

Chapter 1: THIRST FOR GOD

WHO AM I?

(pp. 2-3)

- 1. What is a definition of a human person?** *A human person is a rational being, comprising body and soul, who is designed for happiness.*
- 2. What does it mean to be a corporeal being?** *What does it mean to be a spiritual being? A being is corporeal in that it has a body. A being is spiritual in that it has an immortal soul.*
- 3. What does it mean to say that we are rational beings?** *It means that we have the faculty of reason, i.e., the ability to think and form abstract ideas beyond what we perceive through our physical senses.*
- 4. What does it mean to say that we are dependent and interdependent beings?** *It means that we depend upon other persons for our development and well-being, and they likewise depend upon us.*
- 5. What does it mean to say that we are designed for happiness?** *It means we are created with a natural desire for happiness, and our rational free will is oriented toward seeking happiness.*
- 6. What is free will?** *It is our real but limited freedom to make choices and pursue courses of action that we believe will make us happy.*

WHERE IS HAPPINESS TO BE FOUND?

(pp. 4-5)

- 7. What are the major means by which human beings typically pursue happiness?** *People pursue happiness through wealth, honors, fame or glory, power, health and physical fitness, physical pleasure, intellectual pursuits, moral pursuits, friendship, and the vision of God.*
- 8. Explain: Our fundamental human needs and desires are oriented toward something that is good, but the specific ways in which we seek to fulfill these desires might not always be good for us.** *We do not always recognize the true object of our desires. Sometimes, this failure leads us to seek to satisfy these desires in ways that harm us such as looking for love through illicit relationships or alleviating hunger through excessive self-indulgence.*
- 9. How do need, desire, and pleasure work together for our benefit? Give an example.** *For every true human need, there exists a desire to attain it and a pleasure in reaching it. Desire and pleasure work together so we will seek what is good for us. For example, the need for nutrition is experienced as a desire for food (hunger), and we derive pleasure from satisfying that desire (eating); this makes us want to repeat the experience.*
- 10. Illustrate the following statement with an example: We do not necessarily call to mind the true end of our desires when we act upon them, but to do so can help us use our reason in order to make good choices.** *Using the example of eating, we usually eat because we feel hunger and want to satisfy that desire, not necessarily because we know we need certain nutrients in order to survive. However, we cannot eat anything and everything we want, or we risk doing harm to our health. As rational beings, we need to evaluate our options and make good choices. So we do best to select foods that satisfy not only hunger but also nutritional needs.*

OUR NATURAL DESIRE FOR GOD

(pp. 5–9)

- 11. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, why is it that nothing on earth can ever completely satisfy a human being?** *Our ultimate desire is for God alone. We can take pleasure and a measure of happiness in many things; nonetheless, nothing but God will ever totally and permanently fulfill us in such a way that we no longer desire anything else.*
- 12. “The human heart desires to know what is true, good, and beautiful.” What does this mean?** *Our natural human quest for truth, goodness, and beauty is in reality a sign of our desire for God, who is perfect truth, perfect goodness, and perfect beauty.*
- 13. Describe two ways in which we are made in the image and likeness of God.** *One way is that we have reason and free will. The other is that we have the power to love and are called to live in a loving communion with God and other persons.*

GOD’S SUPERNATURAL DESIRE FOR US; WHAT’S NEXT?

(p. 9)

- 14. How is man naturally religious?** *We are created by God, and we naturally seek and desire God. Our relationship with God is part of our human identity—so much so that, if we do not choose freely to live in this relationship, we are not living a truly human life. If we seek true happiness, then we must seek God.*
- 15. What are the two ways we can know God?** *We can know God through human reason and through Divine Revelation, by which we can come to have faith.*
- 16. What is the climax of God’s self-revelation?** *The Person of Jesus Christ is the fullness of Revelation.*
- 17. According to *Dei Verbum*, 2, what is the character of the full and permanent fulfillment that God wishes to give us?** *It is to “become sharers in the divine nature.”*

Discussion Questions (p.10)

- 1. What is a good definition of a human person?** *A human person is a rational being, comprising body and soul, who is designed for happiness.*
- 2. What does it mean to be a corporeal being? What does it mean to be a spiritual being?** *A being is corporeal in that it has a body. A being is spiritual in that it has an immortal soul.*
- 3. What is reason? What is free will?** *Reason is the power to make inferences, judgments, and conclusions from facts or premises. Free will is our real but limited freedom to make choices and pursue courses of action that we believe will make us happy.*
- 4. How do need, desire, and pleasure work together for our good? Give an example.** *For every true human need, there exists a desire to attain it and a pleasure in reaching it. Desire and pleasure work together so we will seek what is good for us. For example, the need for nutrition is experienced as a desire for food (hunger), and we derive pleasure from satisfying that desire (eating); this makes us want to repeat the experience.*
- 5. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, why is it that nothing on earth can ever completely satisfy a human being?** *Our ultimate desire is for God alone. We can take pleasure and a measure of happiness in many things, but nothing but God will ever completely and permanently fulfill us in such a way that we no longer desire anything else.*
- 6. We are made in the image and likeness of God. What does this mean? Describe two meanings of this statement.** *One is that we have reason and free will. The other is that we have the power to love and are called to live in a loving communion with God and other persons.*
- 7. What are the two ways by which we can know God?** *We can know God through human reason and through Divine Revelation, by which we can come to have faith.*
- 8. What is the climax of Divine Revelation?** *The Person of Jesus Christ is the fullness of Revelation.*

Chapter 2: NATURAL REVELATION

KNOWING GOD THROUGH REASON

(pp. 12-13)

- 1. In his Letter to the Romans, what are three things St. Paul says everyone should know from reason alone?** *Everyone should know that God exists, that he is Almighty, and that there is a moral law governing human nature that we ought to obey.*
- 2. According to St. Paul, through what things can we know about God naturally?** *We know God naturally through creation, “the things that have been made” (Rom 1:20).*
- 3. Where can everyone find the moral law, according to St. Paul?** *It is “written” on our “hearts” (Rom 2:15).*

GOD EXISTS

(pp. 13-16)

- 4. What “light” does philosophy use to examine if God exists and what he is like?** *Philosophy uses reason.*
- 5. By what name did Aristotle call God? Why did he call him this?** *Aristotle called God the First Cause because he is the single, ultimate cause of everything.*
- 6. In a series of cause-and-effect events, why must there be a first mover, even if you cannot observe it?** *There must be a first mover; otherwise, nothing could ever have moved in the first place.*
- 7. What is a possible being?** *It is something that can either be or not be.*
- 8. Why must there be a Necessary Being?** *Everything in nature can either be or not be. If at one time nothing was in existence, nothing could ever have come to exist unless there is a being who must exist.*
- 9. What is the argument for God from governance?** *Objects that lack intelligence do not act by chance but follow a regular pattern. This must be the result of governance by some intelligent being, as an arrow flying toward its target must have been set in motion by an archer.*
- 10. Do St. Thomas’s proofs still apply today?** *Yes. It is still true that things must be set in motion by something else, that something cannot come from nothing, and that everything in nature is contingent and hence must have some necessary cause as its ultimate origin. The principles set forth in his arguments are also very relevant to the modern understanding of the universe: Even the “big bang” theory of the universe requires the existence of primordial matter, which had to have been created, and a “prime mover” that caused the “big bang” itself.*
- 11. Why might someone who is living an immoral life not want to acknowledge God’s existence?** *Belief in God leads us to the moral law and an acknowledgement of sin, and the individual may not want to give up his or her sinful way of living.*

