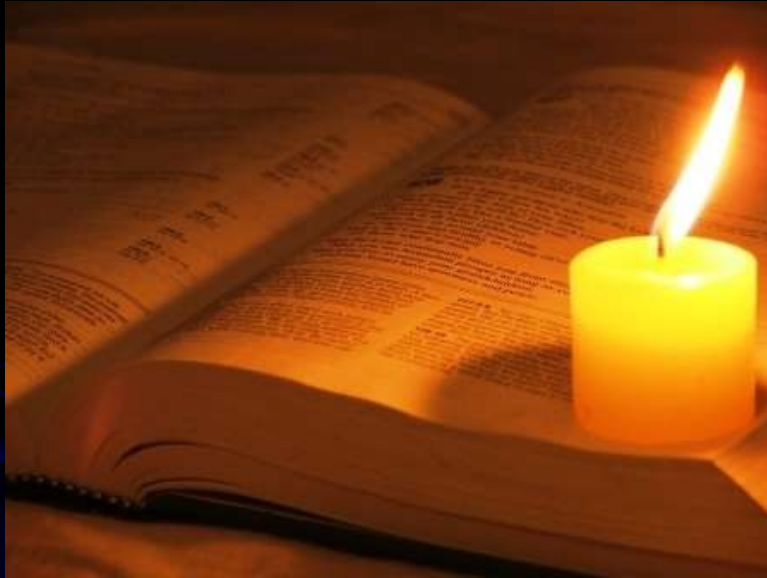
# The Last Judgment



Then I saw thrones; those who sat on them were entrusted with judgment. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image nor had accepted its mark on their foreheads or hands. They came to life and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years. – *Revelation 20:4*



# Interpreting Sacred Scripture



- Sacred Scripture teaches truth faithfully without error.
- Every part must be read in light of the whole.
- The Old Testament should be read in light of the New Testament.

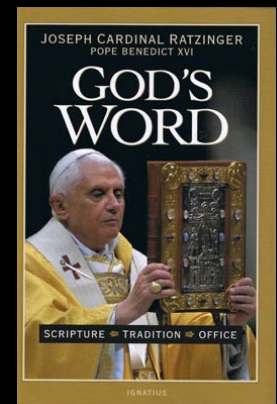
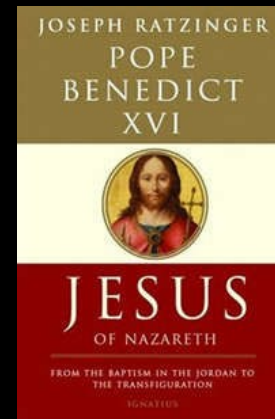
# Interpreting Sacred Scripture

- No *Sola Scriptura*
- Not a strictly *literal* interpretation.
- Historical & Critical methods guided by theological meaning.



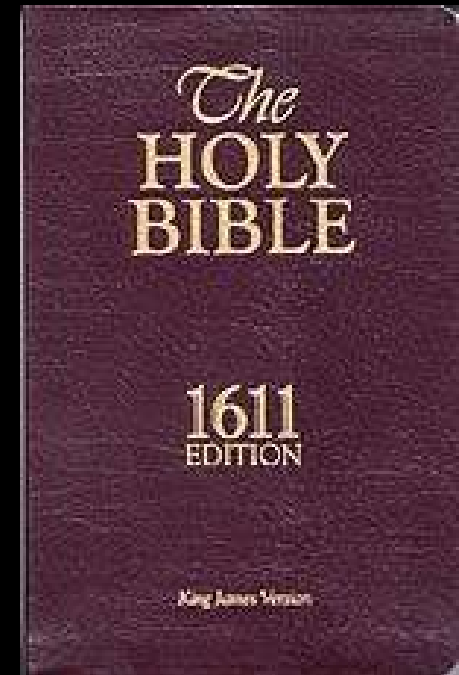
# A Catholic Interpretation

- We understand Scripture by reading *with* the whole church.
- “If you want to understand the Scripture in the spirit in which it is written, you have to attend to the content and to the unity of Scripture as a whole . . . taking account of the living tradition of the whole Church and of the analogy of faith.”
  - Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth*, Volume I



