

## **Chapter 1:**

# **HOW TO APPROACH THE BIBLE**

### **INTRODUCTION; WHAT CATHOLICS BELIEVE ABOUT THE BIBLE**

*(pp. 2-4)*

- 1. Who is the fullness of Divine Revelation?** Jesus Christ is the fullness of Divine Revelation.
- 2. What are the two main sources of our knowledge of Jesus Christ?** The main sources of our knowledge of Jesus Christ are Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.
- 3. What does the claim “ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ” mean?** “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ” means that we must know the Scriptures if we wish to know Christ. Sacred Scripture is a great way to learn more about Jesus Christ.
- 4. What does the inspiration of the books of the Bible mean?** Inspiration means that the Holy Spirit inspired the sacred writers to write what God wanted and nothing more.
- 5. Did God dictate Scripture to its writers word for word?** God did not dictate the Scriptures. Instead, the human writers acted as free, subordinate, and intelligent instruments of the Holy Spirit who communicated God’s inspired truth in their own words using a variety of literary styles.
- 6. What is the inerrancy of the Bible?** The inerrancy of the Bible states that since God the Holy Spirit is the primary author of every book of the Bible, the Bible cannot be in error.
- 7. What is infallibility in reference to the Bible?** Infallibility means that the Church has the authority, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret the Bible without error.

### **THE BIBLE IS SACRED LITERATURE**

*(pp. 5-6)*

- 8. Can individual Christians be in error in understanding the Bible?** Yes. The Sacred Authors used different literary forms and techniques which unless we understand how those forms and techniques work, we cannot understand the meaning that these inspired authors wanted to convey.
- 9. What are some of the genres in which the authors of the Bible wrote?** The authors wrote stories, poems, dialogues, and histories.
- 10. What are some literary techniques the Sacred Authors employed?** The authors employed metaphors, similes, parallelism, symbolism, and personifications.

### **THE BIBLE IS RELIGIOUS LITERATURE**

*(pp. 6-7)*

- 11. What is the purpose of the Bible as religious literature?** The Bible’s purpose is to help people find fulfillment in God.
- 12. Why is the Bible objectively the most unbiased book in history?** The Bible expresses history from God’s point of view, and God sees everything exactly the way it is.

## LITERAL AND SPIRITUAL SENSES

*(pp. 7-8)*

- 13. What is the literal sense of Scripture?** The literal sense is that which the author directly intended to express.
- 14. What is the spiritual sense of Scripture?** The spiritual sense is the meaning expressed by the biblical text when read under the influence of the Holy Spirit in light of the mystery of Christ.
- 15. What is the literal sense of the passage of Psalm 22:16-18?** David was in deep trouble, surrounded by deadly enemies, and was crying to God for help.
- 16. What is the spiritual sense of this same passage?** This passage also describes the Passion of Christ.
- 17. What is the allegorical sense of Scripture?** The allegorical sense is how people and events in salvation history point to future people and events.
- 18. What is the moral sense of Scripture?** The moral sense is how we can learn moral lessons from how people behave in the Bible.
- 19. What is the anagogical sense of Scripture?** The anagogical sense shows how the events we see in Scripture point upward to what we will know in Heaven. Through the things that are seen we come to understand the things we cannot yet see.
- 20. What sense of Scripture is always primary?** The literal sense is primary.
- 21. What is the difference between literal and literalistic?** Literal means what the author intended to say. Literalistic means the most concrete meaning of the words. For example, when Genesis says God created the universe in six days, a literalistic reading is that it took God exactly six twenty-four-hour days, which was probably not what the author intended.
- 22. Which spiritual sense does Psalm 22:16-18 embody? Explain.** The spiritual sense embodies the allegorical, or typical, sense. David's suffering is a type, or allegory, of Christ's suffering on the Cross, for example, of Christ's hands and feet being pierced by nails.

## ANALOGY OF FAITH

*(pp. 8-9)*

- 23. What is the “analogy of faith”?** The analogy of faith means one must interpret the Bible in light of everything known about the Catholic Faith.
- 24. Give an example of using the analogy of faith in reading Scripture.** If we read that some Old Testament patriarchs had many wives, we should not jump to the conclusion that it would be similarly permissible for a Christian today to have multiple spouses. We have to consider what natural law and the entire Old and New Testaments teach about marriage, what the practice of Christians has been from the beginning, and what the Church teaches about marriage.

## WHAT IS SALVATION HISTORY?

*(p. 9)*

- 25. What is salvation history?** Salvation history is God's plan for the salvation of all people that plays out over time.
- 26. What is a biblical covenant?** A covenant is an agreement between God and human beings, creating a sacred family kinship.
- 27. With whom did God make covenants and promises in Sacred Scripture?** God made covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and all people through Jesus Christ; he made promises to Adam and David.

## **CHRISTIANITY IS THE RELIGION OF THE WORD OF GOD; CONCLUSION**

*(pp. 10-12)*

**28. What is the most sensible thing to do if you don't understand something in Sacred Scripture?** The sensible thing would be to learn what the Church teaches about it.

**29. Why is Bl. John Henry Newman famous in the English-speaking religious world?** Bl. John Henry is the most famous Anglican convert to the Catholic Faith. Before converting, many in England considered him the most brilliant religious scholar and writer of his day.

**30. What led Bl. John Henry to become Catholic?** Bl. John Henry's reading of the early Church Fathers convinced him that the fullness of Christianity was found in the Catholic Church rather than the Anglican Communion.

**31. What is Bl. John Henry's most famous book?** Bl. John Henry wrote the autobiographical *Apologia pro Vita Sua*, which follows the course of his religious thought from his youth through his entrance into the Catholic Church.

**Discussion Questions (p.12)**

- 1. What does the inspiration of the books of the Bible mean?** Inspiration means that the Holy Spirit inspired the Sacred Authors to write what God wanted and nothing more.
- 2. What is the inerrancy of the Bible?** The inerrancy of the Bible states that since God the Holy Spirit is the primary author of every book of the bible, the Bible cannot be in error.
- 3. What is infallibility in reference to the Bible?** Infallibility means that the Church has the power, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret the Bible without error.
- 4. What is the purpose of the Bible as religious literature?** The Bible's purpose is to help people find fulfillment in God.
- 5. What is the literal sense of Scripture?** The literal sense is that which the author directly intended to express.
- 6. What is the allegorical spiritual sense of Scripture?** The allegorical sense is how people and events in salvation history point to future people and events.
- 7. What is the moral spiritual sense of Scripture?** The moral sense is how we can learn moral lessons from how people behave in the Bible.
- 8. What is the anagogical spiritual sense of Scripture?** The anagogical sense shows how the events we see in Scripture point upward to what we will know in Heaven. Through the things that are seen we come to understand the things we cannot yet see.
- 9. What is the analogy of faith in regard to Sacred Scripture?** Sacred Scripture is best interpreted in light of the totality of the Faith.
- 10. What is salvation history?** Salvation history is God's plan for the salvation of all people that plays out over time.
- 11. With whom did God make covenants and promises in Sacred Scripture (as presented in this chapter)?** God made covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and all people through Jesus Christ; he made promises to Adam and David.
- 12. What are the two main sources of our knowledge of Jesus Christ?** The main sources of our knowledge of Jesus Christ are Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

## Chapter 2: THE STRUCTURE OF THE BIBLE

### INTRODUCTION; A BOOK IN TWO TESTAMENTS

(p. 14)

- 1. From the perspective of the New Testament, to what does the phrase “the law and the prophets” refer?** “The law and the prophets” refers to the Old Testament.
- 2. What is the most important reason for a Christian’s interest in the Old Testament?** The mystery of Christ is hidden within the pages of the Old Testament.
- 3. What does Christ do in relation to the law and the prophets?** Christ fulfills the Law and the prophets.

### THE STRUCTURE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

(pp. 15-19)

- 4. What are the four types of literature found in both parts of the Bible?** The four types are law, history, wisdom, and prophecy.
- 5. What kinds of laws are found in the *Torah*, or Pentateuch?** The kinds of laws are the Ten Commandments, laws on worship, and how to live in the Promised Land.
- 6. What period of history do the Old Testament books of history span?** The historical books span from the conquest of Canaan in the Book of Joshua through the struggle against the Greek empire in the Two Books of Maccabees.
- 7. What is the primary aim of the books of wisdom?** The primary aim of the wisdom books is to teach people how to live a happy, moral life.
- 8. What is the basic message of the prophets?** The basic message of the prophets is to stay faithful to God to avoid disaster, but when disaster comes, turn to God.
- 9. What special interest do Christians have in the Book of Isaiah?** Isaiah has some the clearest prophecies of the coming of Christ in the Old Testament.
- 10. Why are the books from Hosea to Malachi called “Minor Prophets?”** The prophets called “minor” are so called because their books are shorter.
- 11. Which book talked about a prophet’s marriage and how did it relate to God’s relationship with Israel?** In the Book of Hosea we read story of Hosea’s marriage to his unfaithful wife, whom he took back despite her infidelity. His marriage is a metaphor for God’s relationship with the people of Israel, who were unfaithful, but God took them back.

### THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT; CONCLUSION

(pp. 20-24)

- 12. According to the *Catechism*, how does the Old Testament help the New Testament express the life according to the Holy Spirit?** The Old Testament provides the New Testament with images, types, and symbols.
- 13. How do the books of the New Testament fall into the same four categories as the Old Testament?** The Gospels are books of the New Law; the Acts of the Apostles is history; the Epistles are wisdom; and the Book of Revelation is prophecy.
- 14. Why are Matthew, Mark, and Luke referred to as the “synoptic” Gospels?** The word “synoptic” comes from a Greek word meaning “seeing together.” The three synoptic Gospels see Christ from very similar points of view when contrasted with the Gospel of St. John.

**15. How is it true that the writers of the Gospels were either Apostles or wrote under the Apostles?**

Sts. Matthew and John were Apostles of Christ. St. Mark was a companion of the Apostle St. Peter, and St. Luke was a companion of the Apostle St. Paul.

**16. What is the connection between the Gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostles?** Both books were written by St. Luke.

**17. Does the Acts of the Apostles give us reliable history?** Yes. Every detail of St. Luke's narrative that can be verified has turned out to be exactly right.

**18. What is an example of an Epistle written to the Christians of a particular city?** *Answers may vary.* St. Paul wrote the Epistle to the Romans.

**19. What is an example of a catholic Epistle?** *Answers may vary.* The three letters of John alert us to watch out for false spirits and teachers who lead the Church astray.

**20. What is an example of an Epistle written to a particular person?** *Answers may vary.* St. Paul wrote two letters to St. Timothy.

**21. What is the Book of Revelation?** The Book of Revelation, attributed to St. John, is a vision of things to come that is both terrifying and comforting. Since it speaks in symbols, it is sometimes difficult to understand, and not everyone agrees on its proper interpretation.

### Discussion Questions (p. 24)

- 1. What are the four basic types of literature found in the Old and New Testaments?** The four types are law, history, wisdom, and prophecy.
- 2. What kinds of laws are found in the *Torah*, or Pentateuch?** The kinds of laws are the Ten Commandments, laws on worship, and how to live in the Promised Land.
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- 10. What is the Book of Revelation?** The Book of Revelation, attributed to St. John, is a vision of things to come that is both terrifying and comforting. Since it speaks in symbols, it is sometimes difficult to understand, and not everyone agrees on its proper interpretation.

