

God and Us - From the Hebrew Scriptures to the Christian Scriptures to Church Traditions

Background – Catechism of the Catholic Church – Paragraphs 101-141

The Old Testament

121 - The Old Testament is an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture. Its books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value, for the Old Covenant has never been revoked.

123 - Christians venerate the Old Testament as true Word of God. The Church has always vigorously opposed the idea of rejecting the Old Testament under the pretext that the New has rendered it void (Marcionism).

Old Testament (Covenant) to the New Testament (Covenant)

CREATION

First Creation Story - Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Second Creation Story and Fall - Genesis 2:4b-3:24

Prediction of salvation – Jesus born of Mary – 3:15

Pain, suffering, death – 3:17-19; 3:22-24

COVENANT

Noah – earth destroyed by flood waters and “re-created” in Noah – symbolic of Baptism – recalled in the blessing of the water at Easter Vigil and Baptism

Genesis – 9:1-17 – recalls the Creation story

Abram / Abraham

Genesis 12:1-7 – 2-3 – promises; 7 – land

Genesis 17:4 – change name to Abraham

Abraham had a very difficult life and was always faithful; remained childless until the age of 100 when Isaac was born

Testing of Abraham / Sacrifice of Isaac

Genesis 22:1-8 – Isaac carries the wood on which he is to be sacrificed – prefigurement of Christ

Genesis 22:11-12; 15-18 – restatement of the promise

Isaac had two sons – Esau and Jacob; Jacob became the father of 12 sons; Jacob's name is changed to Israel; his 12 sons become the 12 tribes of Israel – the land will eventually be divided by their descendants. Joseph was the youngest son and was sold into slavery in Egypt out of jealousy by his brothers. His family eventually migrates to Egypt as there had been severe famine and Joseph grew to be a powerful figure.

Enslavement in Egypt

Exodus 1:1-14

Moses

Call of Moses

God remembers his covenant – Exodus 2:23-25

Burning Bush / call / mission – Exodus 3:2-12

The ten plagues

Passover – Exodus 12:43-51 – the lamb

Parting of the Red Sea

Covenant at Sinai

Exodus 19:3-8 – a kingdom of priests, a holy nation!

Ten Commandments – Exodus 20:1-17

Ratification of the Covenant – Exodus 24:3-8; 24:18 – 40 days and 40 nights; the ark of the covenant

Wandering in the Desert – 40 years – original generation will not enter the land – Exodus 14:27-38

The great commandment- Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (Jewish Shema)

The Promised Land – Division of the Land (12 tribes) – Judges

Monarchy

United Kingdom (1000 – 922 BC)

Saul – David – Solomon

Promises to David – 2 Samuel 7:8-17 – Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me (2 Sam 7:16)

Divided Kingdom

Northern Kingdom (Israel) – Fell to Assyrians (722 BC)

Southern Kingdom (Judah) – Fell to Babylon (587 BC)

Prophets – voices of the Lord

Babylonian Exile

Return to the Land – under rule of Greeks and Romans

BIRTH OF JESUS

From the House of David - Genealogy – Matthew 1:1-17

As foretold by the prophets – Matthew 1:23

The Word of God

Hebrews 1:1-4

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. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The greatest commandment – Matthew 22:36-40

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He [Jesus] said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

Blessing of the water of Baptism (Easter Vigil)