

Scripture Is God's Saving Word

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 2*.

❖ The writings, guarded by God, that reveal God's message are called Scripture. God inspired the Scripture writers to express his message in their own ways.

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❖ Tradition refers to the beliefs and practices passed down through the ages and is part of the Church's teaching. It is one part of what makes up God's Word. It includes the prayers, beliefs, and practices that identify us as Catholics. The other part of God's Word is Scripture.

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❖ God's revelation is contained in Scripture and Tradition. They form a sacred deposit—God's Word.

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❖ In the Old Testament, the word *old* refers to God's Law. The Law is the first five books of the Bible, which tell about the beginning of God's people.

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❖ The New Testament contains 27 books that tell of the teaching, ministry, and saving events of the life of Jesus. The four Gospels are especially important, because Jesus is at their center and in them we learn about his life, Death, and Resurrection.

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❖ The writers of Scripture were inspired by the Holy Spirit. We learn to understand the Bible through a combination of human knowledge, the teachings of the Church, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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❖ When they are put together, the books of the Bible tell the story of Salvation History and about the life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

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❖ The first five books of the Bible—called the Law, the Pentateuch, or the Torah—tell the story of the beginnings of God's people, including the story of creation, the journey to the Promised Land, and the covenant.

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❖ The different forms of writing in Wisdom literature help us understand how to act as God's people. Wisdom literature contains psalms, poems, prayers, sermons, proverbs, riddles, and parables.

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❖ When the people had turned away from God, prophets reminded them of God's love. The prophets challenged the people to be faithful to God, to remember their covenant with him, and to be just to one another.

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❖ Biblical references are always listed in the same order. First the name of the book is listed, then the chapter, and finally the verse or verses.

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❖ The Dead Sea Scrolls are among the only surviving biblical documents written before A.D. 100.

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❖ God speaks to us at Mass as his Word is proclaimed. Hearing God's Word proclaimed, as well as reading the Bible, helps us understand God's message. It is good practice to read the Bible every day.

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