## **Chapter 3:**

# **THE GOOD CREATION AND THE FALL**

### **INTRODUCTION; THE GOOD CREATION**

*(pp. 26-27)*

- 1. What is the aim of this chapter?** The aim of this chapter is to examine how the Genesis account relates to modern science, especially to theories of evolution and of how the universe began. It will also present a number of religious truths.
- 2. Why did God create?** God’s primary motive for creating the universe was to communicate his love.
- 3. How do all creatures glorify God?** Every creature bears the imprint of God in some way and, therefore, reflects the glory of God.
- 4. How do human beings glorify God?** We can comprehend that everything comes from and reflects God, and we can consciously glorify God for this.
- 5. What is a temple?** A temple is a place where God is worshiped.
- 6. How is the universe a temple?** The universe is the original “place” where creatures, especially human beings, worship God.
- 7. What is the *foundation* of the temple of creation in Genesis?** The foundation refers to the “forms” that God created in the first three days of creation: day and night on the first day, sky and sea on the second, and land and vegetation on the third.
- 8. What is the *building* of the temple of creation in Genesis?** The building refers to the “rulers” for each of those forms: sun and moon to rule over day and night; birds and fish to rule over the sky and sea; and humans and animals to rule over the land and vegetation.
- 9. What is the *roof* of the temple of creation in Genesis?** The roof refers to the Sabbath, which is the relationship that God wants to exist between the Creator and his creation. God wants a personal relationship between himself and all people.
- 10. According to the *Catechism*, no. 288, what is behind God’s original covenant?** God’s all-powerful love is behind the covenant.

### **TRUTHS ABOUT CREATION**

*(pp. 28-30)*

- 11. What does the “good” creation mean?** Everything that God has created is good, including all material things.
- 12. What are some of the implications of being made in the image of God?** Being made in the image of God implies that he is our Father, human life is sacred, human work has dignity, and human beings were originally in a state of holiness and justice with God.
- 13. Is marriage a human institution?** No. God divinely instituted marriage the very moment human beings were created male and female.
- 14. How are husbands and wives God-like?** Husbands and wives are co-creators with God, cooperating with him to bring new human beings into the world.

**15. How is Adam described as a priest of God in the Book of Genesis?** Genesis tells us, “The Lord God took the man and put him the garden of Eden to till it and keep it” (Gn 2:15). The Hebrew words for “till” and “keep” are the same words that the priests of God used later to describe their duties.

**16. What is the universal priesthood of all human beings?** Every human being has the vocation to be a priest because he or she can contemplate the goodness, beauty, and truth in God’s creation; praise God for this; and, through his or her knowledge and work, offer creation back to God with love.

## **THE FALL; CONCLUSION**

*(pp. 30-36)*

**17. In what sense did Adam and Eve die when they disobeyed God’s command?** Adam and Eve lost supernatural life, original holiness, and original justice. Losing this life is true death — a death much worse than any they would have experienced had they simply perished.

**18. According to the *Catechism*, no. 409, what kind of war is each one of us engaged in, whether we want to be in it or not?** Each of us is engaged in a war to do what is right against the powers of evil, which we can win by effort, aided by God’s grace.

**19. Why did God question Adam and Eve about what they had done?** God wanted to give Adam and Eve a chance to come to him and confess their sin.

**20. How did Adam and Eve behave after they sinned?** First they tried to hide what they had done, and then each blamed someone else.

**21. How did Adam actually blame God for his disobedience?** He called Eve the “woman whom you gave to be with me,” meaning that if God had not given Eve to Adam, Adam would not have disobeyed.

**22. What is the *Protoevangelium*?** It is God’s promise of a future redeemer in Genesis 3:15, which the early Christian writers called the “First Gospel.”

**23. According to Christian tradition, who is the “seed of the woman”?** The “seed of the woman” is Jesus Christ, the New Adam.

**24. According to the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, who is “the woman”?** “The woman” is Mary, the New Eve.

**25. What are some of the consequences of Original Sin spelled out by God in Genesis?** The consequences include painful childbirth, family strife, toilsome work, and death.

**26. Who committed Original Sin, and who contracts it?** Adam and Eve committed Original Sin, and everyone descended from them contracts the consequences of it.

**27. What are some of the consequences of Original Sin not specified in Genesis?** The consequences include darkened intellect, weakened will, concupiscence and physical suffering through sickness.

**28. What is the first grave consequence of Original Sin we see in the Bible?** The first consequence that we see is Cain killing his brother Abel.

**29. What was at the root of Cain’s sin?** The root of Cain’s sin was envy, or resentment of the good another person possesses.

**30. What is the meaning of “sin is crouching at the door: its desire is for you, but you must master it”?** Our wounded nature, along with the Devil’s temptations, is like a dangerous animal lying in wait for us. However, through our efforts assisted by grace, we can master ourselves and do what is right.

**31. How did St. Damien of Molokai embrace a missionary apostolate, and what extra step did he take?** Throughout St. Damien’s studies he prayed to St. Francis Xavier, the patron of missionaries, that he would be allowed to work in the Church’s missionary apostolate in foreign countries. He took the extra step of continuing the missionary work after it was his time to leave.

**32. How did St. Damien repeat the pattern of Christ’s redemptive love?** St. Damian laid down his life to serve his people, the lepers of Molokai.

**Discussion Questions (p. 36)**

- 1. What is a temple?** A temple is a place where God is worshiped.
- 2. How is the universe a temple?** The universe is the original “place” where creatures — especially human beings — worship God.
- 3. What does the “good” creation mean?** Everything that God has created is good, including all material things.
- 4. What are some of the implications of being made in the image of God?** Being made in the image of God implies that he is our Father, human life is sacred, human work has dignity, and human beings were originally in a state of holiness and justice with God.
- 5. How are husbands and wives God-like?** Husbands and wives are co-creators with God, cooperating with him to bring new human beings into the world.
- 6. What is the universal priesthood of all human beings?** Every human being has the vocation to be a priest because he or she can contemplate the goodness, beauty, and truth in God’s creation; praise God for this; and, through his or her knowledge and work, offer creation back to God with love.
- 7. In what sense did Adam and Eve die when they disobeyed God’s command?** Adam and Eve lost supernatural life, original holiness, and original justice. Losing this life is true death — a death much worse than any they would have experienced had they simply perished.
- 8. What is the *Protoevangelium*?** It is God’s promise of a future redeemer in Genesis 3:15, which the early Christian writers called the “First Gospel.”
- 9. What are some of the consequences of Original Sin?** The consequences include painful childbirth, family strife, toilsome work, darkened intellect, weakened will, concupiscence, suffering, and death.
- 10. What is the first grave consequence of Original Sin we see in the Bible?** The first consequence we see is Cain killing his brother Abel.

## **Chapter 4:**

# **GOD FORMS A PEOPLE**

### **INTRODUCTION; CULTURAL PROGRESS, MORAL REGRESS**

*(pp. 38-39)*

- 1. How did the descendants of Cain live the command to “subdue” the earth?** Cain’s descendants began inventing the skills that made civilization and culture possible.
- 2. How is Lamech an example of moral decay?** Lamech became a polygamist and killed men on the slightest provocation.
- 3. How is a Christian to respond when offended?** A Christian should employ a limitless forgiveness.
- 4. What does Genesis 5:3 reveal about the meaning of being made in someone’s image?** Genesis reveals that we are all made in someone’s image: the image of God. Seth was Adam’s son just as Adam was God’s son. Thus, God is not only our Creator but also our Father.
- 5. What does it mean to “call upon the name of the Lord”?** To “call upon the name of the Lord” means to worship God.

### **THE COVENANT WITH NOAH**

*(pp. 39-42)*

- 6. Why did God decide to spare Noah?** “Noah was a righteous man” (Gn 6:9). The rest of the world had gone over to the side of evil.
- 7. Why did God decide to destroy everything except Noah, his family, and those animals needed to repopulate the earth?** God decided to make a new beginning, starting the human race over with Noah as the founder.
- 8. What promise does God make to Noah before he entered the ark?** God promised to establish a covenant with Noah.
- 9. What does the number forty mean in the Bible?** Forty is associated with a period of trial and repentance.
- 10. How did Noah act as a priest?** After the flood waters had receded, Noah built an altar to offer animal sacrifices to the Lord.
- 11. According to Genesis, why did God decide never to send another worldwide flood?** People are born with the tendency to sin, which is due to our wounded nature brought on by Original Sin.
- 12. What did Noah and his family receive from God that was the same as Adam and Eve?** Noah and Adam were both given dominion over the living things of the world.
- 13. What is the specific prohibition in Noah’s covenant with God?** Human beings are not to shed each other’s blood.
- 14. According to the Book of Genesis, what does a rainbow in the sky symbolize?** A rainbow symbolizes God’s promise to Noah that he would never again destroy the world by a flood. It also symbolizes God’s great mercy.
- 15. Of what is the Flood a “type”?** The flood is a type of Christian Baptism in which sin is washed away and we are born anew.
- 16. Of what is the ark a “type”?** The ark is a type of the Church, the place in which the People of God are kept safe from the deadly danger of sin and the Devil.

## THE COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM

(pp. 42-46)

- 17. What three promises did God make to Abraham?** God will give Abraham a land and a nation for his descendants to dwell in, an enduring dynasty of kings who will rule it, and a blessing for the whole world.
- 18. How is the promise of a land and a nation fulfilled?** The promise of a land and a nation is fulfilled in the covenant with Moses.
- 19. How is the promise of kingship and a name fulfilled?** The promise of kingship and a name is fulfilled in the covenant with King David.
- 20. How is the promise of a blessing for all nations fulfilled?** The promise of a blessing for all nations is fulfilled through Jesus Christ.
- 21. What did God demand of Abraham?** Abraham was to make his son, Isaac, a human sacrifice to God.
- 22. Why is this incomprehensible in terms of God's promises to Abraham?** God promised that Abraham's blessings would be delivered through his son Isaac.
- 23. According to the Letter to the Hebrews, what did Abraham hope could happen if he sacrificed his son?** Abraham hoped that God might raise Isaac from the dead (cf. Heb 11:19).

## JOSEPH: THE SAVIOR OF ISRAEL; CONCLUSION

(pp. 47-50)

- 24. What did Joseph's brothers do to him?** Joseph's brothers sold him to a caravan of slave-traders on their way to Egypt.
- 25. How was Joseph successful in Egypt?** Joseph was so competent as an administrator that Pharaoh made him prime minister.
- 26. How did Joseph view his brothers' evil treatment of him?** Joseph viewed it as God's way of saving their family from famine.
- 27. How is Joseph a type of Christ?** Joseph and Christ were both betrayed by their own people, and then they saved those betrayers.
- 28. As a missionary, whom did St. Isaac Jogues serve?** St. Isaac served the Hurons in Quebec, Canada.
- 29. What did St. Isaac Jogues suffer under the Mohawks?** First, St. Isaac suffered thirteen months of torture, including having several fingers and a thumb bitten or cut off. Then, four years later, he was tortured and decapitated.
- 30. How was St. Isaac Jogues like Abraham?** St. Isaac left his native land to carry out God's will.
- 31. According to the *Catechism*, no. 312, what is a reason God permits human evil?** God can bring a good out of the consequences of an evil act.
- 32. What does it mean to say that "evil never becomes a good"?** God can bring good results out of an evil act, but this does not excuse the evil act that a person committed.