# “Fundamentalism”

- “eliminates from Christianity the church as the Lord Jesus founded it. That church is a community of faith, worldwide, with pastoral and teaching authority.”
- “tends to interpret the Bible as being always without error or as literally true in a way quite different from the Catholic Church's teaching on the inerrancy of the Bible . . . . inerrancy extends even to scientific and historical matters.
- “The Bible is presented without regard for its historical context and development.”
  - --U.S. Catholic Bishops: **PASTORAL STATEMENT FOR CATHOLICS ON BIBLICAL FUNDAMENTALISM 1987.**





# “Fundamentalism”

- “really distorts the challenge of Jesus Christ. It provides an absolute certainty based on a belief that every word in the Bible really has been dictated by God and one needs only hold to the literal meaning.”
- “It does not recognize that every word in the Bible, even though inspired by God, has been written by human beings who had limitations.”

- **The Fundamentalist Challenge**  
*Raymond E. Brown, S.S.*



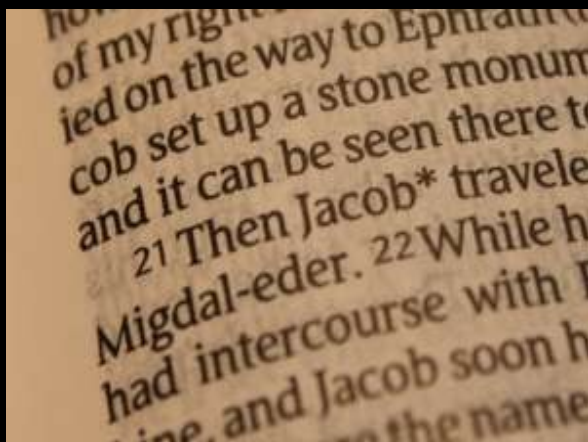
# *The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church*

(Pontifical Biblical Commission, 1993)

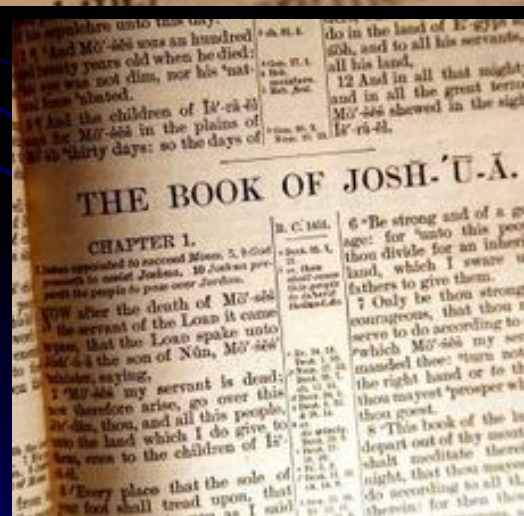
- “The basic problem with fundamentalist interpretation of this kind is that, refusing to take into account the historical character of biblical revelation, it makes itself incapable of accepting the full truth of the incarnation itself.”



# *The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church* (Pontifical Biblical Commission, 1993)



- “Fundamentalism likewise tends to adopt very narrow points of view. It accepts the literal reality of an ancient, out-of-date cosmology simply because it is found expressed in the Bible; This blocks any dialogue with a broader way of seeing the relationship between culture and faith.”