WHAT GOD IS LIKE

(pp. 16-17)

- 12. What are some of the attributes of God that we can discover through reason?** *God is Eternal, Perfect, All-powerful, the fullness of truth, Goodness and Beauty, One, and Infinite.*

MORAL LAW

(p.17)

13. What is the natural moral law? *It is the rational knowledge “written on our hearts” of what will perfect and fulfill human nature.*

14. What is conscience? *Conscience is the judgment of reason as to whether or not a person is making choices in accordance with the moral law.*

REASON’S LIMITATIONS AND FAITH

(pp.17-19)

15. Why do we need certain natural truths revealed to us? *God revealed religious and moral truths not beyond the grasp of reason so “they can be known by all men with ease, with firm certainty and with no admixture of error” (CCC 38).*

16. What is natural faith? *It is belief in something that can be known by reason and is accepted based on the trustworthiness of another person.*

17. What does the expression “grace builds on nature” mean? *It means that God’s grace builds on a natural foundation. The grace of faith is founded upon natural revelation and the truths discernible through human reason, and both faith and reason therefore work together to increase and expand our understanding of God and his moral law.*

Discussion Questions (p. 20)

- 1. According to St. Paul, what three religious truths should everyone know from reason alone?** *Everyone should know that God exists, that he is Almighty, and that we can know and should obey the moral law.*
- 2. What “light” does philosophy use to examine if God exists and discern what he is like?** *Philosophy uses reason.*
- 3. What did Aristotle call God, and why did he call him this?** *Aristotle called God the First Cause because he is the single, ultimate cause of everything.*
- 4. What are St. Thomas Aquinas’s “Five Ways”?** *They are five proposals for how the existence of God can be known through reason. These include the argument from motion, the argument from causes, the argument from possibility and necessity, the argument from degrees of perfection, and the argument from governance.*
- 5. What are some of the attributes of God that we can discover through reason?** *God is Eternal, Perfect, All-powerful, the fullness of truth, Goodness and Beauty, One, and Infinite.*
- 6. What is the natural moral law?** *It is the rational knowledge “written on our hearts” of what will perfect and fulfill human nature.*
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Chapter 3: KNOWING GOD THROUGH DIVINE REVELATION

GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN TO MAN

(pp. 22-24)

- 1. What is God's motivation for revealing himself to humanity?** *God revealed himself to humanity out of love so we could be saved.*
- 2. In regard to accepting his Revelation, what does God do for our intellect and for our will?** *For our intellect he reveals himself. For our will he gives us grace to accept his Revelation.*
- 3. Why do we need God's Revelation?** *We need Revelation because it is very difficult to know about God and the moral law through reason alone.*
- 4. What does it mean to reveal?** *It means to uncover or to show what is hidden.*

GOD REVEALS HIS TRUTHS

(pp. 24-25)

- 5. What are the two levels of truth in Divine Revelation?** *They are natural truths and supernatural truths.*
- 6. Why does God reveal natural truths to us?** *Because we are prone to ignorance and error, God revealed natural truths so we could know them easily, with certainty, and without error.*
- 7. Why do we accept natural truths with natural faith?** *We accept them because we trust the persons who reveal them.*
- 8. Why do we accept supernatural truths on faith?** *We accept them because we trust God, who reveals them.*
- 9. Why is God worthy of our trust?** *God is good, cannot err, and would never deceive us.*
- 10. How does God help us make an act of faith to accept what he reveals?** *God gives us the supernatural power of the gift of grace to accept what he reveals.*
- 11. Why does sin make us oppose God's Revelation?** *Our sins make us want to ignore the truth of God's moral law.*
- 12. Why do we need grace to receive Revelation with faith?** *Sin, error, and ignorance tend to close us to the truth. Grace helps us overcome these blocks.*

FAITH AND REASON

(pp. 26-28)

- 13. When it comes to knowing religious and moral truths, how do supernatural faith and natural reason interrelate?** *They work together, assisting each other.*
- 14. Why are faith and reason like two wings?** *They are two powers that help us contemplate truths about God and ourselves.*

GOD REVEALS THROUGH WORKS AND WORDS

(p. 29)

- 15. What are the two means God uses to manifest his Divine Revelation?** *He uses interrelated works and words.*
- 16. What is the interrelation between God's works and his words?** *They help to explain each other.*

- 17. What is an example of works and of words in Genesis?** *A work of God depicted in Genesis is the creation of man. The words of Genesis tell us that man is made in the image and likeness of God.*
- 18. What is an example of God’s immediate Revelation?** *God spoke to Moses directly and gave him the Law.*
- 19. What is an example of God’s mediate Revelation?** *Moses told the Israelites what God told him. His words, recorded in the Torah, or Law, mediately reveals these truths to future generations.*
- 20. Do we receive the Faith immediately or mediately?** *We receive it mediately through Christ and his Church.*

Discussion Questions (p. 30)

- 1. Why do we need God's Revelation?** *We need Revelation because it is very difficult to know about God and the moral law through reason alone.*
- 2. What are the two levels of truth in Divine Revelation?** *They are natural truths and supernatural truths.*
- 3. Why do we accept supernatural truths on faith?** *We accept them because we trust God, who reveals them.*
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Chapter 4: THE OLD TESTAMENT PREPARES THE WAY FOR CHRIST

THE BIBLE AND REVELATION

(pp. 32-33)

1. What is a “testament”? *It is a covenant or solemn agreement.*

GOD’S COVENANT WITH ADAM AND EVE

(pp. 33-34)

2. With whom did God make the five covenants recorded in the Old Covenant or Testament? *God made covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David.*
3. What was God’s covenant with Adam and Eve? *God created Adam and Eve as his children to found the human family, which was to grow ever larger and develop creation.*
4. What is the *Protoevangelium*? *It is the “First Gospel,” or “good news,” that God would send a redeemer.*
5. How do Jesus, Mary, and the Church relate to Adam, Eve, and the human family? *Jesus is the New Adam, Mary is the New Eve, and the Church is the supernatural Family of God.*
6. What are some of the effects of Original Sin? *They include a darkened intellect, a weakened will, alienation from God and one another, suffering, and death.*
7. Did Original Sin totally corrupt human nature? *No. We can still freely choose to do good with the help of grace.*

GOD’S COVENANT WITH NOAH

(p. 34)