**Discussion Questions (p. 50)**

- 1. How is Lamech an example of moral decay?** Lamech became a polygamist and killed men on the slightest provocation.
- 2. What promise does God make to Noah before he entered the ark?** God promised to establish a covenant with Noah.
- 3. What did Noah and his family receive from God that was the same as Adam and Eve?** Noah and Adam were both given dominion over the living things of the world.
- 4. Of what is the Flood a “type”?** The flood is a type of Christian Baptism in which sin is washed away and we are born anew.
- 5. What three promises does God make to Abraham?** God will give Abraham a land and a nation for his descendants to dwell in it, an enduring dynasty of kings who will rule it, and a blessing for the whole world.
- 6. How is Isaac a “type” of Christ?** Isaac, who was the beloved only son of his father, carried the wood for his own sacrifice just as Christ, who is the Only-Begotten Son of God the Father, carried the wood of his own sacrificial Cross.
- 7. How did Joseph view his brothers’ evil treatment of him?** Joseph viewed it as God’s way of saving their family from famine.
- 8. How is Joseph a type of Christ?** Both Joseph and Christ were betrayed by their own people, and then both saved those betrayers.
- 9. According to the *Catechism*, no. 312, what is a reason God permits human evil?** God can bring a good out of the consequences of an evil act.

## Chapter 5: MOSES THE LAWGIVER

### INTRODUCTION; GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO MOSES

(pp. 52-54)

- 1. Why did the Egyptians begin to fear the Hebrews?** The Hebrews' numbers increased and they became rich, so the Egyptians were afraid that the Hebrews might become powerful enemies.
- 2. What was Pharaoh's final solution to deal with the growing number and power of the Hebrews?** Pharaoh ordered that all newborn Hebrew males be thrown into the Nile to drown.
- 3. Why did Moses enjoy a privileged youth?** Moses had a privileged youth because he was raised by the daughter of Pharaoh as if he was her own.
- 4. Why did Moses flee from Egypt?** Moses killed an Egyptian overseer, and his secret was found out; he had to escape because he feared for his life.
- 5. How was Moses told to identify God to the people of Israel?** God addressed himself as "I AM WHO I AM." Moses was told to tell the Israelites that "I AM has sent me to you" (Ex 3:14).

### GOD LEADS ISRAEL OUT OF EGYPT THROUGH MOSES

(pp. 54-56)

- 6. What was the first demand Moses was told to make to Pharaoh?** Pharaoh was to let the Israelites free to go into the desert to offer sacrifice to the Lord.
- 7. What did it take to get Pharaoh's permission for the Israelites to leave Egypt?** It took ten plagues, culminating in the killing of the firstborn sons of Egypt.
- 8. What was the original Passover meal?** The ceremonial meal consisted of unleavened bread, bitter herbs and roasted lamb.
- 9. What was the actual Passover?** The Passover was the passing over Egypt of the Angel of Death, who killed every firstborn male not protected by the Passover lamb's blood.
- 10. What is the Passover today?** Today the Passover is the commemoration of the original Passover, which freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and is marked by a ritual meal.
- 11. How did God make it possible for Israel to defeat Egypt without lifting a sword?** Moses parted the Red Sea, and Israel passed over it as on dry ground. The Egyptian army then pursued after them. However, Pharaoh's army's chariots got bogged down in the mud and when Moses stretched out his staff a second time; the seas flowed back, and Pharaoh and his army were drowned.
- 12. How is the crossing of the Red Sea a type of Baptism?** Israel passed through water from slavery to a new life of freedom. Baptism frees us through water from the slavery to sin and gives us new life.
- 13. What does Exodus mean?** *Exodus* is Greek for "going out." It refers to the Israelites' going out of Egypt.

### GOD GIVES THE LAW TO ISRAEL THROUGH MOSES; CONCLUSION

(pp. 56-65)

- 14. Why did the Israelites say they prefer slavery to freedom?** When the Israelites were slaves, they had plenty to eat, but in the wilderness they were hungry.
- 15. What was manna?** Manna is a frost-like powder that fell over the Israelite camp each night that could be used to make a honey-tasting bread.

- 16. How is manna a “type” of the Eucharist?** Manna was bread from Heaven that God gave the Israelites for bodily sustenance. The Eucharist is the very Body of Christ in the form of bread that God gives Christians for spiritual sustenance.
- 17. What would the Israelites receive if they accepted and obeyed the covenant?** God would speak with them directly, and they would be a nation of priests to bring his Word to the rest of the nations.
- 18. What were the essential conditions of the original Mosaic Covenant?** The essential conditions were the adherence to the Ten Commandments.
- 19. How was the covenant ratified?** The covenant was ratified after the “blood of the covenant” was sprinkled on the altar and on the people.
- 20. How long was Moses alone with God on the mountain?** Moses was on the mountain with God for forty days and nights.
- 21. What is the Ark of the Covenant?** The Ark of the Covenant is an ornate box that would hold the tablets of the Law and be God’s throne on earth.
- 22. What Commandment did the Israelites immediately break?** The Israelites broke the First Commandment against idolatry by worshipping the golden calf while Moses was up on the mountain.
- 23. Why were the Levites chosen to be the new priests of Israel?** The Levites were loyal to God and had not taken part in the idolatrous feast.
- 24. What was the role of the Levitical priesthood?** The Levitical priests were mediators between God and the rest of the Israelites, acting “on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins” (CCC 1539).
- 25. Why would it be helpful to God’s people to have laws that differentiated them from other cultures?** Their own laws could keep the Israelites from being influenced by false religions.
- 26. How did God accompany the Israelites in the desert?** God appeared as a pillar of cloud during the day and as a pillar of fire at night.
- 27. What is the significance of the word “overshadow” in Exodus and Luke?** “Overshadow” is used in Exodus to describe the presence of God in the Tabernacle and in Luke to describe the action of the Holy Spirit when God became man in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- 28. Why did Bl. Miguel Pro have to leave Mexico?** While Bl. Miguel was studying for the priesthood, a new government took power and began an official persecution of the Catholic Church.
- 29. How did Bl. Miguel Pro manage to exercise his ministry in Mexico?** Bl. Miguel served “underground” using disguises, sometimes appearing as a beggar, a policeman, or a wealthy businessman.
- 30. How was Bl. Miguel Pro’s death like Christ’s?** Bl. Miguel forgave his killers, stretched out his hands as if on a cross right before being martyred, and his death inspired many people.
- 31. What is Leviticus?** Leviticus comes after the book of Exodus in Sacred Scripture and in Hebrew tradition it is known as “The Manual for Priests.” The book has instruction for sacrifices, the consecration of the priests, dietary laws, and laws on how to atone for sins.
- 32. What made the government of Israel unique?** Israel would consist of a holy people, governed not by kings but by God himself.

**Discussion Questions (p. 62)**

- 1. What happened at the burning bush?** God revealed his name to Moses and gave him the commission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.
- 2. What did it take to get Pharaoh's permission for the Israelites to leave Egypt?** It took ten plagues, culminating in the killing of the firstborn sons of Egypt.
- 3. What is the Passover?** The Passover was the passing over Egypt of the Angel of Death who killed every firstborn male not protected by the Passover lamb's blood. It was preceded by and has been commemorated by a ritual meal.
- 4. How is the crossing of the Red Sea a type of Baptism?** Israel passed through water from slavery to a new life of freedom. Through water, Baptism frees us from the slavery to sin and gives us new life.
- 5. How is manna a type of the Eucharist?** Manna was bread from Heaven that God gave the Israelites for bodily sustenance. The Eucharist is the very Body of Christ in the form of bread that God gives Christians for spiritual sustenance.
- 6. What were the essential conditions of the original Mosaic covenant?** The essential conditions were the adherence to the Ten Commandments.
- 7. What Commandment did the Israelites break immediately after ratifying the covenant?** The Israelites broke the First Commandment against idolatry by worshiping the golden calf while Moses was up on the mountain.
- 8. What was the role of the Levitical priesthood?** The Levitical priests were mediators between God and the rest of the Israelites, acting "on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins" (CCC 1539).
- 9. What is Leviticus?** Leviticus comes after the book of Exodus in Sacred Scripture and in Hebrew tradition it is known as "The Manual for Priests." The book has instruction for sacrifices, the consecration of the priests, dietary laws, and laws on how to atone for sins.

## Chapter 6: THE RISE OF THE KINGDOM

### INTRODUCTION; NUMBERS: IN THE WILDERNESS

(pp. 64-65)

- 1. Why is the fourth book of the Law called *Numbers*, or *In the Wilderness*?** Numbers contains a numbering or census of the tribes of Israel and recounts how Israel spent forty years wandering through the wilderness between Egypt and the Promised Land.
- 2. Why did Israel not enter the Promised Land for forty years?** The Israelites did not believe that God would deliver this land to them, preferring to die in the desert rather than fight, so God made that generation live out their lives in the desert.

### DEUTERONOMY: THE CONSTITUTION OF ISRAEL

(p. 66)

- 3. What does “Deuteronomy” mean?** Deuteronomy means “Second Law.”
- 4. In whose words is the second law given?** Deuteronomy is given in Moses’ voice.
- 5. How is Deuteronomy not a perfect law?** Deuteronomy is a kind of provisional law, a flawed set of regulations that did not reflect the expectations of God but rather brought the people a little closer toward what is good.
- 6. How was Deuteronomy attuned to the spiritual condition of the Israelites at that time?** Deuteronomy made concessions to Israel’s stubbornness. For example, Moses permitted divorce under certain circumstances.

### JOSHUA: THE CONQUEST BEGINS

(pp. 67-68)

- 7. How is the crossing of the Jordan River a type of Baptism?** The Israelites had to pass through the water of the Jordan River to the earthly Promised Land. Members of the Church pass through the baptismal waters to the eternal Promised Land of Heaven.
- 8. Why is Rahab important?** Rahab was a Canaanite woman who worked as a prostitute or innkeeper; she assisted Joshua’s spies and would become an ancestor of David and Christ.
- 9. What did Joshua warn would happen if the Israelites turned to paganism?** Joshua said that God “will turn and do you harm, and consume you” (Jos 24:20).

### THE JUDGES

(p. 68)

- 10. What was the pattern of Israel’s history in Judges?** Israel would fall into idolatry and then into anarchy and even civil war. God would then send help in the form of a judge and Israel would be saved. Israel would then forget about God again.
- 11. What were judges?** Judges were warrior-prophets whom God sent to rescue the people of Israel from their enemies.
- 12. What was objectively admirable about the Canaanites?** Compared to the nomadic tent-dwelling Israelites, the Canaanites built temples of stone and lived in comfortable brick homes.
- 13. Why did the people of Israel try to avoid associating with the Canaanites?** If the Israelites were to settle close to the Canaanites, the Canaanite civilization would start to attract them, which in turn would attract them to the Canaanite religion as well.

**14. Why was Israel vulnerable to outside threats?** Israel was easy prey for stronger powers since they were disunited and fought against each other.

**15. Who are the Philistines?** The Philistines were a warlike people that settled on the coast of the Holy Land and became the Israelites' most hated enemy.

## **SAMUEL THE KING-MAKER; CONCLUSION**

*(pp. 68-74)*

**16. Near the end of Samuel's life, how did the people of Israel reject God?** The Israelites did not want God to be their king any longer. Instead, they asked for a human king just like their pagan neighbors.

**17. According to Samuel, what would having a king cost Israel?** A king would bring taxes, military service, and oppression to the people of Israel.

**18. How was an anointing performed in the Old Testament?** Anointing was performed by pouring oil over a person's head.

