

# SACRED SCRIPTURE

## PART I. BACKGROUND TO SCRIPTURE

A. Revelation	(51)
1. Scripture	(81 - 82)
2. Tradition	(76 - 78)
3. Ongoing nature of revelation	(79)
4. Formation of the Bible – Oral, Written, Edited	
B. Authorship of Scripture	
1. Inspiration	(105 - 106)
2. Theories of inspiration	
a. dictation	
b. ecstasy	
c. illumination	
d. God at work through a human agent	
3. Inerrancy	(107)
a. literal truth	
b. religious or salvific truth	
4. Canonicity	(120)
a. how and when the canon was originally defined (Council of Hippo)	
b. Council of Trent	
c. apocrypha	
C. The Structure of the Bible	(121 - 130)

1. Two major divisions: Old Testament and New Testament
2. Overview of the Old Testament
  - a. Pentateuch
  - b. Historical Books
  - c. Prophetic Books
  - d. Wisdom literature
3. Overview of the New Testament (see page 7 of the outline)

D. Literary forms in the Scripture

(110)

1. Narrative
2. Legend
3. Historical
4. Speech/Discourse
5. Poetry
6. Prophecy
7. Proverb
8. Parable
9. Hymn
10. Psalm
11. Apocalyptic
12. Myth
13. Gospel
14. Letter/Epistle

PART II. OLD TESTAMENT: the Hebrew Scriptures

## A. Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)

### 1. Genesis

- a. central stories of creation (Genesis) (282 - 301)
  - 1) creation: the gift of a loving God Gen. 1: 1-26
  - 2) creation's crowning: man and woman (355 - 373)  
Gen. 1: 26-31  
Gen. 2: 7, 18-23
  - 3) the Fall: a refusal of God's love (390, 397 - 401)  
Gen. 3
  - 4) tales of sin and woe: the Flood and Babel  
Gen. 4: 1-16  
Gen. 6: 5 - 8: 20  
Gen. 11: 1-9
- b. the Age of the Patriarchs (Genesis)
  - 1) the call of Abraham (2570)  
Gen. 12: 1-9
  - 2) the covenant with Abraham (2571)  
Gen. 15  
Gen. 17
  - 3) the sacrifice of Isaac (2572)  
Gen. 22: 1-19
  - 4) passing on the covenant (2573)  
Gen. 24 - 50
    - a) Isaac
    - b) Jacob
    - c) Joseph and his brothers

### 2. The Exodus Event (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)

- a. the Hebrews as slaves in Egypt Ex. 1: 8-22
- b. the call of Moses by Yahweh (2575)  
Ex. 3: 1 - 4: 17

- c. the Passover event Ex. 12
- d. the covenant at Sinai (2060 - 2063)  
Ex. 19 & 20
- e. forty years in the desert Num. 13 & 14

## B. Historical Books

### 1. The Age of Joshua and the Judges (Joshua, Judges)

- a. the death of Moses Deut. 34
- b. the entrance into the Promised Land Josh. 3
- c. Israel under the Judges

### 2. The Age of the Monarchy ( I & II Samuel, I & II Kings)

- a. establishing a kingdom 1 Sam. 8: 1-9
- b. Saul
- c. David
- d. Solomon
- e. the Northern and Southern Kingdoms

## C. Prophets

(64)

### 1. The role of the prophet

Is. 6: 1-10  
Jer. 1: 4-10

- a. one who speaks in the name of God

b. characteristics of a prophet

- 1) authentic
- 2) false prophets

2. The Age of Prophets

a. before the Exile

- 1) Elijah
- 2) Amos
- 3) Hosea
- 4) Isaiah

b. during the Exile

- 1) Jeremiah
- 2) Ezekiel
- 3) (Daniel)

c. after the Exile/Restoration

- 1) Isaiah
- 2) Haggai & Zechariah

D. Wisdom Literature

1. Background, purpose and application

(2585 - 2589)

2. David and the Psalms

3. Solomon and the Proverbs

4. Other Wisdom books

a. Job

b. Ecclesiastes

c. Song of Songs

d. Wisdom

e. Ecclesiasticus (Sirach)

### PART III. NEW TESTAMENT: the Christian Scriptures

#### A. Overview

1. The New Testament

(124 - 130)

a. God's self-revelation in the person of Jesus Christ

(53)

Heb. 1: 1-14

b. a faith testament of the early Church

## 2. Divisions of the New Testament

a. the four Gospels

b. The Acts of the Apostles

c. the Epistles

1) Pauline Epistles

2) Catholic Epistles

3) Hebrews

d. the Book of Revelation

## 3. The world of the New Testament

a. the political situation

1) the situation in Israel

2) the Roman world

b. the religious situation

1) chief priests (including sadducees)

2) Pharisees

3) Sanhedrin

c. geography of the area

d. the social world & family life

1) occupations

2) living conditions

3) social divisions

## B. The Gospels

(124 - 127)

### 1. Overview

- a. the proclamation of the Good News of Salvation
- b. four accounts of the same event: the coming of Jesus as Messiah

### 2. Formation of the Gospels

- a. Historical Stage
- b. Oral Stage
- c. Written Stage

### 3. Authorship of the Gospels

- a. the Evangelists: Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John

1) the individual faith perspective of each evangelist

2) the particular community addressed by each evangelist

b. the Synoptic Gospels

c. John's Gospel and its unique characteristics

## C. Jesus in the Gospels

(515)

