

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Divine Revelation and Scripture

Charmaine Carter MD, MTh

- Opening Prayer
- RECAP
 - **Creation and God's Plan of Loving Goodness**
 - God desires to have a relationship with each one of us
 - He created the universe and the earth for us
 - Then we are created in his image
 - He has calls us to himself — he reaches out first
 - we respond
 - He reveals himself to us in and through his creation
 - nature // Church // others
 - He also reveals himself to us in his Word

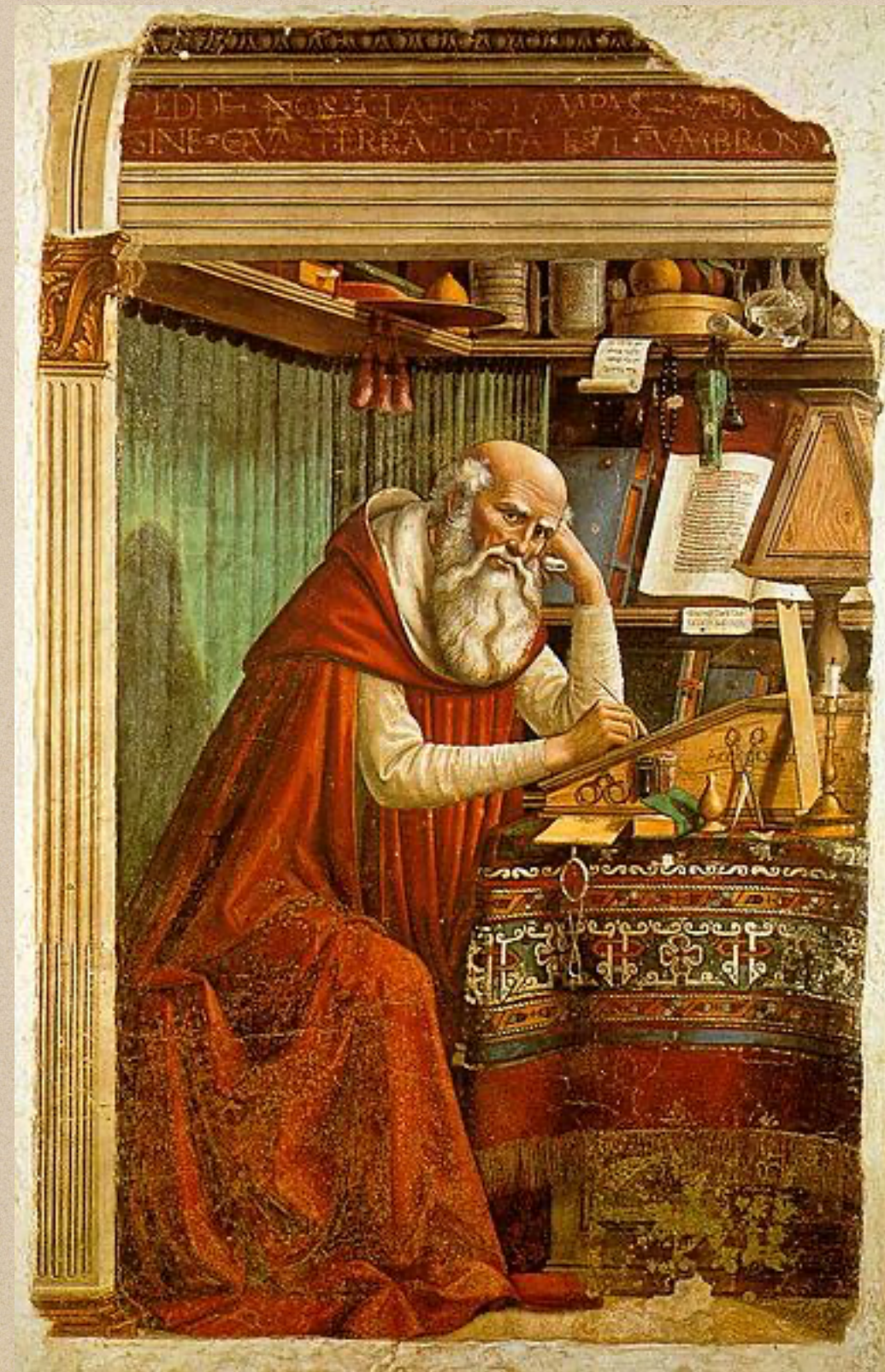
Fr. Brice Higginbotham * The Bible at Mass

Video - see link on website under 9/16/2020

Why the Bible? —

“Ignorance of the Scriptures is Ignorance of Christ”

- St. Jerome



347 AD - 420 AD

[[File:Domenico Ghirlandaio - St Jerome in his study.jpg|thumb|
Domenico Ghirlandaio - St Jerome in his study]]

It is important to **read and understand the Bible.**

Why?