**19. Of what is being anointed a sign?** Anointing is a sign of consecration, or being "set aside," for God's work.

**20. What does the word "messiah" or "christ" mean?** Both the Hebrew word *messiah* and the Greek word *christ* mean "anointed one."

**21. What were the conditions for Israel to do well under the rule of a king?** In order to do well, both the king and the people must obey the Ten Commandments.

**22. In our text, in what two ways did Saul fail to meet Samuel's conditions?** Saul performed sacrifices to "buy" God's favor and kept the best spoils of war for himself and for his troops after he was ordered not to do so.

**23. What criterion does God use to choose people to serve him according to Samuel?** "Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Sm 16:7).

**24. What was St. Frances Cabrini's childhood dream?** St. Frances wanted to be a missionary nun in China.

**25. Where did St. Frances Cabrini become a missionary nun?** St. Frances was sent to serve in the United States.

**26. How was St. Frances Cabrini a foundress and builder?** St. Frances founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and established sixty-seven orphanages, schools, and hospitals.

**Discussion Questions (p. 74)**

- 1. Why is the fourth book of the Law called *Numbers*, or *In the Wilderness*?** Numbers contains a numbering or census of the tribes of Israel and recounts how Israel spent forty years wandering through the wilderness between Egypt and the Promised Land as punishment.
- 2. What does “Deuteronomy” mean?** Deuteronomy means “Second Law.”
- 3. How is the crossing of the Jordan River a type of Baptism?** The Israelites had to pass through the water of the Jordan River to the earthly Promised Land. Members of the Church pass through the baptismal waters to the eternal Promised Land of Heaven.
- 4. What did Joshua warn would happen if the Israelites turned to paganism?** Joshua said that God “will turn and do you harm, and consume you” (Jos 24:20).
- 5. What was the pattern of Israel’s history in Judges?** Israel would fall into idolatry and then into anarchy and even civil war. God would then send help in the form of a judge and Israel would be saved. Israel would then forget about God again.
- 6. What were judges?** Judges were warrior-prophets God sent to rescue the people of Israel from their enemies.
- 7. Near the end of Samuel’s life, how did the people of Israel reject God?** The Israelites did not want God to be their king any longer. Instead, they asked for a human king just like every other nation.
- 8. What does the word “messiah” or “christ” mean?** Both the Hebrew word *messiah* and the Greek word *christ* mean “anointed one.”
- 9. What were the conditions for Israel to do well under the rule of a king?** In order to do well, both the king and the people must obey the Ten Commandments.
- 10. What criterion does God use to choose people to serve him, according to Samuel?** “Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart” (1 Sm 16:7).

## Chapter 7: THE KINGDOM OF DAVID

### INTRODUCTION; JERUSALEM

*(pp. 76-77)*

- 1. Why did Saul have a love-hate relationship with David?** Saul liked that David's music eased his dark moods but hated that people would praise David's feats more than his own leadership.
- 2. How did David fulfill one of the promises of God's covenant with Abraham?** After David united Israel and defeated all the pagan enemies around them, Abraham's descendants finally had full possession of the Promised Land.
- 3. Why was David's choice for his capital prudent?** For the location of the capital city, David chose "neutral" territory between the two major divisions of Israelite tribes.
- 4. What made Jerusalem the religious capital of Israel?** The presence of the Ark of the Covenant made Jerusalem the religious capital.
- 5. How did David act as a priest even though he was not a Levite?** David led the procession of the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem dressed as a priest, and then he offered the sacrifices himself.

### GOD'S PROMISES TO DAVID

*(pp. 78-81)*

- 6. Who was to build a temple for God in Jerusalem?** David's son Solomon was meant to build a temple.
- 7. Who was to benefit from God's promises to David?** All of the Jews and even all of humanity would benefit from God's promises.
- 8. How did God's promises to David relate to the earlier covenants?** God's promises were in continuity with the earlier covenants, but they expanded them in preparation for the New Covenant of Jesus Christ.
- 9. What are the seven primary features of God's promises to David?** (1) David and his descendants will be great kings. (2) The covenant will be passed on to David's descendants. (3) The heir to the promise will be God's anointed son. (4) The promises are unlimited by time or space, that is, they will be everlasting and worldwide. (5) Jerusalem will be the spiritual center of the world. (6) The temple of God will be the place where everyone worships. (7) The law of the covenant will be wisdom.
- 10. What are the three secondary features of God's promises to David?** (1) The Queen Mother will be the king's advisor. (2) The king's prime minister will be a father and ruler for the people in the king's place. (3) The "thank offering" will be the primary sacrifice offered.

### "WISE" KING SOLOMON

*(pp. 82-83)*

- 11. What did Solomon ask God for in a dream?** When Solomon could have gotten anything from God, he asked for wisdom and knowledge to be able to rule Israel properly.
- 12. What was Solomon's religious ambition?** Solomon hoped that people from all over the world would come to the Temple to pray to the one true God.
- 13. What is Solomon's relation to the wisdom literature of the Old Testament?** Much of the wisdom literature of the Bible is attributed to Solomon and is either written by him or by other wise people under his name.
- 14. How did Solomon flagrantly violate the nature of marriage?** Solomon had, in sum, 1000 wives and concubines.

**15. How did Solomon's marriages severely damage the Jewish faith?** Solomon allowed his many wives to bring their pagan religions to Israel, confusing the people.

**16. How did Solomon make Samuel's early warning about the king of Israel true?** Solomon became the kind of king that Samuel warned about by imposing crushing taxes and forced labor on the Israelites.

## **A KINGDOM DIVIDED AND DESTROYED; CONCLUSION**

*(pp. 83-87)*

**17. Why was Rehoboam a bad king?** Rehoboam was arrogant and threatened cruelty toward his people, which led to civil war and disunity. This was after he ignored the wisdom of his counselors who advised him to lessen the burden on his people.

**18. What is the difference between the terms *Israel* and *Judah*?** Israel can mean the entire Promised Land or just the ten northern kingdoms or tribes. Judah is the land of the tribe of Judah or the southern kingdom consisting of Judah, Benjamin, and Jerusalem.

**19. Why did Jeroboam not want his subjects going to Jerusalem to worship God?** Jeroboam was afraid they might switch their allegiance to King Rehoboam and kill him.

**20. What was Jeroboam's bizarre solution to this problem?** Jeroboam made golden calves for his people to worship instead.

**21. What did the succeeding good kings do?** The good kings reformed worship and led the people back to God.

**22. What did the bad kings do?** The bad kings introduced foreign gods and sometimes persecuted worshippers of the one true God.

**23. What did the prophets do?** The prophets denounced the worship of false gods.

**24. Why was King Ahab the worst king?** Ahab did more to provoke God's anger than all the previous Kings of Israel. King Ahab erected a temple for Baal in Samaria for his pagan wife, Jezebel, who then launched a persecution of God's prophets.

**25. Who was Elijah?** Elijah was one of the greatest prophets and was a miracle worker. At the end of his life, he was taken to Heaven in a whirlwind in a chariot of fire.

**26. Why were the Assyrians focused on controlling Israel?** Israel stood between the realms of Egypt and Persia, two major powers in that part of the world.

**27. Besides the threat of being slaughtered by the Assyrians, what did the Israelites most fear about them?** The Israelites most feared that they would be taken away from the Promised Land and not be able to return.

**28. Why did God let Israel be destroyed and her people exiled?** Israel would not listen to God's prophets to repent and obey the Ten Commandments.

**29. Why was being beautiful a problem for St. Rose of Lima?** St. Rose saw it as an obstacle to the virtue of humility and a temptation to vanity.

**30. How did St. Rose of Lima live a life of mortification?** St. Rose fasted on bread and water three times weekly, abstained from meat altogether, and tried to live a life of mortification.

**31. Why did St. Rose of Lima refuse to marry a rich man?** St. Rose felt that she had a vocation to religious life.

**Discussion Questions (p. 88)**

- 1. Who was David?** David was God’s anointed king who conquered the Promised Land and united Israel, establishing Jerusalem as her political and religious center.
- 2. What are the seven primary features of the promises that God made to David?** (1) David and his descendants will be great kings. (2) The covenant will be passed on to David’s descendants. (3) The heir to the promise will be God’s anointed son. (4) The promises are unlimited by time or space. (5) Jerusalem will be the spiritual center of the world. (6) The temple of God will be the place where everyone worships. (7) The law of the covenant will be wisdom.
- 3. What are the three secondary features of the promises that God made to David?** (1) The Queen Mother will be the king’s advisor. (2) The king’s prime minister will be a father and ruler for the people in the king’s place. (3) The “thank offering” will be the primary sacrifice offered.
- 4. What was Solomon’s religious ambition?** Solomon hoped that people from all over the world would come to the Temple to pray to the one true God.
- 5. How did Solomon flagrantly violate the nature of marriage?** Solomon had, in sum, 1000 wives and concubines.
- 6. How did Solomon’s marriages severely damage the Jewish faith?** Solomon allowed his many wives to bring their pagan religions to Israel, confusing the people.
- 7. What is the pattern of Jewish history after Solomon and up to the Assyrian conquest?** The Chosen Land was divided due to the arrogant pride of Rehoboam, Solomon’s son. A succession of good and bad kings followed with the eventual destruction of Israel by the Assyrians.
- 8. Why did God let Israel be destroyed and its people go into exile?** Israel would not listen to God’s prophets to repent and obey the Ten Commandments.

## Chapter 8: CONQUEST, EXILE, AND RETURN

### INTRODUCTION; CONQUEST

*(pp. 90-93)*

- 1. What did Isaiah teach about the fate of Judah?** Isaiah taught that God would punish them for their infidelity with exile, then a faithful remnant would return, and someday the glory of the Davidic Kingdom would be restored.
- 2. Which Israelites remained in the north?** Poor Israelite farmers from the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali survived in Galilee.
- 3. What was Manasseh's main sin?** Manasseh was an idolater.
- 4. What brought Manasseh to repentance?** After being conquered and carried away by the Assyrians in chains, Manasseh converted and become completely dedicated to the worship of the true God.
- 5. Why was Jeremiah persecuted by the authorities in Judah?** Jeremiah gave a true but unwelcome message that their doom was at hand.
- 6. What did Nebuchadnezzar do to the Jews he did not kill?** Nebuchadnezzar carried off the surviving Jews to Babylon.
- 7. What did Nebuchadnezzar do to Jerusalem?** Nebuchadnezzar looted Jerusalem of valuables and then destroyed what remained, including the Temple.
- 8. What happened to the Ark of the Covenant?** According to 2 Maccabees, Jeremiah hid the Ark of the Covenant from Nebuchadnezzar, and it has never been recovered.

### EXILE

*(p. 93)*

- 9. On reflection, to what did the Jewish exiles attribute their unfortunate condition?** The exiles blamed their condition on their lack of faithfulness to God.
- 10. How was Cyrus a liberator to the Jews?** Cyrus let people return to Judah and even helped pay for the rebuilding of the Temple.

### RETURN (A NEW JERUSALEM–HELLENIZATION OF THE MACCABEES)

*(pp. 94-97)*

- 11. Who was Ezra?** Ezra was a priest and scribe who became the religious leader of Judah. He edited the Old Testament Scriptures, and his edition of the Torah became the standard version.
- 12. Why did Ezra persuade the Jewish men in Jerusalem who had taken pagan wives to divorce them?** Ezra thought they would soon become pagans themselves if they did not divorce their pagan wives.
- 13. What is Aramaic?** Aramaic is a language related to Hebrew that was common in the Middle East in those days.
- 14. Who was Nehemiah?** Nehemiah was the zealous and upright Jewish governor of Jerusalem who restored the city's defenses.
- 15. What corruption did Nehemiah fight?** Nehemiah opposed rich citizens who oppressed the poor and then offered less than heartfelt sacrifices to make up for it.
- 16. What did the Jews believe Jerusalem was supposed to be like?** Jerusalem was to be the capital of the world. God would be in his temple and all the peoples, including kings, would come with tribute to worship.
- 17. What was "Hellenization"?** Hellenization was the process of a culture adopting Greek culture and ideas.