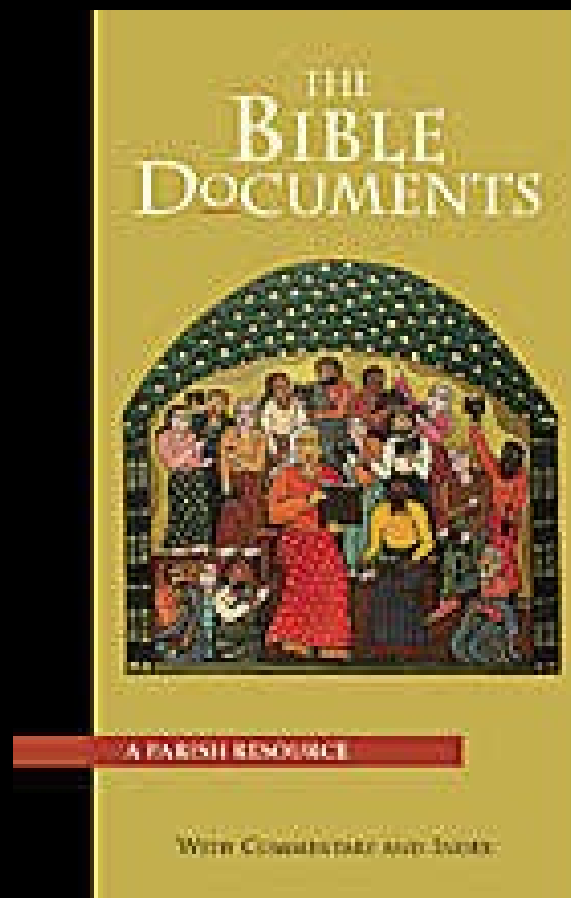
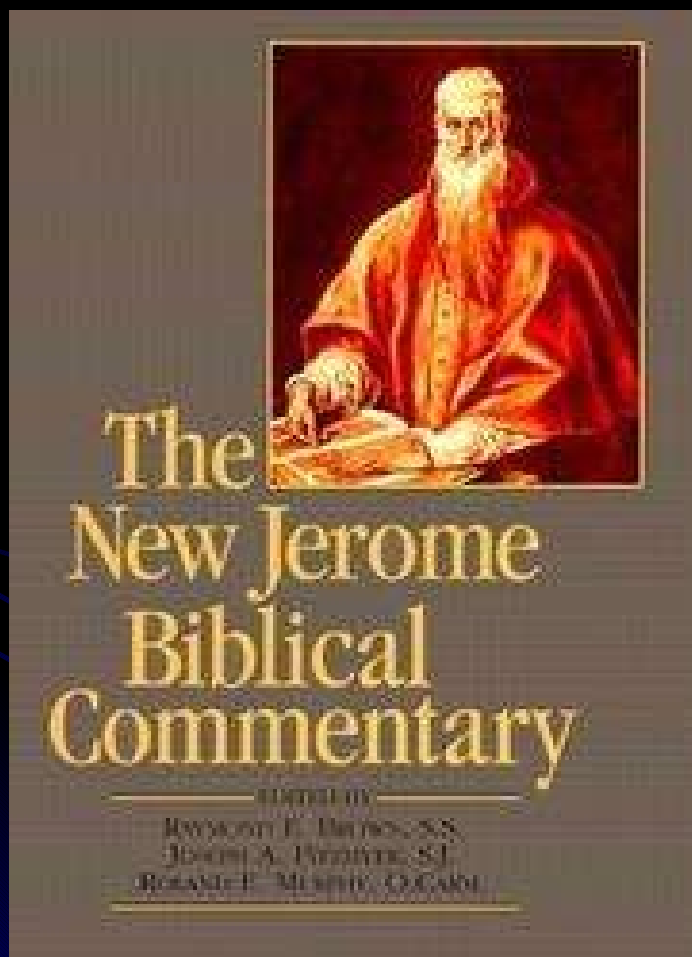
# Interpreting Sacred Scripture



- The Church will not err in interpreting Scripture.
- Catholics are bound to submit to the authority of the Church in seeking the meaning of any part of Scripture
- Analogy of Faith – The unity & Harmony of all the truths of faith among themselves.