8. What was God’s covenant with Noah? *It was a renewal of the covenant with Adam to have dominion over creation.*
9. Why did God forbid the eating of blood? *It was a reminder not to murder.*
10. How does Noah prefigure Christ? *Both were righteous saviors.*
11. How does the Ark prefigure the Church? *The Ark kept Noah’s family safe just as the Church is how God protects his new family members.*

GOD’S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

(p. 35)

12. What did God promise Abraham in relation to his posterity? *God promised Abraham he would be the father of numerous descendants and a great nation.*
13. What did God promise Abraham in regard to every other human family? *Abraham would be a blessing for all the families of the earth.*
14. What is the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham? *The fulfillment is in Jesus Christ and his Church, through whom all the families of the earth find a divine blessing.*

GOD’S COVENANT WITH MOSES

(pp. 36-37)

- 15. What are four things God did through Moses?** *God revealed his name, freed the Israelites from slavery, gave them a Law, and led them to the Promised Land.*
- 16. How does God’s Revelation of his name relate to God’s nature?** *God’s name, “I AM WHO I AM,” reveals that existence is God’s nature: He is the fullness of being who sustains every being and every detail of creation.*
- 17. What is the central moral code God gave the Chosen People through Moses?** *God revealed the Ten Commandments.*
- 18. Why did God reveal the natural law to the Chosen People?** *God revealed the natural law so they—and we—would find it easier to know and thus obey.*
- 19. How does the “assembly” of the Chosen People relate etymologically to the Church?** *The Greek word for this assembly is the origin of the word “church.”*
- 20. What is the relationship between Moses and the Law and Christ and the New Law of Love?** *Moses and his Law were intended to prepare humanity for Christ and his New Law.*

THE PROMISE TO DAVID

(p. 37)

- 21. What did God promise David through the prophet Nathan?** *God promised David he would be a father to him and that his kingdom would last forever.*
- 22. To whom did Nathan’s prophecy ultimately refer?** *It referred ultimately to God’s Son, Jesus Christ, whose kingdom, the Church, will be everlasting.*

PROPHETS AND TYPES; CONCLUSION

(pp. 38-40)

- 23. What is a prophet?** *A prophet is a person chosen by God to speak the truth to the people, often foretelling future events.*
- 24. What did Isaiah foretell about Christ?** *Isaiah foretold that Christ would be born of a virgin, filled with the Holy Spirit, and suffer tremendously to redeem humanity.*
- 25. What is a type?** *A type is a person or event in the Old Testament foreshadowing something in the New Testament.*
- 26. How is Isaac a type of Christ?** *Isaac was Abraham’s only son, through whom all the people of the earth would be blessed. However, God tested Abraham by ordering Abraham to sacrifice his only son. Christ is God’s only Son whom God actually sacrificed to bless all the people of the earth.*

Discussion Questions (p. 40)

- 1. With whom did God make the five covenants recorded in the Old Testament?** *God made covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David.*
- 2. What was God’s covenant with Adam and Eve?** *God created Adam and Eve as his children to found the human family, which was to grow ever larger and develop creation.*
- 3. What is the Protoevangelium?** *It is the “First Gospel,” or “good news,” that God would send a redeemer.*
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- 7. What is the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham?** *The fulfillment is in Jesus Christ and his Church, through whom all the families of the earth find a divine blessing.*
- 8. What are four things God did through Moses?** *God revealed his name, freed the Israelites from slavery, gave them a Law, and led them to the Promised Land.*
- 9. What is the central moral code God gave the Chosen People through Moses?** *God revealed the Ten Commandments.*
- 10. What is the relationship between Moses and the Law and Christ and the New Law of Love?** *Moses and his Law were intended to prepare humanity for Christ and his New Law.*
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- 12. To whom did Nathan’s prophecy ultimately refer?** *It referred ultimately to God’s Son, Jesus Christ, whose kingdom, the Church, will be everlasting.*
- 13. What is a prophet?** *A prophet is a person chosen by God to speak the truth to people, often foretelling future events.*
- 14. What is a type?** *A type is a person or event in the Old Testament foreshadowing something in the New Testament.*

Chapter 5:

CHRIST REVEALED IN SACRED SCRIPTURE — HIS HIDDEN LIFE

WORKS AND WORDS OF CHRIST

(pp. 42-43)

- 1. From the perspective of Christianity, what is the subject of the Sacred Scriptures?** *The central character in the Bible is Jesus Christ. The Scriptures point to and are fulfilled in him.*
- 2. Will there be future Revelations from God to humanity? Why?** *No. Jesus Christ is the full and definitive Revelation of God. In other words, God has revealed everything he wants us to know through the Person of his Son.*

CHRIST'S HIDDEN LIFE

(pp. 43-50)

- 3. What is Christ's hidden life, and what did he do during this time?** *His hidden life is the years from his infancy until he began his public ministry. During this time he lived an ordinary life while also beginning to fulfill the promises of Divine Revelation.*
- 4. What is the Pax Romana?** *It was the Roman Peace, a unification that the ancient world enjoyed under the Roman Empire.*
- 5. How did the Pax Romana aid in the spread of Christianity?** *The relative peace, ease of travel, single code of law, and common language made the spread of Christianity easier.*
- 6. How did Greek philosophy help Christianity?** *Greek philosophical monotheism helped people to be open to revealed monotheism. Greek philosophical and ethical concepts helped in the development of Christian theology and ethics.*
- 7. How did the Jewish Diaspora help spread Christianity to Jews?** *Jewish Christians from Israel could bring their new "Way" to Jews in cities across the Roman Empire.*
- 8. How did the Jewish Diaspora help spread Christianity to Gentiles?** *Christianity found a welcome in many "God-fearing" Gentiles who were attracted to the Jewish faith but did not desire to go the entire way of converting to Judaism.*
- 9. What is the significance of the word "overshadow" in the Annunciation?** *It refers to the action and presence of God.*
- 10. How is Christ Immanuel?** *Immanuel means "God is with us." Because Christ is God and he lived on earth, he is God-with-us.*
- 11. What is Mary's fiat?** *It is her response of faith, obedience, and acceptance of God's will to bear the Son of God.*
- 12. Why was Christ, whose parents lived in Galilee, born in Bethlehem?** *Though St. Joseph lived in Nazareth, his ancestral home was Bethlehem, which was also the birthplace of his distant ancestor King David. When Rome ordered a census, Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem for the enrollment.*
- 13. How did Christ fulfill a prophecy of Micah?** *The prophet Micah foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, the City of David. This is where Christ was born.*
- 14. Who were the Magi?** *They were Gentile astrologers who worshiped Christ as the King of the Jews.*
- 15. Why did Herod want to know where the Christ-child was?** *He lied that he wanted to worship him. He really meant to murder him.*

Discussion Questions (p. 50)

- 1. From the perspective of Christianity, what is the subject of the Sacred Scriptures?** *The central character in the Bible is Jesus Christ. The Scriptures point to and are fulfilled in him.*
- 2. What is Christ's hidden life, and what did he do during this time?** *His hidden life is the years from his infancy until he began his public ministry. During this time he lived an ordinary life while also beginning to fulfill the promises of Divine Revelation.*
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Chapter 6:

CHRIST REVEALED IN SACRED SCRIPTURE — HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY

CHRIST'S PUBLIC LIFE BEGINS

(pp. 52-54)

- 1. What was John the Baptist's basic message?** *Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins for the Messiah is coming soon.*
- 2. How did John compare himself to the Messiah?** *He said that he was unworthy to untie the Messiah's sandals.*
- 3. Why did the sinless Christ want to be baptized?** *He wanted to identify with sinful people. His baptism also prefigured his Death on the Cross.*
- 4. How was Christ's baptism a Trinitarian event?** *The Father spoke, the Son was spoken about, and the Holy Spirit descended on the Son.*
- 5. Why did Christ fast for forty days?** *This was a symbolically important number for the Jews. The number forty represented a time of trial and preparation.*
- 6. Why did Christ undergo temptation?** *He overcame sin where Adam and Eve had failed.*

PERFECTING THE LAW

(pp. 54-55)

- 7. How did Christ perfect or fulfill the precept of the Mosaic Law against adultery?** *He extended the Commandment to include all thoughts, words, and deeds against chastity.*
- 8. How did Christ perfect the Mosaic Law in regard to divorce?** *God's original intention was for marriage to be lifelong, faithful, and loving. Moses had permitted divorce due to the Israelites' hardness of heart. Christ restored marriage to God's original plan. **Extension:** Christ also elevated marriage to a Sacrament in which the spouses receive the grace necessary to live their married lives according to God's intentions.*
- 9. What is the New Law of Love?** *It is Christ's command that his followers love everyone as Christ loves us.*

MIRACLES

(pp. 55-59)

- 10. Why did Christ perform miracles?** *He performed miracles out of love and to demonstrate his divinity.*
- 11. How did Christ's first miracle reflect both his humanity and divinity?** *As a man Christ showed kindness to the hosts, and he showed obedience to his Mother. As God he showed his divine power by turning water into wine.*
- 12. Why did Christ heal the paralytic?** *One reason was that Christ wanted to demonstrate he is God, who can forgive sins.*
- 13. How did Christ's ability to cast out demons reveal his identity?** *The demons recognized that he is the Son of God.*
- 14. What great event was foreshadowed by Christ's feeding of the multitudes? What Old Testament event prefigured Christ's identification as the "Bread of Life"?** *The feeding of the multitudes foreshadowed the institution of the Sacrament of the Eucharist, in which Christ gives us his real Body and Blood under the appearance of bread and wine. The feeding of the multitudes and the Eucharist itself are prefigured by the miraculous feeding of the Israelites in the desert with manna, the bread from heaven.*

- 15. What is the significance of Christ’s associating with “sinful” Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles?** *This shows the universal scope of his ministry. Christ came to save everyone.*
- 16. Why did Christ choose twelve Apostles?** *Israel had Twelve Tribes, each headed by one of the sons of Jacob. In his Church, Christ was establishing the New Israel with Twelve Apostles.*
- 17. Why did Christ change Simon’s name to Peter?** *God sometimes changed the name of individuals whom he appointed to a special mission. Peter means “rock,” and Christ said that upon this “rock” he would build his Church. Christ was appointing Peter as the head of his Church on earth.*
- 18. So far, how accurate is Christ’s prediction that the Church will last until the end of time?** *The Church is the oldest continually existing institution in history.*

Discussion Questions (p. 60)

1. **What was John the Baptist's basic message?** *Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins for the Messiah is coming soon.*
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Chapter 7:

CHRIST REVEALED IN SACRED SCRIPTURE — HIS PASSION, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION

THE NEW COVENANT

(p. 62)

- 1. What did the crowd say in Mark 11 that reveals they considered Christ the Messiah?** *The crowd proclaimed that Christ was coming “in the name of the Lord” and that “the kingdom of David was coming.”*
- 2. What are the two stages of Christ’s establishment of the New Covenant?** *They are the Last Supper and his Passion, Death, and Resurrection.*

THE LAST SUPPER, THE NEW PASSOVER

(p. 63)

- 3. What is the Passover meal?** *It was the ritual meal that Moses instructed the Jews to eat before the Angel of Death “passed over” their homes, marked by the blood of the lamb, but descended upon the homes of the Egyptians, killing their firstborn males. It was celebrated annually.*
- 4. What was the Passover lamb?** *It was the lamb each Jewish household slaughtered. Its blood saved their firstborn males from death, and its flesh was consumed in a ritual meal.*
- 5. What is the relationship between the Passover lamb and Christ?** *The Passover lamb was slain, and its blood saved the Chosen People during the Passover and led to their freedom from slavery. Christ is the Lamb of God whose bloody death frees all human beings from the slavery of sin and death.*
- 6. What did Christ say about the bread and wine, and what did he order his disciples to do with them?** *He said they were his Body and Blood and that they should eat and drink them.*
- 7. How did Christ link the Passover “cup of blessing” with the making of a New Covenant?** *Christ called the cup of blessing “my Blood of the Covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” In the Old Testament, the blood of the covenant was the sprinkling of blood on the people of Israel by which they ratified their Mosaic Covenant with God.*
- 8. With what did Christ ratify the New Covenant?** *He ratified it with his own Blood.*

THE CUP OF CONSUMMATION

(p. 65)

- 9. What is the cup Christ asked the Father to remove?** *It is the Cup of Consummation, i.e., his Death on the Cross.*

“I AM”

(pp. 65-66)

- 10. What was unjust about Christ’s trial?** *Most of the Sanhedrin had already made up their minds to condemn Christ and arranged false witnesses to ensure a guilty verdict.*
- 11. Why did Caiaphas accuse Christ of blasphemy?** *Christ said he is the Son of God (the “Blessed”).*

PILATE EXAMINES CHRIST

(p. 66)

- 12. Did Pilate think Christ was guilty of any crime?** *No.*
- 13. Why did Pilate, believing Christ innocent, have him viciously scourged?** *Pilate thought it would appease Christ's accusers.*
- 14. Why did Pilate appease the Sanhedrin?** *He feared that they would report him as supporting an enemy of Caesar.*

CHRIST IS CRUCIFIED

(pp. 67-68)

- 15. Just before his crucifixion, why did Christ refuse the wine mixed with myrrh?** *It was a painkiller meant to reduce his suffering rather than the cup of consummation.*
- 16. How did Christ establish the New Covenant?** *He took a sip of the sponge of sour wine held up on a branch of hyssop and died on the Cross.*
- 17. How did the Roman soldiers assure that Christ was really dead?** *They pierced his side with a lance.*
- 18. How did the Jewish authorities assure that Christ's followers could not "steal his body"?** *They asked Pilate to place a Roman guard at the tomb.*

THE RESURRECTION

(p. 68)

