

HOW CATHOLICS UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

Deacon John E. Sims

IT IS A **LIBRARY!!**

- Many Books Written in Different Styles
 - Gospels, Letters, Stories, Myths, Legends, Love Poems, Hymns, Histories, Warnings, Parables, Tribal Rules, Apocalyptic

WHAT IS THE MAJOR THEME COVENANT

HEBREW TESTAMENT

- I AM YOUR GOD
- YOU ARE MY CHOSEN PEOPLE

CHRISTIAN TESTAMENT

- I HAVE REDEEMED YOU
- YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

Is the Bible True?

Book of Faith written By People of Faith

- Inspired by the Holy Spirit

NOT Dictated

- Spirit used Human Gifts
Literary and Spiritual

We also Have Sacred Tradition !

CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES...

We can and do use:

1. All forms of Scholarship
2. Sacred Tradition
3. Holy Spirit in the Church

Do Not Take BIBLE Literally

When was Bible Written

Hebrew Testament – 2000 BC to 150 BC

Many Authors – Many Time Periods

Older Books Gathered and Written

Down 500 BC (Babylon)

Christian Testament

Paul's 1st Letter 45 AD

Gospels 65, 80 and 100 AD

Revelation 100AD Johnine Community

HOW DID THE BIBLE COME ABOUT

PEOPLE HAD EXPERIENCES OF GOD OVER CENTURIES

- TRIBAL ORAL HISTORIES
- STONE, CLAY, PAPYRUS

500 BC MAJOR COLLECTION –BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY

300 BC ff LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA – *SEPTUAGINT(70)*

46 BOOKS IN HEBREW, ARAMAIC AND GREEK

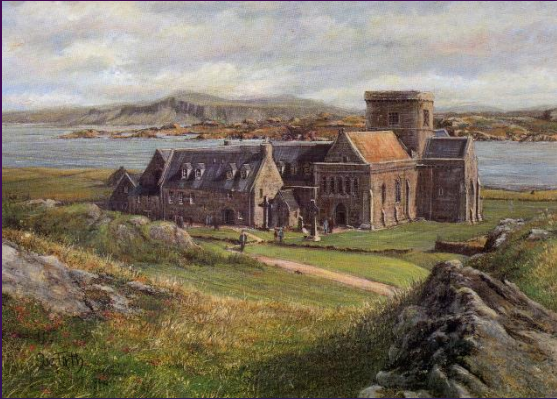
90 AD *HEBREW* CANON

39 BOOKS ONLY IN HEBREW

325 AD – ST JEROME AND TEAM – LATIN VULGATE

- 46 OF SEPTUAGINT FOR OLD TESTAMENT
- 27 COLLECTED BY SACRED TRADITION FOR NEW TESTAMENT

HOW THE **IRISH** SAVED CIVILIZATION!



- Barbarian invasions ~500 AD
- Monks —especially like @ IONA
- Unbelievable Precision
 - Dead Sea Scrolls
 - Ugaritic People and the Psalms
 - 75 Plus New Testament Papyruses in 20th Century
 - Fragment of Luke's Gospel ~ 120AD

MARTIN LUTHER

- SOLA SCRIPTURA / BY FAITH ALONE ~1510 AD
- PRINTING PRESS
 - Chained Bibles
 - Illiteracy 80+ %
- VERNACULAR BIBLE
 - TRANSLATION OF VULGATE AND GREEK TEXTS
 - EDITS OUT SOME PARTS THAT DOES NOT SUPPORT ABOVE DOCTRINE
 - Parts of the Letter of James
 - PUTS DEUTEROCANONICALS IN APPENDIX (APOCRYPHA)
 - TOBIT ,JUDITH, ESTER, WISDOM, SOLOMON, SIRACH, BARUCH,
 - LETTER OF JERIMIAH, SONG OF THREE MEN ,SUSANNA,
 - BEL AND THE DRAGON, 1AND 2 MACCABEES
- KING JAMES 1614 AD – Luther's Content Minus Deuterocanonicals

VERSIONS

- Since Mid 1900 Protestant Scholars have been Studying Sacred Scripture
- 1940 Pope Pius XII directed Catholic Scholars to Join them
- Today Most Versions are acceptable as long as they have the Deuterocanonicals
- Catholic Liturgy Uses New American Bible Revised
- New Jerusalem Bible is very Popular with Catholics

Ways to Study Sacred Scripture

Fundamentalism

Biblical Criticism – meaning **ANALYSIS** by sciences

- Form – Type of Literature
 - Myths and Legends and Apocalyptic
 - Historical, Hymns, Poems, Prophecy
- Textual – Comparing Manuscripts
- Sources and Redactions
- Archeology and Geography
- Linguistics (ex Good Greek or Koina Greek)

What to Look For

Translation from Greek and Hebrew vs Paraphrased

Footnotes and End Notes

Study vs Regular Edition

When Written – new vs revised

Commentaries -

KEY POINTS

BIBLE IS THE **WORD OF GOD** –

GOD'S HANDPRINTS THROUGH OUT TIME

HUMAN GIFTS USED TO CONVEY TRUTH ABOUT GOD

AND OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE CREATOR

TYPE OF BOOK IS IRRELEVANT TO ***FACT OF TRUTH***

NO BOOK HAS WITHSTOOD SO MUCH EVALUATION

NOT SIMPLISTIC THAT YOU CAN READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND

THE TOTAL MEANING – IT IS **CONTINUALLY REVEALING**

ALWAYS CAN BE USED AS A **SOURCE OF PRAYER**

SCRIPTURE USED FOR PRAYER

- LITURGY OF THE WORD AT MASS
 - App – Universalis.com “Lectio Divina”
<http://www.universalis.com>
- SCRIPTURE FOR CERTAIN EVENTS in time of illness/death etc.
- SCRIPTURE ROULETTE (ST. FRANCIS ?)
- EXPERIENCING MASS READINGS –
 - Sundays plus Daily – in 3 years

PRAYING SCRIPTURE SITES

Sacredspace.ie

<http://www.sacredspace.ie>

Pray-as-you-go.org

<http://www.pray-as-you-go.org>

These can be downloaded as apps

iMissal is only an app you need to download from App Store to Smart Phone or Tablet.

Use the **pray as you go app** in the morning. Produced by the Irish Jesuits & based in Ignatian Spirituality. It is an audio presentation. Usually between 12-15 min.

It starts with music and then presents one of the readings of the day and some questions for personal reflection.

There are also links to for retreats, stations of the cross, scan through....

There are prayer tools to help with preparing for prayer, rosary reflections and more.

Then go to the **iMissal** app which has all the readings from the mass of the day.

The Sacred Space website also has a reading from one of the scriptures of the day and also has inspirational helps. I like it because it has a link to Living Space which has a reflection on the readings of the day.