**18. What was positive about Greek culture?** Greek culture offered learning, architecture, the arts, and literature.

**19. What was horrible about King Antiochus IV?** Antiochus IV attempted to force the Jews to become Hellenized under torture and threat of death.

**20. Who were the Maccabees?** The Maccabees were the leaders of a revolt of faithful Jews who successfully defeated the Greeks and regained the Holy Land.

## **RETURN (WHAT THE JEWS BELIEVED—HEROD AND THE ROMANS); CONCLUSION**

*(pp. 98-102)*

**21. What did the term “Israel” come to mean?** Israel came to refer to those people who were truly faithful to God.

**22. What does “eternal reward” mean?** People who are faithful to God will have eternal life with God.

**23. Why is martyrdom better than apostasy?** Under threat of death, apostasy (the public rejection of God) may extend physical life for a while, but martyrdom out of faithfulness to God will give a person eternal life.

**24. Why did God punish Israel?** God wanted to turn his people back to him.

**25. Why should we pray for the dead?** Our prayers and sacrifices can help the dead, which is the basis for the Christian doctrine of Purgatory.

**26. How did John Hyrcanus “Judaize” Israel?** John Hyrcanus gave everyone in the country a choice: Be circumcised and accept the Jewish law fully or leave.

**27. Why could King Aristobulus or his successors not be the messiah?** Aristobulus and his successors were Levites, and the Messiah must be a son of David from the tribe of Judah.

**28. Who were the Pharisees?** The Pharisees were an influential Jewish sect that advocated that the Jews separate themselves completely from the pagans around them to protect their faith.

**29. What was one reason the Pharisees rejected Christ?** Christ was preaching a religion that was inclusive, not exclusive — and the Pharisees hated him for that.

**30. Who were the Sadducees?** The Sadducees were priests who wanted to cooperate with Gentile rulers in order to keep the Jewish faith alive and who did not believe in an afterlife.

**31. Who was Herod the Great?** Herod the Great was a sociopathic ruler of Israel under the Romans who murdered his own sons to secure power and undertook great building projects, including a magnificent Temple in Jerusalem.

**32. What was the *Pax Romana*?** The *Pax Romana* was the relative peace, stability, safety and ease of travel, and common culture that the ancient world enjoyed for centuries under the Roman Empire.

**33. Why is St. Junipero Serra known as the Apostle of California?** St. Junipero was in charge of establishing twenty-one missions in California.

**34. What did St. Junipero Serra do in the Sierra Madre to effectively spread the Faith to the natives there?** St. Junipero learned the language of the Native Americans there and then translated the Catechism into their tongue.

**35. What was the main characteristic of the missions established by the Franciscans?** The Franciscan missions were self-sufficient since the natives that lived there were taught a variety of different trades.

**Discussion Questions (p. 102)**

- 1. What did Isaiah teach about the fate of Judah?** Isaiah taught that God would punish them for their infidelity with exile, then a faithful remnant would return, and someday the glory of the Davidic Kingdom would be restored.
- 2. On reflection, to what did the Jewish exiles attribute their unfortunate condition?** The exiles blamed their condition on their lack of faithfulness to God.
- 3. How was Cyrus a liberator to the Jews?** Cyrus let people return to Judah and even helped pay for the rebuilding of the Temple.
- 4. Who was Ezra?** Ezra was a priest and scribe who became the religious leader of Judah. He edited the Old Testament Scriptures, and his edition of the Torah became the standard version.
- 5. Who was Nehemiah?** Nehemiah was the zealous and upright Jewish governor of Jerusalem who restored the city's defenses.
- 6. What was "Hellenization"?** Hellenization was the process of a culture adopting Greek culture and ideas.
- 7. Who were the Maccabees?** The Maccabees were the leaders of a revolt of faithful Jews who successfully defeated the Greeks and regained the Holy Land.
- 8. Based on the Books of Maccabees, what beliefs of the Jews of that time resonate with Christianity?** Jews of that time believed in eternal reward, had an appreciation for martyrdom, understood God's punishment as fatherly discipline, and prayed for the dead.
- 9. Who were the Pharisees?** The Pharisees were an influential Jewish sect that advocated that the Jews separate themselves completely from the pagans around them to protect their faith.
- 10. Who were the Sadducees?** The Sadducees were priests who wanted to cooperate with Gentile rulers in order to keep the Jewish faith alive and who did not believe in an afterlife.
- 11. Who was Herod the Great?** Herod the Great was a sociopathic ruler of Israel under the Romans who murdered his own sons to secure power and undertook great building projects, including a magnificent Temple in Jerusalem.
- 12. What was the Pax Romana?** The *Pax Romana* was the relative peace, stability, safety and ease of travel, and common culture that the ancient world enjoyed for centuries under the Roman Empire.

## **Chapter 9:**

### **THE LIFE OF CHRIST:**

#### **From His Conception Through His Temptation in the Wilderness**

#### **INTRODUCTION;**

#### **THE INCARNATION (The Son of David–The Birth of Christ)**

*(pp. 104-108)*

- 1. What is the central event in all of human history?** The central event of human history is God himself becoming man in the Person of Jesus Christ — the Incarnation.
- 2. Who are Christ’s two most famous Jewish ancestors?** Christ’s most famous ancestors are David and Abraham.
- 3. What is the purpose of Matthew using “perfect” combinations of numbers in Christ’s genealogy?** “Perfect” combinations of numbers indicate that Jesus is the perfect, or ideal, descendant of Abraham and David.
- 4. How does Christ fulfill part of the covenant with Abraham?** One of God’s promises to Abraham was that all the people of the earth would be blessed through him. Christ universally blesses the world by redeeming man from sin.
- 5. How does Christ partly fulfill the promises to David?** God promised that David’s descendants would be set over all the kings of the earth. Christ now sits at the right hand of God the Father with full authority.
- 6. What does the word “overshadow” imply in the Annunciation?** Overshadowing indicates God’s presence, as in the tabernacle in the days of Moses.
- 7. How was Mary’s response radically different from Israel’s past response in general?** Israel has a long history of rebelling against God, whereas Mary submitted to God’s will immediately.
- 8. What is the dogma of the Immaculate Conception?** The Immaculate Conception states that Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, preserved free from all stain of Original Sin.
- 9. Why did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem for the “enrollment”?** Joseph was of the house of David, and everybody has to return to his or her ancestral home.
- 10. What did Micah prophesy about Bethlehem?** From Bethlehem will come a king for Israel, and his lineage will be ancient.
- 11. How did the shepherds know that the Messiah was born?** An angel announced to a group of shepherds that the Messiah had just been born in Bethlehem.

#### **THE INCARNATION (Simeon’s Prophecy–Christ’s Hidden Life)**

*(pp. 108-111)*

- 12. Why did Herod secretly ask the Magi to tell him where to find the Christ?** Herod intended to have the baby killed since he viewed Christ as a potential rival to his power.
- 13. What is the significance of the gifts of gold and frankincense?** Gold and frankincense, Isaiah had foretold, would be brought by all the nations to the God of Israel.
- 14. What is the significance of the gift of myrrh?** Myrrh signifies Christ’s priesthood and Sacrifice.
- 15. Who are the Holy Innocents?** The Holy Innocents are the male children in and around Bethlehem whom Herod ordered to be executed.
- 16. Why are these children certainly in Heaven?** The Holy Innocents are in Heaven because they died for Christ just like any Christian martyr in subsequent history.

- 17. Why were Mary and Joseph astonished when they found Christ in the Temple?** Christ was only twelve years old, but he was on an equal footing with the great teachers in Israel. Perhaps they were also astonished that their good son had caused them so much anxiety.
- 18. What did Christ mean about being in his Father's house?** Christ was saying that he is God's Son.
- 19. What is Christ's hidden life?** The hidden life refers to the majority of Christ's life, especially from age twelve to thirty, about which we know little.
- 20. What did Christ do during his hidden years?** Christ lived an ordinary life of family, faith, and work.
- 21. What can we learn from Christ's hidden life?** We can learn to sanctify the ordinary circumstances of our life just as Christ did during his hidden years.

## **PREPARATION FOR HIS PUBLIC LIFE; CONCLUSION**

*(pp. 112-116)*

- 22. What was St. John the Baptist's mission?** St. John the Baptist's mission was to prepare Israel for Christ through repentance from sins.
- 23. What are two reasons Christ underwent St. John's baptism?** Christ wished to identify himself with sinful humanity, and his baptism was the occasion for his kingly anointing.
- 24. How was the baptism of Christ a Trinitarian experience?** God the Father spoke words to the Son in the flesh, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove.
- 25. How long did Christ fast in the desert?** Christ fasted for forty days.
- 26. When was St. Kateri baptized?** St. Kateri was baptized at age twenty on Easter Sunday.
- 27. What are some proofs of St. Kateri's holiness?** St. Kateri's life of devotion, works of charity, and painful but peaceful death are proofs of her holiness.
- 28. What were the three temptations of Christ?** (1) The Devil tested whether Christ would turn stones into bread to benefit himself. (2) The Devil tested whether Christ would throw himself from the top of the Temple to see if God would save him. (3) The Devil tested whether Christ would commit idolatry in exchange for riches, power, and glory.

**Discussion Questions (p. 116)**

- 1. Who are Christ's two most famous ancestors?** Christ's most famous ancestors are David and Abraham.
- 2. What does the word "overshadow" imply in the Annunciation?** Overshadowing indicates God's presence, as in the tabernacle in the days of Moses.
- 3. What is the dogma of the Immaculate Conception?** The Immaculate Conception states that Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, preserved free from all stain of Original Sin.
- 4. Why would the shepherds know that the Messiah was born?** An angel announced to a group of shepherds that the Messiah had just been born in Bethlehem.
- 5. Why did Herod secretly ask the Magi to tell him where to find the Christ?** Herod intended to have the baby killed since he viewed Christ as a potential rival to his power.
- 6. Who were the Holy Innocents?** The Holy Innocents are the male children in and around Bethlehem whom Herod ordered to be executed.
- 7. Why were Mary and Joseph astonished when they found Christ in the temple?** Christ was only twelve years old, but he was on an equal footing with the great teachers in Israel. Perhaps they were also astonished that their good son had caused them so much anxiety.
- 8. What is Christ's hidden life?** The hidden life refers to the majority of Christ's life, especially from age twelve to thirty, about which we know little.
- 9. What can we learn from Christ's hidden life?** We can learn to sanctify the ordinary circumstances of our life just as Christ did during his hidden years.
- 10. What was St. John the Baptist's mission?** St. John the Baptist's mission was to prepare Israel for Christ through repentance from sins.
- 11. What are two reasons Christ underwent St. John's baptism?** Christ wished to identify himself with sinful humanity, and his baptism was the occasion for his kingly anointing.
- 12. What were Christ's three temptations?** (1) The Devil tested whether Christ would turn stones into bread to benefit himself. (2) The Devil tested whether Christ would throw himself from the top of the Temple to see if God would save him. (3) The Devil tested whether Christ would commit idolatry in exchange for riches, power, and glory.