- ◆ Inspired Word of God
- ◆ To better understand salvation history
- ◆ Better appreciation for the pure love and mercy of God
- ◆ Understand your faith
 - ◆ the teachings of Christ

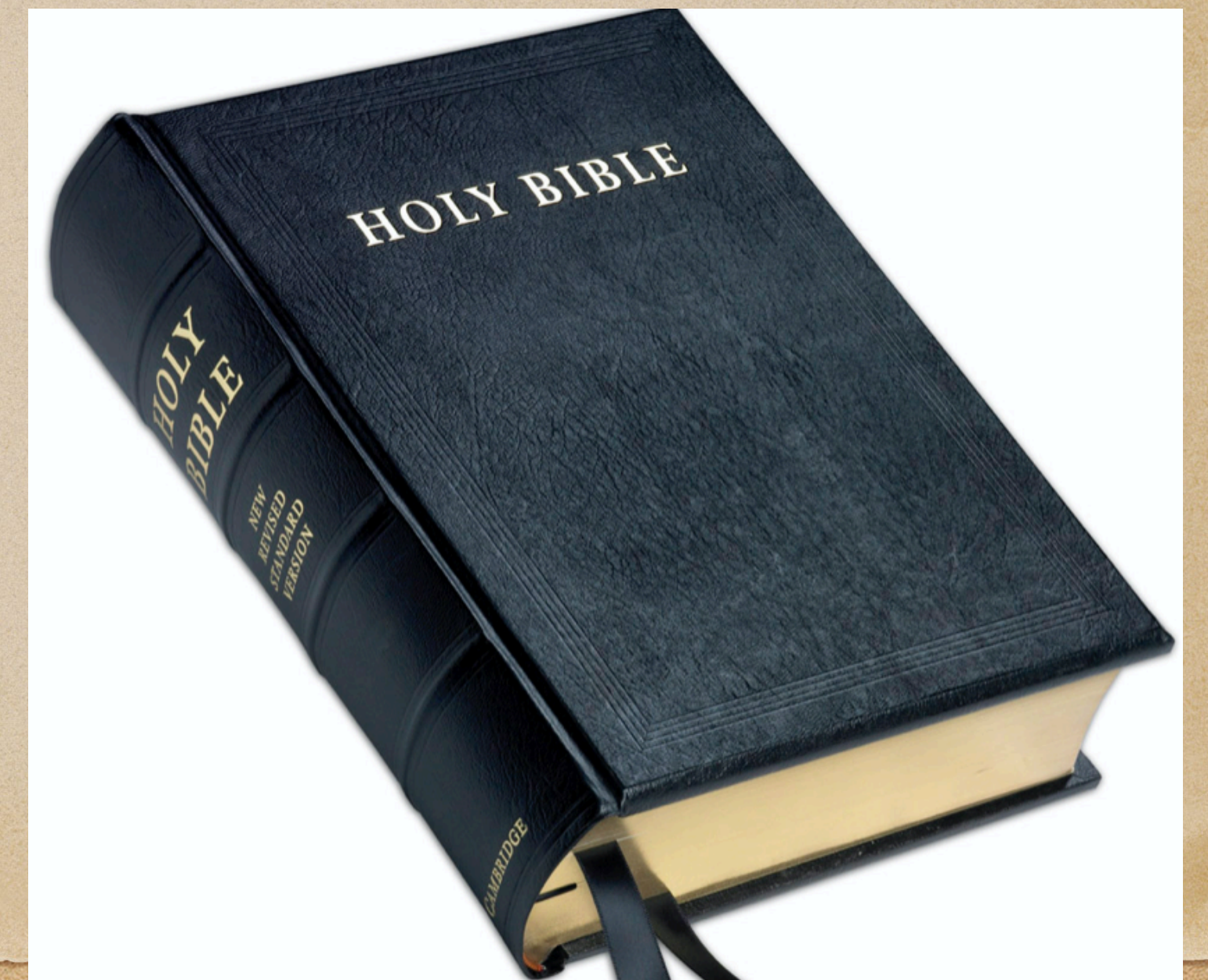
But now:

Pope Francis challenged us “to follow in Jesus’ footsteps and face the spiritual combat against the Evil One with the strength of the Word of God. Not with our word, which is useless. The Word of God: that which has the strength to defeat Satan. **Therefore, it is necessary to draw confidence from the Bible: to read it often, meditate on it and assimilate it. The Bible contains the Word of God, which is always timely and effective.** Someone said: what would happen if we treated the Bible as we treat our mobile phone? If we always carried it with us, or at least a small pocket Bible, what would happen? If we went back when we forgot it: you forgot your mobile phone – O, I don’t have it, I’ll go back to find it; if we opened it several times a day; what would happen if we read God’s messages contained in the Bible as we read our phone messages? The paragon is clearly paradoxical, but it makes us reflect. In fact, if we had the Word of God always in the heart, no temptation would be able to estrange us from God and no obstacle would be able to make us deviate from the path of goodness; we would be able to overcome the daily suggestions of evil that are in us and outside of us; we would be more capable of living a resurrected life according to the Spirit, receiving and loving our brothers, especially the weakest and neediest, and also our enemies.”

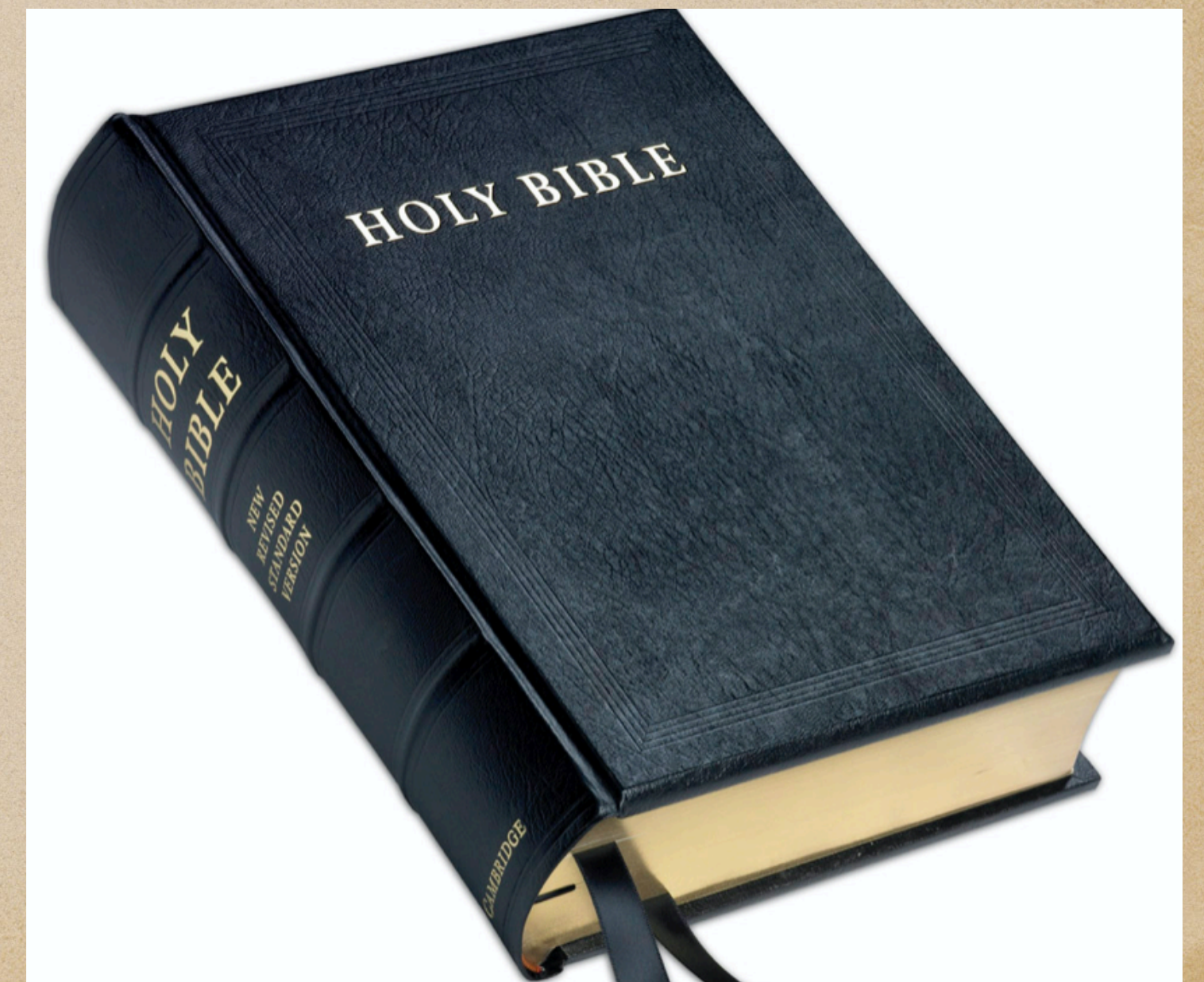
- from The Angelus speech, at St. Peter’s Square, March 5, 2017