- 19. What emotional reactions did the disciples of Christ have at the Resurrection?** *They experienced fear, astonishment, and then joy.*
- 20. In the locked Upper Room, why did Christ ask the disciples to look at him, touch him, and give him something to eat?** *Christ wanted to assure them that he was not a ghost but that his Body really did rise from the grave.*

Discussion Questions (p. 70)

- 1. What are the two stages of Christ's establishment of the New Covenant?** *They are the Last Supper and the Passion, Death, and Resurrection.*
- 2. What did Christ say about the bread and wine, and what did he order his disciples to do with them?** *He said they were his Body and Blood and that they should eat and drink them.*
- 3. With what did Christ ratify the New Covenant?** *He ratified it with his own Blood.*
- 4. What was unjust about Christ's trial?** *Most of the Sanhedrin had already made up their minds to condemn Christ and arranged false witnesses to ensure a guilty verdict.*
- 5. Why did Pilate appease the Sanhedrin?** *He feared that they would report him as supporting an enemy of Caesar.*
- 6. How did Christ close the establishment of the New Covenant?** *He took a sip of the sponge of sour wine held up on a branch of hyssop and died on the Cross.*
- 7. How did the Roman soldiers assure that Christ was really dead?** *They pierced his side with a lance.*
- 8. What completely astonished the Apostles even though they were told otherwise?** *They were completely surprised that Christ would fulfill the promises of the Old Covenant by suffering, dying, and rising from the dead.*

Chapter 8: DIVINE REVELATION IN THE EARLY CHURCH

FORTY DAYS OF PREPARATION

(pp. 72-73)

- 1. How long did Christ spend preparing his Apostles for their public ministry?** *He spent forty days preparing them.*
- 2. What two commissions did Christ give the Apostles when he appeared to them in the Upper Room?** *Christ confirmed them in their mission to bring the Gospel to the whole world. He also instituted the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation in which sins committed after Baptism can be forgiven.*
- 3. When did Christ reconfirm Peter in his primacy in the Church?** *On the shore of the Sea of Galilee, Christ commanded Peter three times, “Feed my sheep.”*
- 4. What is the “Great Commission”?** *With his divine authority, Christ commanded the Apostles to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

RESTORING THE KINGDOM

(pp. 73-74)

- 5. How is “Jerusalem and...all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth” a description of the Davidic kingdom?** *The center of David’s kingdom was Jerusalem. Next came Judea, the southern part of David’s kingdom following its separation into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah (translated “Judea” by the Romans). Then came Samaria, the rest of the lost Kingdom of Israel. Finally, it includes all the ends of the earth: all the Gentile nations.*
- 6. What does it mean to say that the kingdom Christ restored would not be temporal?** *Christ’s kingdom encompasses people from all nations from that time forward rather than some limited span of years.*

PENTECOST

(pp. 74-75)

- 7. What was Pentecost for the Jews?** *It was a Jewish feast celebrating the giving of the Law that took place in Jerusalem fifty days after Passover.*
- 8. How did this Pentecost fulfill for the early Church what John the Baptist had promised?** *As St. John had foretold, Christ baptized his Church with the Holy Spirit and fire.*
- 9. What effect did the Holy Spirit have on the Apostles?** *They left the Upper Room and preached the Gospel boldly.*
- 10. What effect did the Holy Spirit have on those who heard the Apostles?** *They believed, and about 3,000 were baptized that day.*
- 11. What did the phrase “the breaking of the bread” mean in the early Church?** *It referred to the Eucharist.*

THE MARTYRDOM OF ST. STEPHEN

(p. 75)

- 12. What office did Stephen hold in the early Church?** *He was an ordained deacon, meaning servant, who assisted the Apostles in their ministry.*
- 13. What did Stephen do that enraged the chief priests?** *Stephen delivered a fiery account of how the coming of Christ had been predicted throughout the Scriptures (Old Testament) and how those very religious authorities had rejected him.*
- 14. What did the Jewish authorities do to Stephen?** *They stoned him to death.*

EARLY CHRISTIAN WORSHIP; SAUL THE PERSECUTOR

(p. 76)

- 15. How does the Liturgy of the Mass preserve the worship traditions of the earliest Church?** *The first Christians worshiped in two ways: at the synagogue to read the Scripture and pray on the Sabbath (the origin of the Liturgy of the Word); and in their homes, to celebrate the breaking of bread on Sunday, the Day of the Resurrection (the Liturgy of the Eucharist). Together they form the Mass.*

CHRISTIANS AND THE MOSAIC LAW

(pp. 76-77)

- 16. Why did St. Peter baptize the Roman commander Cornelius, a “God-fearing” Gentile, and his household?** *Since Peter witnessed them receiving the Holy Spirit, he was convinced they had a right to Baptism.*
- 17. In St. Peter’s view, why didn’t Gentile converts have to follow the Jewish dietary restrictions?** *St. Peter had a vision in which God ordered him to eat animals the Jewish Law considered “unclean.” He understood that God was telling him that he could set aside the dietary restrictions imposed by the Mosaic Law.*

THE COUNCIL OF JERUSALEM

(pp. 77-78)

- 18. Why would it be natural for the first Christians to assume that converts to Christianity would be Jews?** *Christ and the first disciples were all Jews.*
- 19. How did St. James’ presence at the Council of Jerusalem give special authority to the decision not to impose the Mosaic Law on Christian converts?** *St. James was known to everyone as a devoted follower of the Law in Jerusalem, yet he fully supported the council’s decision.*
- 20. What did St. Paul argue at this Council?** *Gentile converts need not follow the Law of Moses.*
- 21. What did St. Peter argue at the meeting?** *He argued that the Holy Spirit made no distinction between Jews and Gentiles, that imposing the Mosaic Law on the Gentiles would be an unbearable yoke, and that we are saved by the grace of Christ rather than through observance of the Jewish Law.*

FINAL BREAK WITH JUDAISM

(pp. 78-79)

- 22. Why are there not today devout Jewish Christians living the Mosaic Law?** *First, the Council of Jerusalem decided that Gentiles did not have to convert to Judaism before they became Christians. Second, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem, including the Temple. For this reason, the Jewish priesthood and Temple sacrifices ceased. Third, Jewish worship subsequently took place exclusively in synagogues, from which Christians were eventually expelled.*

Discussion Questions (p. 80)