## Chapter 10: THE PUBLIC LIFE OF CHRIST

### INTRODUCTION; HEALING THE SICK

*(pp. 118-120)*

- 1. What was the “good” that Christ went about doing during his public life?** Christ taught and performed miracles.
- 2. Why could Christ not openly enter towns?** Because of the number of people who flocked to him, Christ had to receive people in the countryside where there was plenty of room.
- 3. According to Isaiah, what two things would the Messiah be able to do?** The Messiah would forgive sins and heal.
- 4. Why were the scribes scandalized when Christ said the paralytic’s sins were forgiven?** Since only God can forgive sins, Christ was making himself God, which seemed blasphemous to the scribes.

### CASTING OUT DEMONS

*(p. 120)*

- 5. What are demons?** Demons are fallen angels who have freely refused to serve God and who try to associate human beings in their revolt against God.
- 6. What did the Jewish authorities assume was the reason Christ could command unclean spirits?** The authorities alleged that Christ could command unclean spirits by demonic power.

### EATING WITH SINNERS

*(pp. 120-122)*

- 7. Who were the “sick” people with whom Christ spent a lot of his time?** The sick were the people who needed him the most, whether they were outcasts, Gentiles, or those who were considered sinners.
- 8. By saying, “I desire mercy, and not sacrifice” what did Christ mean?** “I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,” means that God wants people who are devoted to him to show mercy to sinners by bringing them spiritual healing rather than offering sacrifices that can be reduced to a matter of routine.

### THE TWELVE

*(p. 122)*

- 9. What does the word apostle mean?** The word apostle comes from the Greek for “one who is sent.”
- 10. Why did Christ choose twelve men as Apostles?** Christ chose twelve men — who stood for the twelve sons of Jacob (Israel) — upon whom Christ would build the New Israel.

### TEACHING WITH AUTHORITY

*(pp. 122-123)*

- 11. What did it mean to speak with “authority”?** Speaking with authority means that Christ did not cite other teachers to back up his statements but declared the truth on his own authority.
- 12. What is a parable?** A parable is a story that illustrates a principle using concrete and common images.

## LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE LAW

*(pp. 123-124)*

- 13. What does it mean to follow the letter of a law?** Following the letter of a law means to act according to the literal interpretation of the words of a law.
- 14. What does it mean to follow the spirit of a law?** Following the spirit of a law means to do what the author of the law intended even if it is not spelled out in the literal wording of the law.
- 15. How does the Parable of the Good Samaritan illustrate both the letter and spirit of the Mosaic Law?** The priest and Levite obeyed the letter of the law, avoiding contact with a corpse, which could ritually defile them. The Samaritan obeyed the spirit of the entire law, which is to love our neighbor by showing mercy.
- 16. What is the dual Commandment that sums up the Law and the Prophets?** The dual commandment says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself” (Lk 10:27).

## THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST...

*(pp. 124-125)*

- 17. What does “the last shall be first” mean?** “The last shall be first” means that the people who are lowest in this world’s view will be highest in the Kingdom of Heaven.
- 18. How is leadership in the Church to be exercised?** A leader must serve others just as Christ came to serve.
- 19. What does “the first shall be last” mean?** “The first shall be last” means that people who are highest in this world’s view tend to be attached to worldly things, which makes it difficult for them to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
- 20. Why can wealth be an obstacle to faith in God?** Being surrounded by highly desired worldly things can lead to an unhealthy attachment to them, making a person forget how much he or she needs God.

## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES; GOD’S GRACE IS UNDESERVED; PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

*(pp. 126-127)*

- 21. What is the limit to how forgiving we must be to those who offend us?** Our forgiveness, even of enemies, must be without limit.
- 22. What is the main point of the Parable of the Prodigal Son in terms of God’s mercy?** The Parable of the Prodigal Son teaches that, due to his unlimited and undeserved mercy, God will always welcome us back as sons and daughters whenever we return to him.
- 23. How can we describe God’s mercy toward us?** God’s mercy toward us is unlimited and undeserved.

## THE BREAD OF LIFE; CONCLUSION

*(pp. 128-130)*

- 24. Why did many people reject Christ when he spoke of himself as the Bread of Life?** Many people thought that Christ was talking about something like cannibalism.
- 25. What does Christ promise those who eat the Bread of Life?** Christ promises eternal life.
- 26. How did Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos live up to his namesake?** Like St. Francis Xavier, Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos became a missionary.
- 27. What community did Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos mostly serve?** Bl. Francis served German-speaking Catholics in the United States of America.

- 28. What saint advised Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos?** St. John Neumann was Bl. Francis's spiritual director.
- 29. How did Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos die?** Bl. Francis contracted yellow fever himself after ministering to victims of that disease in New Orleans.

**Discussion Questions (p. 130)**

- 1. What was the “good” that Christ went about doing during his public life?** Christ taught and performed miracles.
- 2. Why were the scribes scandalized when Christ said the paralytic’s sins were forgiven?** Since only God can forgive sins, Christ was making himself God, which seemed blasphemous to the scribes.
- 3. Who were the “sick” people with whom Christ spent a lot of his time?** The sick were the people who needed him the most, whether they were outcasts, Gentiles, or those who were considered sinners.
- 4. Why did Christ choose twelve men as Apostles?** Christ chose twelve men — who stood for the twelve sons of Jacob (Israel) — upon whom Christ would build the New Israel.
- 5. What did it mean to speak with “authority”?** Speaking with authority means that Christ did not cite other teachers to back up his statements but declared the truth on his own authority.
- 6. What is a parable?** A parable is a story that illustrates a principle using concrete and common images.
- 7. What is the letter and spirit of a law?** Following the letter of a law means to act according to the literal interpretation of the words of a law, whereas following the spirit of a law means to do what the author of the law intended even if it is not spelled out in the literal wording of the law.
- 8. What is the dual Commandment that sums up the Law and the Prophets?** The dual commandment says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself” (Lk 10:27).
- 9. What does “the last shall be first, and the first shall be last” mean?** “The last shall be first” means that the people who are lowest in this world’s view will be highest in the Kingdom of Heaven. “The first shall be last” means that people who are highest in this world’s view tend to be attached to worldly things, which makes it difficult for them to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
- 10. How is leadership in the Church to be exercised?** A leader must serve others just as Christ came to serve.
- 11. What is the limit to how forgiving we must be to those who offend us?** Our forgiveness, even of enemies, must be without limit.
- 12. What does Christ promise those who eat the Bread of Life?** Christ promises eternal life.

## **Chapter 11:**

# **THE PASSION, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST**

### **INTRODUCTION; THE LAST SUPPER**

*(pp. 132-133)*

- 1. What kind of meal was the Last Supper?** The Last Supper was a ritual Passover meal.
- 2. What are the three meanings of Passover?** Passover refers to the original Passover meal, the passing over by the Angel of Death, and the commemoration of these events celebrated every year.
- 3. How many times do the guests drink wine during a Passover meal?** Guests drink four cups of wine at specific times during the meal.
- 4. How did Christ transform the Passover meal at the Last Supper?** At the third cup Christ transformed the meal into the Holy Eucharist.
- 5. What did Christ say the bread and wine were?** Christ said that the bread and wine were his Body and Blood.
- 6. What was the “blood of the covenant”?** The “blood of the covenant” is from Exodus; Moses sprinkled the blood of sacrificed young bulls on the altar and on the people to seal the Mosaic Covenant.
- 7. At the Last Supper, what happened to the fourth cup?** Christ interrupted the Last Supper before drinking the fourth cup, the cup of consummation.

### **THE PASSION OF CHRIST**

*(pp. 135-137)*

- 8. In his prayer in the garden, what image did Christ use to describe his coming sufferings?** Christ called his sufferings a cup, or chalice, to be drunk.
- 9. What did Christ ask, if it were possible?** Christ asked that he would not have to drink the cup, that is, to suffer his Passion.
- 10. What was Christ last miraculous healing?** Christ healed the ear of the high priest’s servant, which St. Peter had struck off.
- 11. What happened to St. Peter in the courtyard of Annas?** St. Peter denied three times that he knew Christ just as the Lord had predicted.
- 12. Did Christ receive a fair trial from the Sanhedrin? Explain.** No. They bribed false witnesses, who then contradicted each other.
- 13. Why did Caiaphas claim the Sanhedrin did not need any more evidence to convict Christ?** Caiaphas said that Christ had committed blasphemy by saying he is the Son of God.
- 14. Why did the Sanhedrin have to bring Christ to Pontius Pilate?** Pilate, the Roman governor, had the authority to put a man to death, whereas the Sanhedrin did not.
- 15. What did Pilate think about Christ’s “crime”?** Pilate thought that Christ was innocent.
- 16. Why did Pilate send Christ to Herod?** Once Pilate heard that Christ was from Galilee, he sent him off to see Herod, who had jurisdiction in that area. He was hoping to pass off his problem onto someone else.
- 17. Why did Pilate have Christ scourged?** Pilate wanted to appease the Sanhedrin and their mob.
- 18. Why did Pilate finally condemn Christ to death?** Pilate was afraid that the Jewish authorities would make him look bad in Caesar’s eyes if he let Christ go.

## THE DEATH OF CHRIST

*(pp. 138-140)*

- 19. What was Christ offered to drink on Golgotha?** Christ was offered a painkiller — wine mixed with myrrh — which he refused.
- 20. What is an example of mental suffering Christ endured on the Cross?** One mental suffering was being mocked and insulted by people.
- 21. What are some examples of Christ not thinking about himself on the Cross?** Christ prayed to his Father to forgive his enemies, and he made sure that his Mother was taken care of by St. John for the rest of her life.
- 22. To what do Christ's words, "It is finished," refer?** Christ had finished drinking the last cup of the Passover, the cup of consummation, which was the chalice that his Father had given him, so he could now die.
- 23. Why did the soldiers break the legs of the criminals?** The soldiers wanted to hasten the deaths of the crucified people so they could be buried before sunset.
- 24. How did the Roman soldier ensure that Christ was really dead?** The soldier pierced Christ's side with a spear. His Blood and water came out of his side.
- 25. How does the cup of blessing in the Passover meal relate to the Last Supper?** Christ transformed the cup of blessing into the Eucharistic liturgy in which he offered himself to the Father and gave himself as food and drink to his Apostles.
- 26. How does the cup of consummation in the Passover meal relate to Christ's Passion?** Christ "drank" the fourth cup, the cup of consummation, by suffering in his Passion.
- 27. How does Christ's suffering relate to the blood of the covenant?** Like the blood that sealed the Mosaic Covenant, Christ's Blood sealed his New Covenant.
- 28. How is Christ the Lamb of God?** The blood of the Passover lamb saved Israelite families from physical death, and the flesh of the Passover lamb provided physical food. The Blood of Christ saves the members of the Family of God, the Church, from spiritual death, and his Body and Blood in the Eucharist provide us with spiritual food.

## THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST; CONCLUSION

*(pp. 140-144)*

- 29. Who took care of Christ's Body after his Death on the Cross?** St. Joseph of Arimathea, a wealthy follower and member of the Sanhedrin who gave Christ his own tomb, and Nicodemus, a well-known Pharisee, cared for Christ's Body.
- 30. Did St. Mary Magdalene at first believe Christ was resurrected?** No. St. Mary Magdalene thought that someone had taken Christ's Body away.
- 31. What did the Apostles think when St. Mary Magdalene later told them she had actually seen the risen Christ?** The Apostles thought that news of Christ's having risen was "an idle tale."
- 32. What did Christ teach the two disciples on the road to Emmaus?** Christ explained how the Old Testament pointed to his Death and Resurrection.
- 33. What power did Christ give the Apostles when he appeared to them in the Upper Room?** Christ gave his Godly power to forgive sins to his Apostles.
- 34. How did Christ prove to St. Thomas that it was really he?** Christ insisted that St. Thomas probe the wounds in his glorified Body.
- 35. To whom was Christ referring when he said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe"?** Christ was referring to all people, present and future, who believe in his Resurrection without seeing him physically.

**Discussion Questions (p. 144)**

- 1. How did Christ transform the Last Supper Passover meal?** At the third cup, Christ transformed the Last Supper into the Holy Eucharist.
- 2. During the Last Supper, what did Christ say about the bread and wine?** Christ said that the bread and wine were his Body and Blood.
- 3. At the Last Supper what happened to the fourth cup?** Christ interrupted the Last Supper before drinking the fourth cup, the cup of consummation.
- 4. Why did the Sanhedrin have to bring Christ to Pontius Pilate?** Pilate, the Roman governor, had the authority to put a man to death, whereas the Sanhedrin did not.
- 5. Why did Pilate finally condemn the innocent Christ to death?** Pilate was afraid that the Jewish authorities would make him look bad in Caesar’s eyes if he let Christ go.
- 6. To what do Christ’s words, “It is finished,” refer?** Christ had finished drinking the last cup of the Passover, the cup of consummation, which was the chalice that his Father had given him, so he could now die.
- 7. How did the Roman soldier ensure that Christ was really dead?** The soldier pierced Christ’s side with a spear. His Blood and water come out of his side.
- 8. How does the cup of blessing in the Passover meal relate to the Last Supper?** Christ transformed the cup of blessing into the Eucharistic liturgy.
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- 10. How does Christ’s suffering relate to the blood of the covenant?** Like the blood that sealed the Mosaic Covenant, Christ’s Blood sealed his New Covenant.
- 11. How is Christ the Lamb of God?** The blood of the Passover lamb saved Israelite families from physical death, and the flesh of the Passover lamb provided physical food. The Blood of Christ saves the members of the Family of God, the Church, from spiritual death, and his Body and Blood in the Eucharist provide us with spiritual food.
- 12. To whom was Christ referring when he said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe”?** Christ was referring to all people, present and future, who believe in his Resurrection without seeing him physically.

## Chapter 12:

# HOW CHRIST FULFILLS THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS

## INTRODUCTION; CHRIST FULFILLS THE PROMISES TO ADAM

*(pp. 146-148)*

- 1. What did most Jews assume *fulfilling the Law and the Prophets* meant?** Most Jews expected the restoration of the Davidic Kingdom.
- 2. What kind of redemption did most Jews assume Christ would bring, if he really was the expected messiah?** Most Jews assumed Christ would drive out the Romans, become the King of Israel, conquer land after land, and set Jerusalem as the capital of the world.
- 3. How did Christ actually redeem the world?** Christ redeemed us all by suffering and dying for our sins.
- 4. According to Christ, why were his two Emmaus-bound disciples foolish and lacking in faith?** Christ's disciples could not understand what the Scriptures said about Christ's Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.
- 5. What approach will this chapter take to how Christ fulfilled the promises of the Old Testament?** This chapter will look at this fulfillment in light of the covenants with and promises to Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David.
- 6. By being created in God's image and likeness, what aspect of his nature do we all share?** We all share God's social nature. God is a communion of Persons, and we also were made for communion — communion with God, and communion with one another.
- 7. When did God first announce his plan of salvation?** God announced it in the Garden of Eden in the *Protoevangelium*.
- 8. Who is the "seed" who will bruise the head of the serpent?** Jesus Christ is the "seed," or offspring, of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## CHRIST FULFILLS THE COVENANT WITH NOAH

*(p. 149)*

- 9. What did the early Christians think of when they read the story of Noah's Flood?** Early Christians saw a parallel between the Sacrament of Baptism and the story of Noah's Flood.
- 10. How did the forty days of rain in Noah's story relate to the traditional forty days of Lent for catechumens?** Just as it took forty days of rain for the sin of the world to be washed away, new converts spent forty days destroying their old selves so they could be newly created in Baptism.
- 11. What are the three creations?** The three creations are God's original creation, his re-creation at the time of the Flood, and our new creation in Baptism.
- 12. How does Christ fulfill the covenant with Noah?** Christ made water a means of salvation.
- 13. What is the special "fruitfulness and multiplying" to which Christians are called?** We are called to "make disciples of all nations" and to fill the earth with Christians.

## **CHRIST FULFILLS THE COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM**

*(p. 150)*

**14. How was God’s promise of a universal blessing partially fulfilled through the Chosen People?** The Chosen People kept knowledge of the true God alive, and they began to spread it and the Ten Commandments to Gentiles throughout the Roman Empire.

**15. How did Christ fulfill this promise to Abraham of universal blessing?** Only through the Death and Resurrection of Christ was the promise to Abraham fulfilled since it freed all people of all nations in all times from bondage to sin.

## **CHRIST FULFILLS THE COVENANT WITH MOSES**

*(pp. 151-153)*

**16. Who is the prophet Moses predicted God would “raise up” and who would be like him?** Jesus Christ is the prophet that Moses predicted.

**17. When will the final deliverance of God’s people occur?** The final deliverance will occur at the end of the world when Christ will come in glory to judge the living and the dead.

**18. How is the Lamb of God both salvation and sustenance for God’s new people?** The Blood of Christ saves the world from the spiritual death of sin. Christ’s Body and Blood in the Eucharist provide us spiritual food and drink, promising us everlasting life.

## **CHRIST FULFILLS THE PROMISES TO DAVID; CONCLUSION**

*(pp. 153-156)*

**19. How does the Church expand the idea of Israel?** “Israel” is no longer a nation or an ethnic group but the community of all the faithful everywhere.

**20. What is the New Testament Temple?** The new Temple is the glorified, resurrected Body of Jesus Christ.

**21. How long will Christ’s kingdom endure?** Christ’s kingdom will endure forever.

**22. What are Christ’s four Davidic titles?** Jesus is the Son of David, the King of Israel, the Messiah (or Christ), and the Son of God.

**23. What is the restored Israel?** The Resurrection of Christ’s Body and our union with that Body in Baptism are the restoration of Israel as the Church.

**24. What is the geographical extent of Christ’s kingdom?** Christ’s kingdom encompasses the entire world.

**25. What was St. Martin de Porres’s ethnicity?** St. Martin’s father was a wealthy Spanish nobleman, and his mother was a former African slave.

**26. Whom did St. Martin de Porres serve?** St. Martin served the poor and the sick by taking care of them for his entire life.

**27. What were some of St. Martin de Porres’s out-of-the-ordinary experiences?** St. Martin miraculously healed others, had mystical ecstasies, and was even known to bilocate.

**Discussion Questions (p. 156)**

- 1. How did Christ actually redeem the world?** Christ redeemed us all by suffering and dying for our sins.
- 2. According to Christ, why were his two Emmaus-bound disciples foolish and lacking in faith?** Christ's disciples could not understand what the Scriptures said about Christ's Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.
- 3. Who is the "seed" who will crush the head of the serpent in the *First Gospel*?** Jesus Christ is the "seed," or offspring, of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- 4. What did the early Christians think of when they read the story of Noah's Flood?** Early Christians saw a parallel between the Sacrament of Baptism and the story of Noah's Flood.
- 5. How does Christ fulfill the covenant with Noah?** Christ made water a means of salvation.
- 6. How did Christ fulfill this promise to Abraham of universal blessing?** Only through the Death and Resurrection of Christ was the promise to Abraham fulfilled since it freed all people of all nations in all times from bondage to sin.
- 7. Who is the prophet Moses predicted God would "raise up" who would be like him?** Jesus Christ is the prophet that Moses predicted.
- 8. How is the Lamb of God both salvation and sustenance for God's new people?** The Blood of Christ saves the world from the spiritual death of sin. Christ's Body and Blood in the Eucharist provide us spiritual food and drink, promising us everlasting life.
- 9. How does the Church expand the idea of Israel?** "Israel" is no longer a nation or an ethnic group but the community of all the faithful everywhere.
- 10. What is the New Testament Temple?** The new Temple is the glorified, resurrected Body of Jesus Christ.
- 11. What is the restored Israel?** The Resurrection of Christ's Body and our union with that Body in Baptism are the restoration of Israel as the Church.

## Chapter 13: THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

### INTRODUCTION; PENTECOST

*(pp. 158-160)*

- 1. After his Resurrection, how long did Christ continue to appear to his followers?** Christ appeared to his disciples for forty days.
- 2. What promise did Christ leave with his Apostles when he ascended into Heaven?** Christ promised that his Apostles would receive the Holy Spirit and then become missionaries.
- 3. What is the Ascension?** At his Ascension Christ was “lifted up” out of the Apostles’ sight to be enthroned in Heaven.
- 4. What does Pentecost mean for Jews and for Christians?** For Jews Pentecost is the memorial of the giving of the Law to Moses. For Christians it is the memorial of the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Church.
- 5. What metaphors did St. Luke use to describe the Descent of the Holy Spirit?** At the Descent of the Holy Spirit, there was a sound “like the rush of a mighty wind,” and the disciples saw “tongues as of fire.”
- 6. What actions are necessary for salvation according to St. Peter?** To be saved, it is necessary to repent from sins and to be baptized.
- 7. In Acts 2:42, to what does “the breaking of the bread and the prayers” refer?** “The breaking of the bread and the prayers” refers to the celebration of the Eucharist.
- 8. Why was St. Stephen martyred?** St. Stephen enraged some of the Jewish religious leaders by out-debating them about Christ, so they accused him of blasphemy and stoned him to death.
- 9. How did the first persecution of the Christians not have its intended effect?** The Jewish authorities’ persecution of Christians in Jerusalem was supposed to stop the spread of their teachings; instead, the Christians spread their faith in the cities to which they fled.
- 10. What are the two days of worship the Christians originally observed?** The first Christians observed the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) and the day of the Resurrection (Sunday).

### THE CALL OF ST. PAUL; THE COUNCIL OF JERUSALEM

*(pp. 160-161)*

- 11. What is St. Paul’s God-given mission?** St. Paul’s mission was to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles.
- 12. What was the question before the Council of Jerusalem?** The question before the council was if a person needed to be a Jew first in order to be a Christian.
- 13. What convinced St. Peter that the dietary laws of Judaism were no longer binding on followers of Christ?** In a vision St. Peter saw that no food is actually “unclean” in God’s sight.
- 14. What convinced St. Peter not to delay baptizing the Gentile Cornelius and his household?** St. Peter witnessed them receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit while he preached despite the fact that they were not observing the Mosaic Law.
- 15. What did the Council of Jerusalem decide?** The council taught that it was not necessary to become a Jew and follow the Mosaic Law first in order to be a Christian. This is because we are saved by the grace of Christ and not by the observance of the Mosaic Law.