Bible did not drop from the sky

- ♦ Bible = *biblia* = books_
 - ♦ many books = 73
- ♦ written by more than 40 authors
- ♦ written by people of different backgrounds
- ♦ Oral —>
 - ♦ written —>
 - ♦ edited



- ◆ events - 3 continents (Asia, Europe, and Africa)
- ◆ earliest parts written > 2700 yr ago
- ◆ written over a 1000 year period
- ◆ tells a story of consistent story of salvation
- ◆ canonized Council of Hippo 393 AD
- ◆ >100 million copies sold each year



“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:30-31)

“It is this disciple who testifies to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.” (John 21:24-25)

Paul wrote: 2 Thessalonians 2:15

“...stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught, either by an oral statement **or** by a letter of ours.”

- ♦ Written teachings → Scripture
- ♦ Oral teachings → Tradition

Let's look at Scriptures *about* the Scriptures:

2 Peter 1:12 - 21

¹²Therefore, I will **always remind you of these things**, even though you already know them and are established in the truth you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this “tent,” to stir you up by a reminder, since I know that I will soon have to put it aside, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me. I shall also make every effort to enable you always to remember these things after my departure. **We did not follow cleverly devised myths** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that unique declaration came to him from the majestic glory, “This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” **We ourselves heard this voice** come from heaven **while we were with him** on the holy mountain.

- We need to be reminded
- They did not make this stuff up — not cleverly invented stories/myths
- We were there!

Let's look at Scriptures *about* the Scriptures:

2 Peter 1:12 - 21, cont'd

19 Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether **reliable**. You will do well to **be attentive to it**, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

20 Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, 21 for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather **human beings moved by the holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God**.

- No private interpretation of Scripture (*Magisterium*)
- Holy Spirit inspired writers of the Scriptures

Let's look at Scriptures *about* the Scriptures:

2 Peter 3:14-18

14 Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace. **15** And consider the patience of our Lord as salvation, as our beloved **brother Paul**, according to the **wisdom given to him**, also wrote to you, **16 speaking of these things as he does in all his letters**. In them there are some things hard to understand that the ignorant and unstable distort to their own destruction, just as they do the other scriptures.

V. Final Exhortation and Doxology

17 Therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, **be on your guard** not to be led into the error of the unprincipled and to fall from your own stability. **18** But **grow in grace** and in the **knowledge** of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and to the day of eternity. [Amen.]

- Scriptures sometimes hard to understand
- Some have distorted the meaning of the Scriptures
- Make every effort to be blameless.
- Learn the teachings of God.

2 Tim 3:14-17

(14) But you, remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it, (14) and that from infancy you have known [the] sacred scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (16) **All scripture is inspired by God** and is **useful** for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) **so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.**

- All Scripture is inspired by God
- NT writers were eye witnesses (Paul had special encounter)
- Pay attention, as to a light leading you out of darkness
- Can be applied to our lives

2 Tim 4:3-4

(3) For the time will come when people will not put up with **sound doctrine**. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

(4) They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to **myths**.

- sound doctrine = truth
- all sorts of teachings to support what *we want to believe*
- myths
- what is truth?

Hebrews 4:12-13

¹² Indeed, the word of God is **living** and **effective, sharper** than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and **able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.** ¹³ No creature is concealed from him, but **everything is naked and exposed** to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.