- 1. How long did Christ spend preparing his Apostles for their public ministry?** *He spent forty days preparing them.*
- 2. What Sacrament did Christ give the Apostles the power to perform when he appeared to them in the Upper Room?** *Christ instituted the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation in which sins committed after Baptism can be forgiven.*
- 3. What is the “Great Commission”?** *With his divine authority, Christ commanded the Apostles to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*
- 4. How did Pentecost fulfill for the early Church what John the Baptist had promised?** *As St. John had foretold, Christ baptized his Church with the Holy Spirit and fire.*
- 5. What effect did the Holy Spirit have on the Apostles and those who heard them?** *The Apostles preached the Gospel boldly, and some 3,000 people were baptized.*
- 6. What did Stephen do which enraged the chief priests?** *Stephen delivered a fiery account of how the coming of Christ had been predicted throughout the Jewish Scriptures and how those very religious authorities had rejected him.*
- 7. How does the Liturgy of the Mass preserve the worship traditions of the earliest Church?** *The first Christians worshiped in two ways: at the synagogue to read the Scripture and pray on the Sabbath (the origin of the Liturgy of the Word); and in their homes, to celebrate the breaking of bread on Sunday, the Day of the Resurrection (the Liturgy of the Eucharist). Together they form the Mass.*
- 8. Why would it be natural for the first Christians to assume that converts to Christianity would be Jews?** *Christ and the first disciples were all Jews.*
- 9. What did Peter argue at the Council of Jerusalem?** *He argued that the Holy Spirit made no distinction between Jews and Gentiles, that imposing the Mosaic Law on the Gentiles would be an unbearable yoke, and that we are saved by the grace of Christ rather than through observance of the Jewish Law.*
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Chapter 9: THE TRANSMISSION OF DIVINE REVELATION

THROUGH THE CHURCH

(pp. 82-84)

- 1. What is the economy of salvation?** *It is the way God manages his creation and his plan of salvation: the organized system God has set up to save and sanctify us.*
- 2. How did God structure salvation history?** *God promised a redeemer, partially communicated his saving plan through covenants and prophets, and then fully revealed and fulfilled his salvation through Jesus Christ.*
- 3. What is the function of the Church in salvation history?** *Christ established the Church to continue his mission on earth. One part of this mission is to preserve and communicate the message and means of salvation to all.*
- 4. What is the hierarchical structure of the Church?** *Christ rules the Church on earth through those he gave authority: first Peter and the Apostles, then their successors, the Pope and the bishops united to him.*
- 5. What is an example of immediate and of mediated Revelation in the New Testament?** *When Christ spoke to the Apostles, that was immediate revelation. Those early Christians who in turn were taught by the Apostles received Christ's Divine Revelation mediately, that is, from others.*

SACRED TRADITION

(pp. 84-85)

- 6. What is Sacred Tradition?** *It is the entire body of truths and practices entrusted by Christ to his Church. Together with Sacred Scripture, it forms the Deposit of Faith.*
- 7. What is Sacred Tradition as compared to the Sacred Scriptures?** *Oral Tradition is Sacred Tradition as it was passed on by word of mouth. When put in writing, some of Oral Tradition would become incorporated into Sacred Scripture. Both are transmitted with the help of the Holy Spirit.*
- 8. What are three places in which Sacred Tradition can be witnessed?** *It can be found in the Church's liturgy, her history, and the Church Fathers.*
- 9. What came first, Oral Tradition or Sacred Scripture?** *The Gospel was first preached and later written down.*
- 10. Can the Church change Revelation?** *No. The Church cannot change what has been given to her through Divine Revelation, that is, add to or take away anything from it.*
- 11. What distinguishes from Sacred Tradition those traditions, practices, and customs that have arisen throughout the Church's history?** *Christ through his Apostles handed on Sacred Tradition; however, historical traditions, practices, and customs are not part of Divine Revelation and can be modified as required for the good of the faithful.*

FAITHFUL TRANSMISSION OF TRADITION

(pp. 86-89)

- 12. What is apostolic succession?** *It is the unbroken continuity of the teaching office from Christ through his Apostles to their successors, down to the present today.*
- 13. What is the Magisterium of the Church?** *It is the teaching office or service Christ gave the Church so she could transmit the Faith and the moral law without error.*
- 14. What preserves the Magisterium in the truth?** *The Holy Spirit preserves the Magisterium.*
- 15. Who comprise the Magisterium?** *The Pope and the bishops in union with him comprise the Magisterium.*

- 16. What is the scope of the Magisterium?** *The Magisterium can interpret anything pertaining to faith or morals.*
- 17. What is the infallibility of the Magisterium?** *It is the Magisterium's freedom from error when teaching on matters of faith and morals.*
- 18. Who has infallibility?** *The Pope alone or the Pope and the bishops in union with him possess infallibility when he or they intend to define doctrines related to faith or morals.*
- 19. When is infallibility most often exercised?** *It is most often exercised in an Ecumenical Council.*
- 20. What is an Ecumenical Council?** *It is a meeting of the bishops of the world, under the leadership of the Pope, to discuss matters of concern to the whole Church.*
- 21. What was the first Church Council, which became prototype for later Ecumenical Councils?** *The Council of Jerusalem, comprised of the Apostles, decided Gentiles did not have to follow the Mosaic Law to become Christians.*
- 22. What are two key characteristics of an Ecumenical Council?** *Two key characteristics of an Ecumenical Council are the presence of representatives from all the local churches and the presence of the Pope, who ratifies the Council's decision.*

Discussion Questions (p. 90)

- 1. What is Sacred Tradition?** *It is the entire body of truths and practices entrusted by Christ to his Church. Together with Sacred Scripture, it forms the Deposit of Faith.*
- 2. What is Oral Tradition as compared to the Sacred Scriptures?** *Oral Tradition is Sacred Tradition as it was passed on by word of mouth. When put in writing, some of Oral Tradition would become incorporated into Sacred Scripture. Both are transmitted with the help of the Holy Spirit.*
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- 7. What is the infallibility of the Magisterium?** *It is the Magisterium's freedom from error when teaching on matters of faith and morals.*
- 8. What is an Ecumenical Council?** *It is a meeting of the bishops of the world, under the leadership of the Pope, to discuss matters of concern to the whole Church.*

Chapter 10: SACRED SCRIPTURE — GOD’S INSPIRED WORD

SACRED SCRIPTURE

(pp. 92-93)

- 1. What does “inspired” mean?** *It means prompted by the Holy Spirit.*
- 2. What effect did the Holy Spirit have on the author of a book of Sacred Scripture?** *Each author understood the message that the Holy Spirit wanted him to write, he wanted to write that very thing, he chose the correct words, and he expressed himself without error.*
- 3. What does it mean to say that the Bible is supernatural in origin and content?** *The Bible is supernatural in its origin because it comes from God. It is supernatural in its content because it gives us treasures of God’s being, wisdom, and mercy that are beyond natural knowledge.*
- 4. What are the veracity and inerrancy of the Bible?** *Veracity means that the Bible teaches the truth firmly and faithfully. Inerrancy means that it teaches the truth without error.*
- 5. Why can we have a confident faith in the Bible?** *Scripture is inspired by God, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.*
- 6. Why is the Bible called “holy”?** *It is holy because of the moral perfection of the truths contained in it.*
- 7. How did Christ perfect the moral precepts of the Old Testament?** *He proclaimed their true meaning, established the best way of fulfilling them, and taught us how to grow in sanctity.*

THE CANON OF SACRED SCRIPTURE

(pp. 94-96)