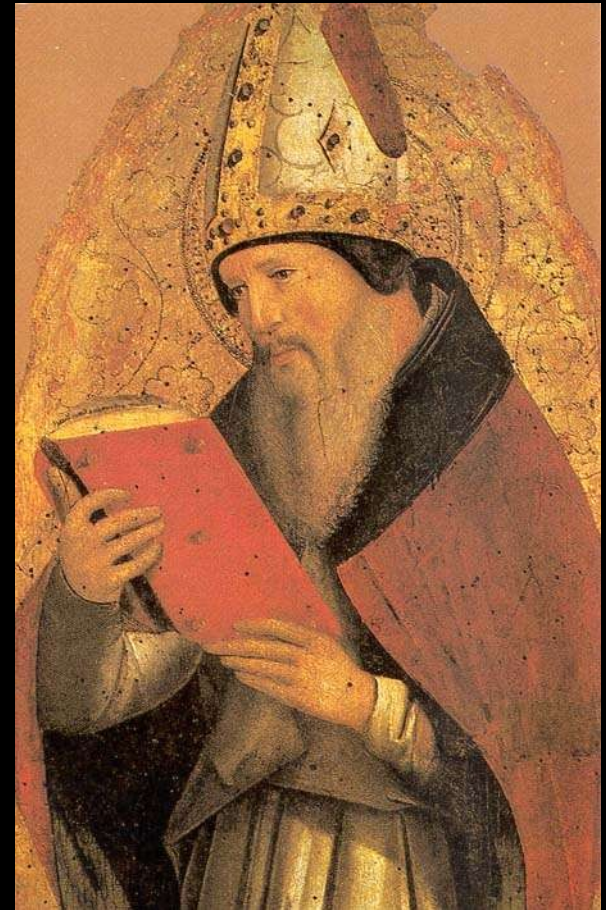


# Reading *With* the Church



# Exegesis: Four Senses

- Literal sense
- Allegorical sense
  - Events in Light of Christ
- Moral sense
  - Lessons for virtue
- Anagogical Sense
  - Spiritual meaning; Mystery of salvation; our eternal destiny.



# Sacred Tradition



- Apostolic teaching not written down in Scripture.
- Passed down by the Apostles.
- Developed through prayer & scholarship by each generation.

# Deposit of Faith

- The Sacred Deposit of Revelation is to be found in God's Word as it is written in Sacred Scripture
- And, guarded and authentically interpreted by the apostles and their successors.





# Sacred Tradition

- Tradition is guided by Scripture and depends on Scripture.
- The Church faithfully guards the deposit of faith and keeps it free from error.
- The Church seeks to deepen her understanding of this deposit of faith.



# Tradition *in* Scripture

## The Teaching Authority of the Apostles

- “Whoever listens to you listens to me..” --Luke 10:16
- “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of (his) disciples that are not written in this book.”--John 20:30
- “He [Peter] testified with many other arguments” – Acts 2:40
- “the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing.”--Acts 8:6



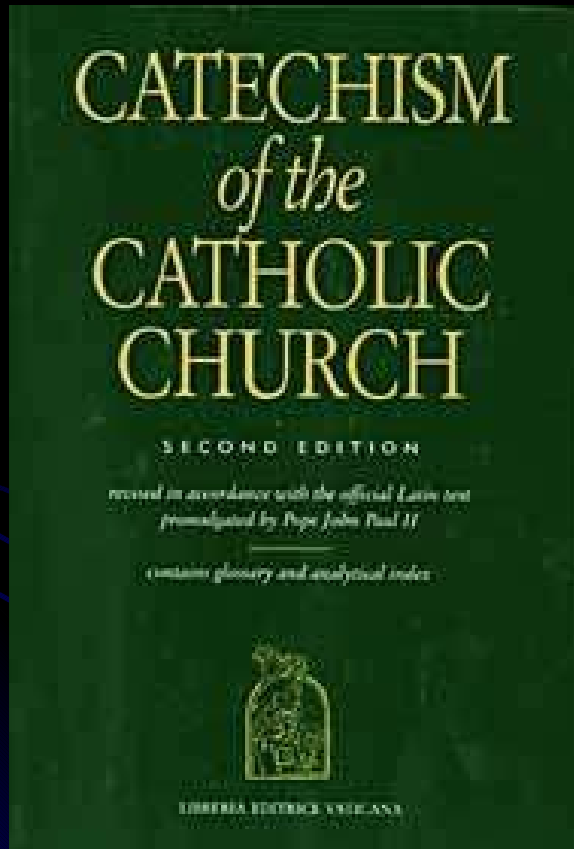
# Tradition *in* Scripture

## The Teaching Authority of the Apostles



- “For a whole year they [Barnabas & Paul] met with the church and taught a large number of people.”--Acts 11:26
- “He [Paul] entered the synagogue, and for three months debated boldly with persuasive arguments about the kingdom of God.”--Acts 19:8
- “From early morning until evening, he [Paul] expounded his position to them, bearing witness to the kingdom of God.”--Acts 28:23