- The Word is relevant
- Sometimes it hurts, it cuts
- Judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart

John 8:31-32

³¹ Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, “**If you remain in my word**, you will truly be my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

- Knowledge of Scripture gives us freedom in Christ
- Not just hear — but hold to the teachings

Acts 17:10-12

¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas to **Beroea** during the night. Upon arrival they went to the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ These Jews were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they **received the word** with all willingness and **examined** the scriptures **daily** to determine whether these things were so. ¹² Many of them became believers, as did not a few of the influential Greek women and men.

- the **Beroeans** were more noble because they **examined** the Scriptures **daily**
- my mom: “*don’t let your ears be someone else’s garbage can*”

James 1:22-25

²² Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his own face in a mirror. ²⁴ He sees himself, then goes off and promptly forgets what he looked like. ²⁵ But the one who peers into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres, and is not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, such a one shall be blessed in what he does.

- Be doers
- Scripture is a mirror

The Words of Scripture will help us to encounter God the Father, Jesus his Most Holy Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In Scripture, we learn about the faith of the people of God, told through their stories- their downfalls and their triumphs, and how God is a part of it all. These stories then increase our faith, proving to us that we have a faithful God.

The Bible tells the salvation story — which is each of our stories as well. You will see how your story and the story of Scripture unite.

It will teach us how to live a Godly Life - read parts of Psalms 119

The Bible appears intimidating.

After all Bible = library, containing 73 books.

Where does one start???:

Rec: Daily Mass Readings

- Break Open the Word on Sundays



Several translations of the Bible,
Catholic - NABRE, RSV, and others. -
*see list of approved Bibles translations
for Catholics* at USCCB.org

◆ Great resource

USCCB > Bible

APPROVED TRANSLATIONS OF THE BIBLE

USCCB Approved Translations of the Sacred Scriptures for Private Use and Study by Catholics

1983 - Present

The 1983 Code of Canon Law entrusts to the Apostolic See and the episcopal conferences the authority to approve translations of the Sacred Scriptures in the Latin Catholic Church (c. 825, §1). Prior to 1983, Scriptural translations could be approved by the Apostolic See or by a local ordinary within a diocese.

What follows is a complete list of the translations of the Sacred Scriptures that have received the approval of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops since 1983.

In addition to the translations listed below, any translation of the Sacred Scriptures that has received proper ecclesiastical approval – namely, by the Apostolic See or a local ordinary prior to 1983, or by the Apostolic See or an episcopal conference following 1983 – may be used by the Catholic faithful for private prayer and study.

Books of the New Testament, Alba House

Contemporary English Version - New Testament, First Edition, American Bible Society

Contemporary English Version - Book of Psalms, American Bible Society

Contemporary English Version - Book of Proverbs, American Bible Society

The Grail Psalter (Inclusive Language Version), G.I.A. Publications

New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE)

New Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition, National Council of Churches

The Psalms, Alba House

The Psalms (New International Version) - St. Joseph Catholic Edition, Catholic Book Publishing Company

The Psalms - St. Joseph New Catholic Version, Catholic Book Publishing Company

Revised Psalms of the New American Bible (1991)

So You May Believe, A Translation of the Four Gospels, Alba House

Good News Translation (Today's English Version, Second Edition), American Bible Society

Translation for Early Youth, A Translation of the New Testament for Children, Contemporary English Version, American Bible Society

Catholic Bible has **73 (46 HS) books,**
Protestant 66 (39 HS). Why? [27 in NT]

- Old Testament: Genesis to Malachi
 - history of the Israelites/Hebrews
- Christ and the Church
 - Gospels and letters and other writings
- Jesus and the First Christians used the Greek OT called the “**Septuagint**” which includes 7 books the Protestant Bible does not have.
 - What is the **Septuagint** translation?

