



***Scripture  
and  
Revelation***

***RCIA August 29, 2017***



# Revelation: God Takes the Initiative

- **John 1: 1-5**
- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- **Consider history** – God first revealed himself in creation, which reflects God’s goodness.
- God has revealed himself more directly in **Scripture** (Hebrew & Christian), which communicates God’s love.
- **Genesis – Revelation**: the Bible communicates God’s thoughts and words to human beings – personally.

# Revelation: God Takes the Initiative

- As Christians we receive Scripture as the gift of God's own Word – especially the Gospels.
- We understand this – personally – by God's own son, Jesus, the Word of God.
- We must always approach Scripture with faith – not just what we believe, but much more importantly in Whom we believe. Faith, first and foremost, is about RELATIONSHIP!

***For Discussion: Why do you think God progressively revealed himself to humankind until he finally revealed himself fully in Jesus?***

*Q. How do children come to know and appreciate their parents...*

*...before they are verbal?*

*...when they begin to understand right and wrong?*

*...when they begin to become independent?*

*...when they are an adult?*

Can a child ever completely know their parent?

Can we ever completely know God?

*How does God choose to reveal God's self to us?*

*How does God do this most intimately?*

**WORD and SACRAMENT**

***So, now we have a good idea why  
Scripture is so important to  
Christians***

*Source of Divine Revelation  
(communal and personal)*

*A Road Map, a Travel Companion*

*Source of our “heritage” of FAITH*

# ***What the Bible is not...***

*The Bible is NOT a textbook that we study from – as if we were learning world history, geography, or languages.*

***It is a living book!!***

A book of Salvation History  
Your history...

# The Living Word...

## Finding God in Scripture

Favorite authors, especially C.S. Lewis and Henri Nouwen – I wish I could talk to them about their books – can't because they are deceased.

One exception: the author of the Bible – very much alive, and actually dwells in Scripture.

***For Reflection:*** Recall an occasion when a Scripture passage made you aware of God's presence. What helped you become aware of God speaking to you?

# Just a few facts:

*The Catholic Bible Contains 73 books*

*OT: 46 NT:27*

## *The Bible was written:*

- *Over a 1500 year span [1400 B.C. to A.D. 100]*
- *Over 40 generations*
- *Over 40 authors from many walks of life*
- *On three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe*
- *In three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek*

# How we read Scripture

*If the New Testament is the new Covenant...  
why do we still read the Old Testament?*



*(Does a tree only begin at ground level?)*

# How we read Scripture

*Scripture is written in many different styles:*

*Poetry, Praise, Prayers, Parables, History...*

*In order to read scripture we need to know:*

*The Author*

*The Audience*

*The Time and Historical Environment*

*The type of Literature*

**WHY?**

# Los Angeles Times

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## *Padres Slaughter Tribe!*



The Dow skyrockets 936 points as the focus shifts from buying bad assets to pouring funds directly into firms.

By MAURA REYNOLDS  
*Times Staff Writer*

WASHINGTON — In a major strategic shift, the Bush administration has decided to pour at least \$250 billion directly into major banks and expand federal insurance protection to encourage financial institutions to resume lending to one another.

Stocks soared on hopes that policymakers had finally hit on the right formula to thaw the frozen credit system and quell the financial calamity that has hammered giant banks and small investors alike. The Dow Jones industrial average rocketed more than 900 points, its biggest one-day point gain ever.

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## SPORTS

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**GODISNOWHERE**

**GOD \* IS \*  
NOWHERE**

**GOD \* IS \* NOW \*  
HERE**

# How we read Scripture

We are **NOT**  
literalists

*We believe the Holy Spirit inspired the authors of sacred Scripture.*

*Sacred Scripture teaches the truth.*

*For instance, see anything wrong here?*

# ***The Creation Story... um, Stories***

***Genesis Chapter One: The First Creation Story***  
*The traditional seven day story*

***Genesis Chapter Two: The Second Creation Story***  
*Begins with the Garden of Eden*

## **Which is it?**

# Jesus Revealing the Nature of God

“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” John 14:9

“It’s all because of Jesus that we speak of God as we do.” N.T. Wright

Looking at my daughters, I see that we’ve left our mark on both.

By being our children, they take on our characteristics.

This is exactly what Jesus does – reveal the nature of God in his words and his actions (T-P-H)...

Who God is, and what God desires

Jesus is the FULLNESS of God’s Revelation!

***For Reflection: What is it about Jesus that makes God real to you?***

# **Tonight we covered the following:**

1. What is Revelation?
2. Why the Bible is important – the Word of God is ALIVE!
3. Facts about the Bible, and the purpose of Hebrew Scripture & the New Testament
4. How to read the Bible
5. Jesus is the fullness of God's Revelation – and what that means for us

**How'd we do? Questions?**