## **EPISTLES AS “WISDOM LITERATURE”**

*(pp. 161-163)*

- 16. What are the New Testament books of wisdom?** These books of wisdom are the Epistles, or letters.
- 17. What did St. Paul mean when he claimed, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female”?** St. Paul meant that every baptized person is radically equal.
- 18. What does St. Paul mean by claiming the Mosaic Law was a teacher, or custodian?** The Mosaic Law taught and disciplined Israel when it was a “child” in faith who was in need of close guidance.
- 19. According to St. Paul, why do Christians no longer need the Mosaic Law?** We are no longer subject to the Mosaic Law but to God directly.
- 20. What is St. Paul’s doctrine of “justification by faith”?** We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ and righteousness imparted on us through Baptism rather than by observing the Mosaic or even the natural moral law.
- 21. What is justification?** Justification means being made right with God, clean from sin, and worthy to receive God’s promises.
- 22. Is it possible for us to be perfectly morally good?** No. As fallen human beings, we sin and fail to keep the moral law.
- 23. What is the role of good works in our salvation?** Good works are the living expression of faith in Jesus Christ.

## **THE VISIBLE CHURCH**

*(pp. 164-165)*

- 24. What organization, or hierarchy, did Christ give his Church?** Christ gave the Church the hierarchy of bishops, priests, and deacons.
- 25. What is the means Christ gave his Church to carry out her mission?** Christ gave the Church the Seven Sacraments.
- 26. What is Baptism?** Baptism is new birth in water and the Holy Spirit, which is necessary for salvation.
- 27. What is Confirmation?** Confirmation is a strengthening in the Holy Spirit administered by the laying on of hands and an anointing with oil.
- 28. What is the Eucharist?** The Eucharist is the Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross re-presented, in which the consecrated bread and wine are transformed into Christ’s Body and Blood.
- 29. What is Penance?** Penance is the forgiveness of post-baptismal sins by a bishop or priest.
- 30. What is the Anointing of the Sick?** The Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament, when we are near death or sick, that prepares us to face that final struggle with strength and grace.
- 31. What is Holy Orders?** Holy Orders consecrates a man for service as bishop, priest, or deacon.
- 32. What is Matrimony?** Matrimony is the natural, physical, and spiritual union of a man and a woman for mutual love and for the procreation and education of children.

## **THE END OF THE WORLD; CONCLUSION**

*(pp. 166-168)*

- 33. What is the genre of the Book of Revelation?** Revelation is prophecy in the New Testament.
- 34. How was the world of the Old Covenant coming to its end?** The Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple, ending animal sacrifice, and they killed or enslaved most of the Jews who lived in the Holy Land.
- 35. How is the Book of Revelation structured like the Mass?** Revelation has two parts: The first half calls for repentance, which is like the Penitential Rite of the Mass, and the opening of the scrolls is like the reading of the Word. The second part is like the Liturgy of the Eucharist because we are presented with Christ, just as we are at Mass.

**Discussion Questions (p. 168)**

- 1. What is the Ascension?** At his Ascension Christ was “lifted up” out of the Apostles’ sight to be enthroned in Heaven.
- 2. What does Pentecost mean for Christians?** Pentecost is the memorial of the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Church.
- 3. What actions are necessary for salvation according to St. Peter?** To be saved, it is necessary to repent from sins and to be baptized.
- 4. What was St. Paul’s God-given mission?** St. Paul’s mission was to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles.
- 5. What did the Council of Jerusalem decide?** The council taught that it was not necessary to become a Jew and follow the Mosaic Law first in order to be a Christian. This is because we are saved by the grace of Christ and not by the observance of the Mosaic Law.
- 6. What are the New Testament books of wisdom?** These books of wisdom are the Epistles, or letters.
- 7. What is St. Paul’s doctrine of “justification by faith”?** We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ and righteousness imparted on us through Baptism rather than by observing the Mosaic or even the natural moral law.
- 8. What is the role of good works in our salvation?** Good works are the living expression of faith in Jesus Christ.
- 9. What organization, or hierarchy, did Christ give his Church?** Christ gave the Church the hierarchy of bishops, priests, and deacons.
- 10. What is the means Christ gave his Church to carry out her mission?** Christ gave the Church the Seven Sacraments.
- 11. What is the genre of the Book of Revelation?** Revelation is prophecy in the New Testament.
- 12. Why must we be vigilant?** Our salvation is not assured, so we must remain faithful.

## Chapter 14: CHALLENGES TO UNDERSTANDING THE SCRIPTURES

### INTRODUCTION; 1. WHY DID GOD NEED TO “REVEAL” HIMSELF IN HISTORY ANYWAY?

*(pp. 170-171)*

- 1. What is apologetics?** Apologetics is the art of explaining the reasonableness of a point of Catholic Faith, morals, or practice; it is explaining or defending the matter.
- 2. What should be our manner of making an apologetical defense?** We should defend our faith “with gentleness and reverence” (1 Pt 3:15).
- 3. How did Original Sin call for God to reveal himself in history?** God had an intimate friendship with our first parents, Adam and Eve, but that friendship was broken by Original Sin. With time, as sin engulfed humanity, many people forgot all about God.
- 4. What is natural revelation of God?** Natural revelation is the human person — who possesses intellect, reason, and free will — naturally asking questions about the world, his or her existence, and ultimately his or her purpose in life. These questions naturally lead to an acknowledgement of a Creator.
- 5. How does our natural desire for happiness call for God to reveal himself in history?** The only real, complete, and permanent happiness we will ever find is in God himself.
- 6. How has God revealed himself supernaturally?** God chose to reveal himself in an extraordinary way: through direct communication with select individuals and through his interventions on behalf of his people.

### 2. IS IT TRUE THAT CATHOLICS DO NOT USE OR READ THE BIBLE?

*(pp. 172-173)*

- 7. Up until about the sixteenth century, what version of the Old Testament did Christians use?** The early Church adopted the Septuagint as the inspired books of what came to be called the Old Testament.
- 8. Did Jesus Christ leave a written book behind?** No, none of the Gospels or other books from the New Testament had even been written when Christ ascended into Heaven.
- 9. Who decided which religious books in circulation would be part of Scripture?** The Magisterium had to discern which books were inspired and which were not.
- 10. Why do Protestant Bibles have fewer books than the Bible used by Catholics?** Protestant reformers decided the Septuagint was not an accurate rendering of the Old Testament books. They went back to a still earlier list of books held sacred by the Jews. In so doing, the reformers effectively rejected seven books of the Old Testament.

### 3. ISN'T THE BIBLE JUST ANOTHER PIECE OF LITERATURE?; 4. IS THE BIBLE ALWAYS LITERALLY TRUE?

*(pp. 174-175)*

- 11. What kind of literature is the Bible?** The Bible is religious literature — the inspired Word of God — rather than a collection of books to be read, enjoyed, and critiqued in the same manner as other pieces of literature.
- 12. When read correctly, what is the level of truth that can be found in the Bible?** When interpreted correctly, the Bible is inerrant because it always transmits truth.
- 13. What are some principles to keep in mind in interpreting a book of the Bible?** The Bible should be interpreted in light of the various genres, literary devices, and historical circumstances in which it was written.

**14. What is meant by saying the Church does not interpret the Bible literalistically?** While the Bible is literally true, Catholics interpret the text of Scripture in light of the various genres, literary devices, and historical circumstances in which it was written.

**15. Is the Bible meant to be read as a history or science textbook?** Just as we cannot read the Bible as though it were ordinary literature, we also cannot read it as though it were a textbook. It does contain much history and references to historical events, but it was not written as a history book. It describes Creation and various astronomical events, but it is not meant to be a science book.

**16. What are some kinds of religious truth the stories of creation in Genesis convey?** It uses symbolic language to convey religious truths about God, human beings, and our relationship with God.

**17. Is there history in the Bible?** Yes, the Church particularly upholds the historicity of the Gospels.

**18. What is the contextualist approach to reading the Bible?** The Church gives guidelines for the interpretation of Sacred Scripture. She calls for us to recognize the various “senses” of Scripture. These include the literal sense, which is what the biblical author was trying to express, and the spiritual sense, which involves the meanings expressed when the passage is read under the influence of the Holy Spirit and in light of the mystery of Christ.

**19. What are the three spiritual senses in which books of the Bible can be read?** The spiritual sense includes the allegorical, or typical, sense, in which we see how persons and events in the Old Testament prefigure people or events in the New Testament; the moral, or tropological, sense, in which the deeds of biblical figures provide moral lessons to apply to our own lives; and the anagogical sense, in which biblical symbols and events provide us in some way with a foretaste of Heaven.

## **5. ISN'T THE BIBLE ABOUT THE PAST? WHY DO PEOPLE TODAY THINK IT APPLIES TO THEM?**

*(pp. 175-176)*

**20. What quality of the Bible makes it relevant to us today?** While the Bible was written long ago and contains history, stories, and teachings about events in the past, it is a living document, the living Word of God. The content is rooted in particular moments in history, but the message is timeless and universal.

**21. What is the relationship between the Church and the timelessness of the Bible?** Christ established the Church and gave her the authority to teach in his name under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. That divine mandate and assistance enables the Church to teach the truth of Scripture and Tradition throughout all time, to the end of the world, without error.

**22. In teaching the truth of Scripture and Tradition, what must the Church often do?** Teaching the truth often means developing doctrine and reformulating Church teaching to address the problems and concerns of particular cultures and changes in the world.

**23. When the Church reformulates Church teaching, what remains the same, and what changes?** The truth remains the same, but the modes of expression of this truth must be communicated effectively to every generation and in every tongue.

## **6. WHY DO CATHOLICS MAINTAIN BELIEFS AND PRACTICES THAT ARE NOT IN THE BIBLE?**

*(pp. 176-177)*

**24. What is the Deposit of Faith?** The Deposit of Faith is Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, which together make up God’s Revelation to us.

**25. How were Christ’s teachings passed on between the Ascension and the writing of the New Testament books?** Christ’s teachings were passed on through the preaching of the Apostles. They were the witnesses to the life and teachings of Christ, and they handed on the truths he taught orally to the early Christians. They also trained and empowered other followers of Christ to go out and teach these same truths.

**26. What is the difference between Sacred Tradition and “mere tradition”?** Sacred Tradition, or Apostolic Tradition, refers to those things that Christ taught to the Apostles and early disciples, which were passed down to us at first by word of mouth and were only written down later. Other traditions — theological, liturgical, pious, etc. — may appear at different times in local church communities, but these are not part of the unchangeable Sacred Tradition of the Church.

**27. Why is it that not everything the Church teaches and practices is found explicitly in the Bible?** The Church draws the truth of God’s Revelation from both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

**28. Are any Church teachings derived from Sacred Tradition in contradiction to Scripture?** Nothing that the Church derives from Sacred Tradition ever contradicts Scripture since both comprise one Revelation, one Deposit of Faith, and ultimately come from Christ through the Apostles.

## **7. WHY DO SOME PEOPLE TRY TO CHANGE WHAT THE CHURCH TEACHES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST?**

*(pp. 177-178)*

**29. What is the most basic reason people change what the Church teaches about Jesus Christ?** The teachings of Christ as communicated through his Church are not always easy for people to accept. People have sometimes tried to change or reinterpret what the Church or Scripture says on those teachings they find troubling.

**30. Did everyone who heard Christ in person accept his teachings?** No. Even Christ was rejected in his time by the very people who had the immense privilege of hearing the Gospel preached from the Son of God himself.

**31. What are various reasons people change Church teachings?** Sometimes people try to change Church teachings to justify their particular beliefs or lack of belief. Sometimes people have been sincere about seeking to understand the truth about Christ and God’s Revelation, but they have been misguided and misinformed and went astray.

### Discussion Questions (p. 178)

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