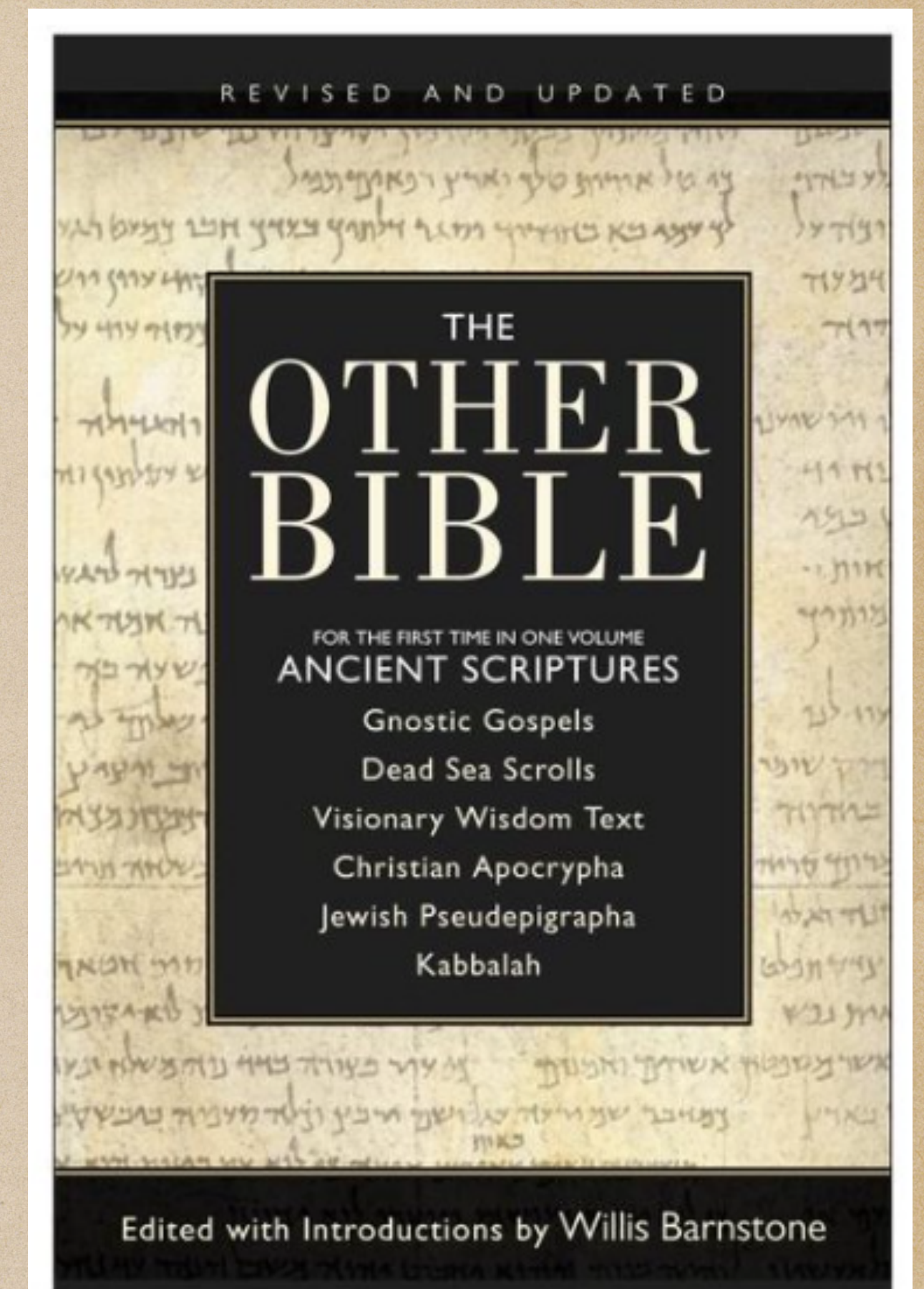
Catholic Bible has **73 (46 HS) books,**
Protestant 66 (39 HS). Why? [27 in NT]

- What is the **Septuagint** translation?
- The Jews had been scattered after released from captivity by the Persians, and many lived in Alexandria, Egypt
- In 70 BC in Alexandria, Egypt; These Jews spoke Greek, and needed a Greek translation

**Catholic Bible has 73 (46 OT) books,
Protestant 66 (39 OT). Why? [27 in NT]**

- So 72 Jewish scholars (6 from each of the 12 tribes) separated themselves, and translated the Scriptures from Hebrew —> Greek
- Legend says: After 70 days, their translations were exact.
- **Septuagint** = 70 BC, 72 scholars translated OT in 70 days (from Hebrew to Koine Greek)
 - is a **Greek translation of the OT**
- LXX (*L=50, X=10*)
- Bible translation Jesus used
 - Aramaic was the spoken language of the day; but Greek was the written language

