



Understanding the Scriptures

Student Workbook

Copyright © Midwest Theological Forum
More Information Available at
www.theologicalforum.org

The Didache Series

– COMPLETE COURSE EDITION –



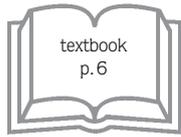


Contents

Abbreviations Used for the Books of the Bible	vi
Chapter 1: What Is the Bible?	1
Chapter 2: The Old Testament	7
Chapter 3: The Creation of the World	15
Chapter 4: The Early World	25
Chapter 5: Abraham, Our Father	33
Chapter 6: The Patriarchs	41
Chapter 7: The Exodus	51
Chapter 8: The Law	63
Chapter 9: The Rise of the Kingdom	73
Chapter 10: The Kingdom of David	81
Chapter 11: Wise King Solomon	87
Chapter 12: The Divided Kingdom	91
Chapter 13: Conquest and Exile	99
Chapter 14: A Remnant Returns	107
Chapter 15: Revolt of the Maccabees	113
Chapter 16: The World of the New Testament	119
Chapter 17: The New Testament	127
Chapter 18: The Incarnation	135
Chapter 19: What Jesus Did	143
Chapter 20: What Jesus Taught	149
Chapter 21: The Cup of Consummation	159
Chapter 22: The Resurrection	173
Chapter 23: Jesus Fulfills the Old Testament	177
Chapter 24: The Birth of the Church	183
Chapter 25: Reaching Out to All Nations	189
Chapter 26: Paul, An Apostle	193
Chapter 27: The New Kingdom	197
Chapter 28: The Catholic Church in Scripture	203
Chapter 29: The End of History	211
Chapter 30: How to Read the Bible	219
Catholic Prayers and Devotions	223

Copyright © Midwest Theological Forum
 More Information Available at
www.theologicalforum.org





name _____

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. On page 8 we have a number of citations from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. These citations mention “the Magisterium” many times. What is “the Magisterium”?

Copyright © Midwest Theological Forum
More Information Available at
www.theologicalforum.org



UNDERSTANDING THE SCRIPTURES: Student Workbook

6. Who comprises the Magisterium?

7. When we say the Pope is infallible, does this mean that he never makes a mistake? What does it mean?

8. 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 _____."

9. The nature of the Bible is like the nature of Jesus in that both are _____ and _____.

10. 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?

11. 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?)





WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

12. 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:

13. Religion comes from a Latin word that means _____.

14. Explain the impossibility of writing an objective history.

15. 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?

16. How is a covenant different from a contract?

Copyright © Midwest Theological Forum
More Information Available at
www.theologicalforum.org



UNDERSTANDING THE SCRIPTURES: Student Workbook

17. What is the purpose of the covenants that God made with man throughout history?
18. On page 15 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?
19. The name of the translation of the Old Testament (Hebrew and some Greek) and the New Testament (Greek) into Latin that was done by St. Jerome is called _____.
20. When we speak of the “Canon of Scripture,” we are describing the books that officially make up the Bible. The word “canon” comes from a Greek word that means _____.
21. Just like today, the liturgy or worship of the ancient Christians consisted of two parts. What are they?
- a.
- b.
22. The word “deuterocanonical” also comes from a Greek word. What does it mean?





WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

23. What role do the deuterocanonical books of the Bible play in Catholic teaching?

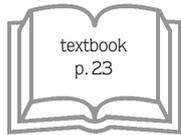
24. List two examples of Catholic teachings that come from the deuterocanonical books.

a.

b.

25. The translation of the Bible from Hebrew into Greek by a team of seventy-two Jewish scholars who translated what we call the Old Testament in about 285 BC is called the _____.

Copyright © Midwest Theological Forum
More Information Available at
www.theologicalforum.org



name _____

Chapter 2

THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. Why should Christians study the Old Testament?

2. What are the four main types of writing we find in the Old Testament?

a.

b.

c.

d.

Copyright © Midwest Theological Forum
More Information Available at
www.theologicalforum.org

3. The books of the Law are called _____ in Hebrew.

4. Traditionally, _____ is considered to be the author of the books of the Law, so they are sometimes called the _____.

5. The books of the Law are also called the _____, which comes from a Greek word that means _____.





UNDERSTANDING THE SCRIPTURES: Student Workbook

6. Name at least five of the main characters from the Book of Genesis.

7. The main character in the Book of Exodus is _____.

8. What is the primary story that Exodus tells us?

9. In Greek, Exodus means _____.

10. Why are the laws as written in the Book of Leviticus so explicit in their detail?

11. The Book of Numbers begins with a census of all the tribes of Israel who came out of Egypt with Moses. What does this book tell us about the Israelite people?

Copyright © Midwest Theological Forum
More Information Available at
www.theologicalforum.org





THE OLD TESTAMENT

12. The Ten Commandments appear in which two books of the Bible?

a.

b.

13. The name "Deuteronomy" means _____ in Greek.

14. Write the name and the letter that is associated with the name of the theoretical source for the first five books of the Bible.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Letter</i>	<i>Source</i>
		This source is seen in passages that are thought to represent the perspective of believers of the new kingdom of Israel in the ninth or eighth century BC.
		A later editor who revised all five books of the Pentateuch to reflect the concerns of the Jerusalem priesthood after the return from exile in Babylon.
		The source identified in passages that frequently use the Divine Name. It is thought to represent the perspective of the Jews in Judah in the tenth or ninth century BC.
		This source is seen also as the author of a book of the Bible that bears the same name, that was written perhaps around the seventh century BC during the reforms of good King Josiah.

15. While the above sources are accepted by many Scripture scholars, can we be sure that this theory is true?

