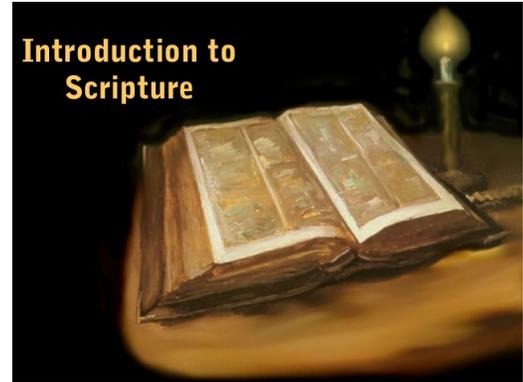


All Sacred Scripture is but one book, and this one book is CHRIST, because all Divine Scripture speaks of CHRIST and all divine Scripture is fulfilled in CHRIST (CCC: *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: 134)

In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them. (CCC: 103)



**The Bible is a Living Word written under the inspiration of Holy Spirit. It is given to us by God for our Salvation and to Transform our lives by Divinely Revealed Truth and Wisdom.**

God is the author of Sacred Scripture because he *inspired* its human authors; he acts in them and by means of them. He thus gives assurance that their writings teach without error his *saving* truth (CCC:136)

In Sacred Scripture, God speaks to us in a human way. To interpret Scripture correctly, the reader must be attentive to what the human authors truly wanted to affirm, and to what God wanted to reveal to us by their words. In order to discover *the sacred authors' intention*, the reader must take into account the conditions of their time and culture, the literary genres in use at that time, and the modes of thinking, speaking and narrating then current. (CCC 109-110)

Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written. (CCC: 111)

Though the Bible is composed of numerous books and literary genres, it must be interpreted within the Unity of the whole and within the Church's Tradition.

The two senses of scripture are the *Literal* and the *Spiritual*.

**Exercise:** Read The Calming of the Storm in Mark 4:35-41 (Page 1121 in NAB)

1. Name three elements in the story that are likely historical (Literal Sense)
2. Name three spiritual truths Mark wants to convey. (Spiritual Sense)
3. How might those truths be relevant to us today?

**THE CANON** Pages 161-171 in NAB

**THE OLD TESTAMENT (46 Books)**

1. The Pentateuch (Torah)
2. The Writings: Historical, Novellas, Wisdom
3. The Prophets

**THE NEW TESTAMENT (27;Books)**

1. Gospels
2. Acts of the Apostles
3. Letters: St. Paul, Catholic (Universal)
4. Revelation

The Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord's Body. She never ceases to present to the faithful the Bread of Life, taken from the one table of God's Word and Christ's Body CCC:103)

**Reading and Praying with the Bible**

And such is the force and power of the Word of God that it can serve the Church as her support and vigor and the children of the Church as strength for their faith, food for the soul, and a pure and lasting font of spiritual life. (CCC:131)

1. The Psalter
2. The Gospels
3. [USCCB.org](http://USCCB.org)