### 1. The Incarnation: the Word made Flesh

(461 - 464)

a. the Infancy Narratives

1) Matthew

Matt. 1: 18 -  
2: 23

2) Luke

Luke 2: 1-52



b. the Prologue of John	John 1: 1-18
2. The Public Ministry of Jesus	
a. the role of John the Baptist	(523, 717 - 720) Matt. 3: 1-12 Mark 1: 1-8 Luke 3: 1-20 John 1: 6-34
b. the Baptism of Jesus	(535 - 540) Matt. 3: 13-17 Mark 1: 9-11 Luke 3: 21-22
1) the anointing with the Holy Spirit as the Messiah	
2) the temptation in the desert	Matt. 4: 1-11 Mark 1: 12-13 Luke 4: 1-13
c. the invitation to Discipleship	(551) Luke 18: 18-27
1) called to follow	(541 - 542) Luke 9: 23-27 John 1: 35-51
2) formed into community	(787 - 791) Luke 9: 1-6 Luke 18: 28-30
3) sent to serve	Matt. 20: 20-28 John 13: 1-15
d. the message of Jesus	
1) Preaching: the proclamation of the Kingdom	Luke 4: 16-21
a) call to conversion	(1427 - 1428) Matt. 4: 17 John 1: 35-51
b) the promise of salvation	Matt. 10: 26-33
c) the commandment of love	Matt. 5: 38-48 Matt. 22: 34-40

John 13: 31-35

## 2) Teaching

a) parables

(546)  
Matt. 13: 24-33  
Luke 15: 15-24  
Luke 16: 19-31

b) the Sermon on the Mount

(1716 - 1719)  
Matt. 5 - 7

c) the miracles

(547 - 550)

## 3) Praying

a) the importance of prayer: Jesus as a model

(2599 - 2606)  
Matt. 6: 9-15  
Luke 11: 1-4  
Luke 10: 21-22

b) perseverance in prayer

(2612 - 2613)  
Luke 11: 9-13  
Luke 18: 1-8

## e. the Divinity of Jesus

(464 - 469)

### 1) his miracles

(547 - 550)

a) the power to heal

Matt. 8: 1-4  
Mark 7: 31-37  
Luke 6: 17-26  
John 9: 1-41

b) the power over nature

Matt. 14: 13-21  
Mark 4: 35-41  
John 2: 1-11

c) the power to expel demons	Matt. 17: 14-20 Luke 8: 26-39
d) the power over death	Luke 7: 11-17 Luke 8: 49-56 John 11: 1-44
2) the Transfiguration	(554 - 556) Matt. 17: 1-8 Mark 9: 2-8 Luke 9: 28-36
3) the forgiveness of sin	(589) Matt. 9: 1-8 Luke 7: 36-50
f. opposition to Jesus	(574 - 591)
1) the experience in the synagogue of Nazareth	Matt. 13: 54-58 Mark 6: 1-6 Luke 4: 22-30
2) religious leaders	Matt. 21: 23-28 Matt. 26: 1-4 Matt. 28: 11-15 Mark 11: 27-33
3) political authority	John 18: 28 - 19: 16
g. events of the Paschal Mystery	
1) the triumphal entry into Jerusalem	(559 - 560) Matt. 21: 1-11 Mark 11: 1-11 Luke 19: 28-40 John 12: 12-19
2) the Last Supper	(610 - 611) Matt. 26: 20-35 Mark 14: 17-31 Luke 22: 14-23 John 13 - 17
3) the Agony in the Garden	(612) Matt. 26: 36-46

	Mark 14: 32-42 Luke 22: 39-46
4) the Crucifixion	(613 - 618) Matt. 27: 33-54 Mark 15: 22-39 Luke 23: 33-47 John 19: 16-30
5) the Resurrection	(638 - 640) Matt. 28: 1-10 Mark 16: 1-13 Luke 24: 1-49 John 20 & 21
6) the Ascension	(659 - 664) Luke 24: 50-53 Acts 1: 6-12

#### D. The Acts of the Apostles

##### 1. Authorship

##### 2. Purpose

##### 3. Highlights of the book

###### a. Pentecost

(731 - 732)  
Acts 2: 1-4

###### b. the persecution by Jewish authorities

###### 1) martyrs: Stephen, James

Acts 7: 54-60  
Acts 12: 1-2

###### 2) the dispersion of the Church

Acts 11: 19-26

###### c. the Council of Jerusalem

Acts 15: 1-29

###### d. Saint Paul

###### 1) Paul's conversion

Acts 9: 1-19

###### 2) the three Missionary Journeys

Acts 13 & 14  
Acts 15: 36 -  
18: 22

## E. Epistles

### 1. Letters to particular persons or communities

### 2. Purposes

#### a. moral exhortation and encouragement

Gal. 1: 6-10  
Eph. 2: 11-22  
Col. 1: 9-14

#### b. theological explanations

1 Cor. 12  
1 Thess. 4  
1 John 2: 1-11

#### c. to correct abuses

1 Cor 1: 10-17  
1 Cor. 11: 17-22  
Gal. 3: 1-14

### 3. The Pauline Epistles

#### a. the Great Letters:

Romans  
I & II Corinthians  
Galatians  
I & II Thessalonians

#### b. the Captivity Letters:

Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians  
Philemon

#### c. the Pastoral Letters:

I & II Timothy  
Titus

### 4. The Letter to the Hebrews

### 5. The Catholic Epistles:

James  
I & II Peter  
I, II & III John  
Jude

## F. The Book of Revelation

1. The purpose & historical setting
2. A Catholic interpretation

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