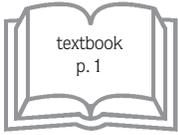


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Chapter 1

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

1. The revelation of God in Jesus Christ is transmitted through _____ and _____ as one common source.
2. When we say the Scriptures are inspired by the Holy Spirit, what does this mean? Is this to say that the sacred writers were simply taking dictation from the Holy Spirit? Explain.
3. What does it mean when we say that the Bible is inerrant?
4. How does Tradition maintain the integrity of the Bible?
5. What is the Magisterium?

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6. When we say the pope is infallible, does this mean that he never makes a mistake? What does it mean?
7. St. Jerome was a great biblical scholar who lived in the fifth century. One of his sayings that is often quoted is: "Ignorance of _____ is ignorance of _____."
8. The nature of the Bible is like the nature of Jesus in that both are _____ and _____.
9. The people who wrote the Bible did not have the same understanding of geology, paleontology, and astronomy that we have. How can we say, then, that everything in the Bible is true?
10. The text states that we must understand the Bible as *literature*. What does this say, for example, about using the Bible to prove or disprove, for instance, the existence of the dinosaurs? (Hint: What were the original writers of the Bible thinking when they wrote the ancient texts? Did they know anything about dinosaurs?)
11. When we speak of the Bible as literature, we mean the way it was written. List some of the kinds of literature that we find in the Bible:

12. When we say that the Bible is *literature*, what do we mean?

13. What is meant by the *literal* sense of Scripture?

14. Give a few examples of the literal sense of some pieces of Scripture.

15. Jesus says in the Gospel of St. Matthew (23:9), "*And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.*"

What is the literalist interpretation of this verse?

What is the Catholic sense of this verse?

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16. What is meant by the *spiritual* sense of scriptural interpretation?

17. What is the *allegorical* or *typical* sense?

18. What is an example of the *allegorical* or *typical* sense?

19. What is the *moral* or *topological* sense?

20. What is an example of the *moral* or *topological* sense?

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21. What is the *analogical* sense?

22. What is an example of the *analogical* sense?

23. All of these senses are based on what?

24. At times it might appear there are differences between what the Bible says and what modern science proposes. Is there any real conflict here?

25. Why can true religion not be spoken of or described as a purely personal experience?

26. Religion comes from a Latin word which means _____.

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27. Explain the impossibility of writing an objective history.
28. Why is Bible history unbiased even though the facts and dates in the Bible do not always agree with the same data collected by other sources?
29. How is a covenant different from a contract?
30. What is the purpose of the covenants of God made with man throughout history?
31. On page 9 there is a diagram of the six covenants we find in the Bible as Salvation History unfolds. When will the Seventh Covenant occur, and how long will it last?

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32. The marks of the Catholic Church are One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. How does the unity of the Catholic Church prove that the Church, through the Magisterium, is the one true interpreter of Scripture?

33. What two practical resources do Catholics have at their disposal to understand the Bible?

34. If a Christian is completely new at studying the Bible, where is a good place to start reading it?

35. What are the two ways in which the Word of God comes to us?

a.

b.

36. How does participation at Mass help us to read and understand the Bible?

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