- 8. What prompted the early Church to define the inspired books of Sacred Scripture?** *The question of which books were suitable to hear in the Church’s liturgy required them to define which books were inspired by the Holy Spirit.*
- 9. What is the meaning of canon?** *Canon, from the Greek kanon, is a rule or measure. In regard to Scripture, it means the list of approved books inspired by the Holy Spirit.*
- 10. Where did the canon of Sacred Scripture come from?** *It was discerned by the Magisterium based on Sacred Tradition as taught by the Apostles and their successors.*
- 11. What is the Septuagint?** *It is Greek translations of the Scriptures (Old Testament) made by Jewish scholars in Alexandria, Egypt, in the third century BC.*
- 12. What version of the Old Testament did the early Church use?** *The early Church used the Septuagint.*
- 13. When were the books of the New Testament written?** *Between AD 50 and 100.*
- 14. What criteria did the Church use to discern which texts should be part of the canon?** *To be part of the canon of Sacred Scripture, the text had to be used widely in the Church’s teaching and liturgy, had to have been written by an Apostle or someone associated with one, had to have been written in the era of the Apostles, and the doctrines it taught had to be in accord with Sacred Tradition.*

INTERPRETATION OF SACRED SCRIPTURE

(pp. 96-98)

15. Does God have personal messages for us in the Bible? *Yes, and we should read the Scriptures for this purpose.*

16. Who has the authority to authentically interpret Sacred Scripture? *Only the Magisterium of the Church has this authority.*

Discussion Questions (p. 98)

- 1. What does “inspired” mean?** *It means prompted by the Holy Spirit.*
- 2. What effect did the Holy Spirit have on the author of a book of Sacred Scripture?** *Each author understood the message that the Holy Spirit wanted him to write, he wanted to write that very thing, he chose the correct words, and he expressed himself without error.*
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- 10. Who has the authority to authentically interpret Sacred Scripture?** *Only the Magisterium of the Church has this authority.*

Chapter 11: THE STRUCTURE OF SACRED SCRIPTURE

GETTING TO KNOW THE BIBLE (p.100)

1. What are the four general categories into which the books of both testaments can be divided? *The categories are Law, history, wisdom, and prophecy.*

THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

(pp. 101-104)

- 2. Are the four types of books strict categories?** *No, they overlap considerably.*
- 3. What are the various names for the first five books of the Old Testament?** *Names include the Torah, the Law, the Books of Moses, and the Pentateuch.*
- 4. What is the chronological scope of Genesis?** *It begins with creation and ends with the Israelites having settled in Egypt.*
- 5. What are some of the events recounted in Genesis?** *It recounts the stories of Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark and the Flood, Abraham and Isaac, and Joseph.*
- 6. Why is Exodus important?** *It includes God's Revelation of his name to Moses, the Passover and freeing of his Chosen People, and the giving of the Ten Commandments.*
- 7. Including the books of Maccabees, what is the chronological scope of the Old Testament books of history?** *They range from the conquest of the Promised Land up to just before the Roman Empire.*
- 8. Who is the most important figure in the books of history, and why?** *It is probably David, whom God described as a man after his own heart and who made Israel a great kingdom.*
- 9. What are some of the functions of the books of prophecy?** *The prophets warned of coming disasters, gave comfort to God's suffering people, and predicted the Messiah.*

THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT; CONCLUSION

(pp. 104-108)

- 10. What is the approximate range of dates for the writing of the New Testament?** *The books of the New Testament were written from about the AD 50's to 100.*
- 11. Why do we call the Gospels "books of Law"?** *They present the New Covenant, or Law, that God established with all people. Christ extended and perfected the Mosaic Law and gave us the New Law of Love: to love every person as he has loved us.*
- 12. Are the Gospels historical?** *Yes, they are true history.*
- 13. Why are Matthew, Mark, and Luke's Gospels called synoptic?** *Synoptic means "seeing together." These Gospels tell the story of Christ in a similar way.*
- 14. What history does the Acts of the Apostles relate?** *It recounts the history of the early Church from the Ascension of Christ through St. Paul's house arrest in Rome.*
- 15. How accurate is St. Luke's history in Acts?** *St. Luke was a meticulous historian, and historians who have cross-referenced his text with other historical documents of the period have verified many of the details of his narrative.*
- 16. Chronologically, which books of the New Testament were the first ones written?** *Some of the Epistles were written first.*

- 17. Why are the Epistles books of wisdom?** *They tell us how to live as Christians.*
- 18. Who wrote most of the Epistles?** *St. Paul wrote most of them.*
- 19. What makes the “Catholic” Epistles catholic?** *Catholic means “universal.” These letters were meant for the whole church rather than Christians of a specific city.*
- 20. How does Revelation present its prophetic message?** *The Book of Revelation is apocalyptic literature that conveys its message through symbols, allegories, and metaphors.*
- 21. What images does the passage in the twelfth chapter of Revelation employ and what do they represent?** *It uses the image of a woman and her son. The woman represents the Blessed Virgin Mary or the Church, and the Son represents Christ.*

Discussion Questions (p.108)

- 1. What are the four general categories into which the books of both testaments can be divided?** *The categories are Law, history, wisdom, and prophecy.*
- 2. Are the four types of books strict categories?** *No, they overlap considerably.*
- 3. What are the various names for the first five books of the Old Testament?** *Names include the Torah, the Law, the Books of Moses, and the Pentateuch.*
- 4. Why is Genesis so important for Catholic theology?** *It is important because of the religious truths it contains, including God's good creation, the creation of man and woman in the image of God, the Fall, and the promise of a redeemer.*
- 5. Why is Exodus important?** *It includes God's Revelation of his name to Moses, the Passover and freeing of his Chosen People, and the giving of the Ten Commandments.*
- 6. Who is the most important figure in the Old Testament books of history, and why?** *It is probably David, whom God described as a man after his own heart and who made Israel a great kingdom.*
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- 10. Chronologically, which books of the New Testament were the first ones written?** *Some of the Epistles were written first.*

Chapter 12:

SACRED SCRIPTURE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

LIVING THE WORD OF GOD

(pp. 110-111)

- 1. What is the relationship between the Church and Sacred Scripture, as described by Pope Benedict XVI?** *He said the Church “is a community that listens to and proclaims the Word of God.”*
- 2. What is an essential part in achieving a good understanding of our Catholic Christianity?** *We need to study Sacred Scripture prayerfully.*
- 3. Why is the Blessed Virgin Mary the model of growing in the Faith?** *Mary’s fiat was an affirmation and acceptance of God’s Word revealed to her, and she pondered his Word throughout her life. So also must we affirm, accept, and ponder God’s Revelation.*

THE SCRIPTURES AND PRAYER

(p. 111)

- 4. How should we combine prayer with our reading of the Bible?** *We should pray before, during, and after reading the Scriptures.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

(pp. 111-112)