# The Catechism & the Second Vatican Council

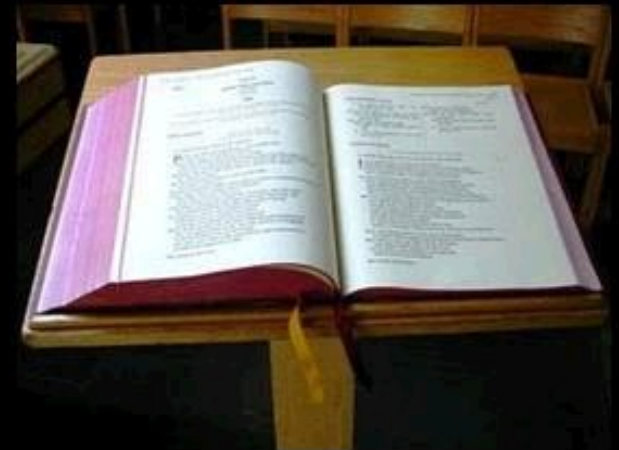
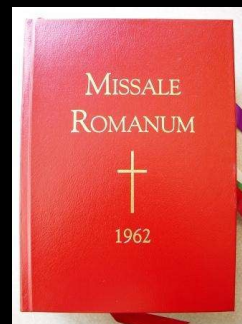
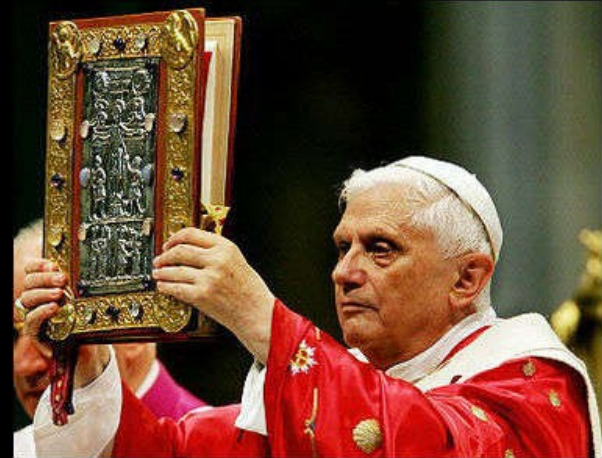


- “. . . to guard and present better the precious deposit of Christian doctrine in order to make it more accessible to the Christian faithful and to all people of good will. For this reason the Council was not first of all to condemn the errors of the time, but above all to strive calmly to show the strength and beauty of the doctrine of the faith.”



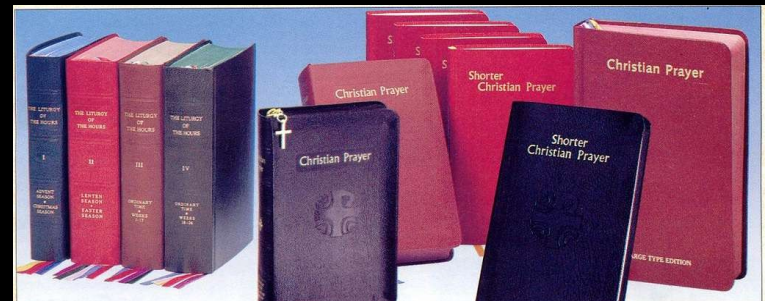
# How do Catholics USE Scripture?

- Public Prayer
  - The Mass
    - Liturgy of the Word
    - Liturgy of the Eucharist



# How do Catholics USE Scripture?

- Public Prayer
  - Divine Office
    - Liturgy of the Hours
    - The Daily Prayer of the Church



# How do Catholics USE Scripture?

- Personal Prayer
  - Bible Study
  - *Lectio Divina*
    - Reading
    - Meditation
    - Prayer
    - Contemplation
- Evangelization



# Authorized Catholic Bibles