- 5. What is the biggest example of the way the Church uses the Word of God in the Mass?** *The Liturgy of the Word, the first half of the Mass, is comprised of several readings from Scripture.*
- 6. How are the Mass readings chosen?** *These readings are carefully arranged according to the Church’s liturgical year. Additionally, there are special readings for Masses celebrating feast days. Whether the readings are based on the liturgical year or some special feast day, they are always interconnected by design, helping us see how both Testaments of the Bible complement each other to reveal Jesus Christ.*
- 7. What is one way of encountering much of the Bible?** *Going to Mass regularly and listening attentively to the readings expose us to much of the Bible.*

THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

(pp. 112-113)

- 8. What is the Liturgy of the Hours?** *It is the official prayer of the Church, consisting of hymns, readings, psalms, and prayers, prayed at set times, or hours, during the day and night.*

DIVINE READING OR SCRIPTURAL PRAYER

(pp. 113-114)

- 9. Does the Church want us to read the Bible on our own?** *Yes. She recommends frequent, prayerful reading of the Scriptures.*
- 10. Why should reading the Scriptures be a dialogue?** *We should listen to God speaking in the Bible and then respond to what he says with our prayer.*
- 11. What is one way to begin opening oneself to the Scriptures?** *We should begin by reading the Bible a few minutes every day.*
- 12. What is a simple way to structure your Scriptural prayer?** *Begin and end with prayer, and pause from time to time to think about and to talk to God about what we are reading.*

LECTIO DIVINA

(p. 115)

13. What are the four usual steps of *lectio divina* and what fifth step is sometimes added? *The four usual steps are lectio, or reading; meditatio, or meditating upon the selection; oratio, or praying to God about it; and contemplatio, or silent, loving focus on God. The fifth is actio, or action, in which we pray what action God is asking us to take from our encounter with Sacred Scripture.*

TRADITIONAL PRAYERS; CONCLUSION

(pp. 115-116)

14. Would the Rosary be considered a devotion based on Scripture? Why or why not? *Yes, it would. The main prayers of the Rosary — the Our Father and the Hail Mary — have their basis in Scripture, and nearly all of the “mysteries” of the Rosary involve meditations on events and scenes described in Scripture.*

Discussion Questions (p.116)

- 1. What is an essential part in achieving a good understanding of our Catholic Christianity?** *We need to study Sacred Scripture prayerfully.*
- 2. Why is the Blessed Virgin Mary the model of growing in the Faith?** *Mary's fiat was an affirmation and acceptance of God's Word revealed to her, and she pondered his Word throughout her life. So also must we affirm, accept, and ponder God's Revelation.*
- 3. What is the biggest example of the way the Church uses the Word of God in the Mass?** *The Liturgy of the Word, the first half of the Mass, is comprised of several readings from Scripture.*
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- 6. What is a simple way to structure your Scriptural prayer?** *Begin and end with prayer, and pause from time to time to think about and to talk to God about what we are reading.*
- 7. What are the four usual steps of *lectio divina* and what fifth step is sometimes added?** *The four usual steps are lectio, or reading; meditatio, or meditating upon the selection; oratio, or praying to God about it; and contemplatio, or silent, loving focus on God. The fifth is actio, or action, in which we pray what action God is asking us to take from our encounter with Sacred Scripture.*
- 8. Would the Rosary be considered a devotion based on Scripture? Why or why not?** *Yes, it would. The main prayers of the Rosary — the Our Father and the Hail Mary — have their basis in Scripture, and nearly all of the "mysteries" of the Rosary involve meditations on events and scenes described in Scripture.*

Chapter 13: ANSWERING CHALLENGES TO DIVINE REVELATION

APOLOGY FOR THE FAITH: Questions 1-3

(pp. 118-120)

- 1. What does St. Peter mean when he advises his fellow Christians to “always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you” (1 Pt 3:15)?** *If someone wants to know why we follow Christ or the teachings of his Church, we should be ready to give an answer.*
- 2. What is apologetics?** *It is an explanation of the reasonableness of a point of Catholic Faith, morals, or practice.*
- 3. What is the tone that Christians should use in apologetics?** *St. Peter wrote, “Do it with gentleness and reverence,” meaning in a friendly, respectful, and reasonable manner.*
- 4. Does the Church ever ask for blind faith?** *No. While supernatural truths cannot be proven rationally, it is reasonable to make an act of faith in them.*
- 5. How do we already live by faith?** *Most of what we know is actually held through acts of natural faith believed on the trustworthiness of various authorities.*
- 6. What are the preambles of faith? What is an example?** *They are natural truths that bring us to the threshold of faith. For example, we can know that God exists, and this can help us realize that the possibility that God could have become man.*
- 7. Why is it reasonable to believe a supernatural truth that God proposes?** *God cannot and would not deceive us.*
- 8. What is an integral part of the Liturgy of the Word in the Mass?** *Bible readings are integral to the Liturgy of the Word.*
- 9. On what does the Liturgy of the Hours heavily rely?** *The Liturgy of the Hours relies on Bible readings, especially the Psalms.*
- 10. How serious is the Church about us reading the Bible?** *The Church “forcefully and specially exhorts all the Christian faithful...to learn ‘the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ’ by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures.”*
- 11. What does it mean to say that the Bible is more than literature?** *Scripture is literature and contains various literary forms and genres, written by various human authors, but it is also the inspired Word of God.*
- 12. What are the Church’s criteria for interpreting Scripture?** *An interpretation must be consistent with (1) who Jesus Christ is; (2) Sacred Tradition, which was revealed by Christ and entrusted to his Church; and (3) all the other truths of the Faith.*

APOLOGY FOR THE FAITH: Questions 4-6

(pp. 121-123)

- 13. In what sense is all Sacred Scripture true?** *It is all true in regard to faith and morals.*
- 14. Is the primary intent of the Bible to convey historical or scientific facts?** *Some books of the Bible are specifically historical, like the Gospels. However, the Church does not claim overall that the Bible’s primary purpose is to present scientific or historical facts.*
- 15. What are the two senses in which the Scriptures can be understood?** *It can be understood according to the literal and the spiritual senses.*
- 16. What are the three ways that a passage in the Bible can be interpreted “spiritually”?** *Spiritual interpretations include the allegorical (as a sign or type), the moral (teaching how to behave), and the anagogical (viewed in light of its eternal significance or end, such as Heaven).*

- 17. How is the parable of the Good Samaritan timeless?** *The parable teaches that every person in need is a neighbor. This teaching will never go out of date.*
- 18. Is the Bible the sole means that God chose to hand on the truths of Revelation?** *No. Scripture and Tradition are the two complementary founts in which Revelation is handed on.*
- 19. What is an example of something we must evaluate morally but is not mentioned in the Bible?** *There are many, including just warfare and in vitro fertilization.*
- 20. What is a Christian doctrine not explicitly mentioned in the Bible?** *There are many; for example, the word “Trinity” is never used in the Bible, but the Church has always believed it.*
- 21. What is an example of a reasonable Catholic practice not found in the Bible?** *Fasting on Fridays is reasonable but not found in Scripture.*

Discussion Questions (p.124)

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