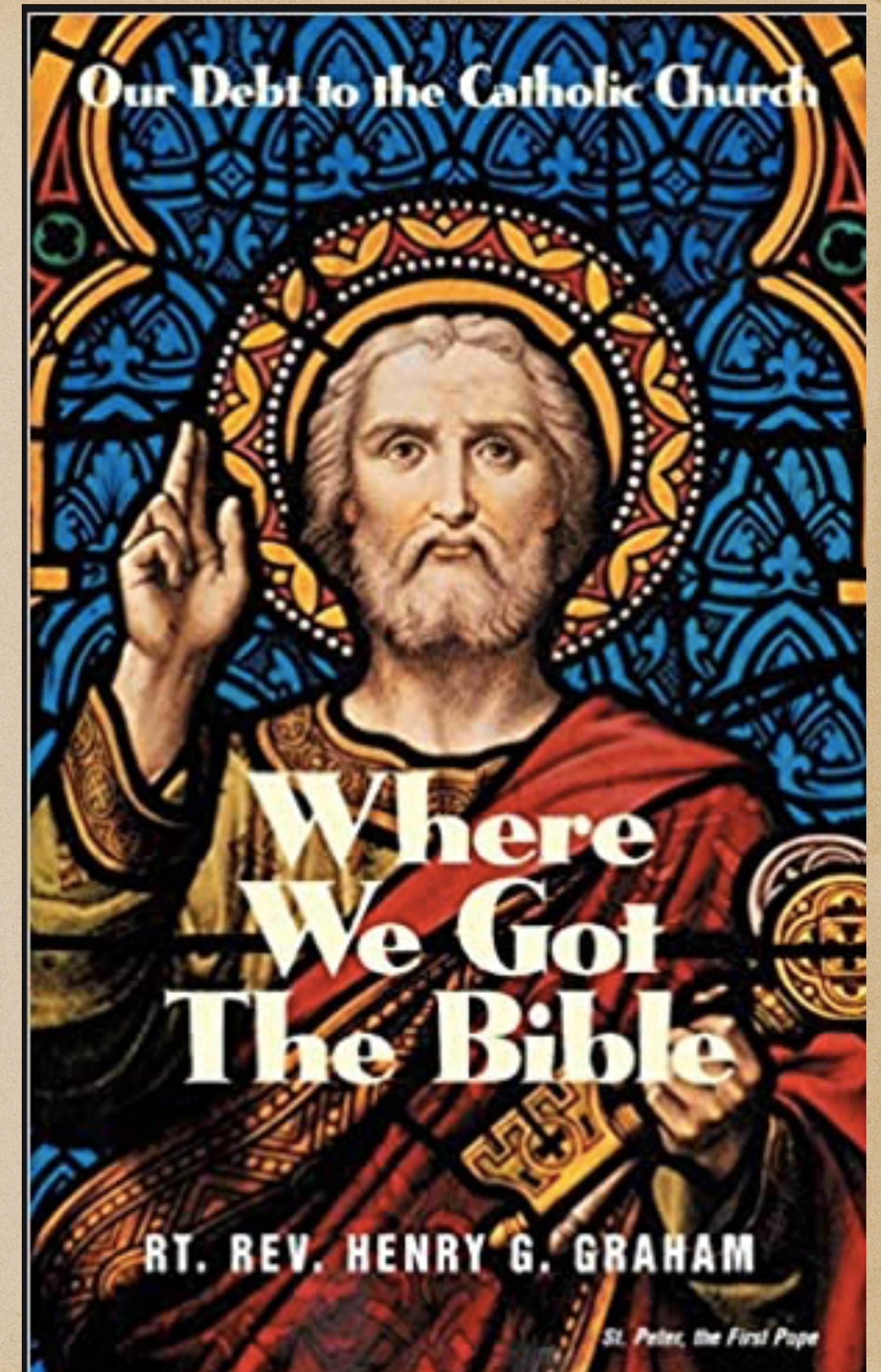
- The Apostles (communities) wrote Gospels and letters
 - written ~ 60 - 110 AD
 - NT written in common Greek
 - Total = 27 NT books
- other gospels and letters written
 - ASK - which writings were inspired?
- Bible was canonized at the **Council of Hippo, 393 AD**



Non-canonical

what is: CANON

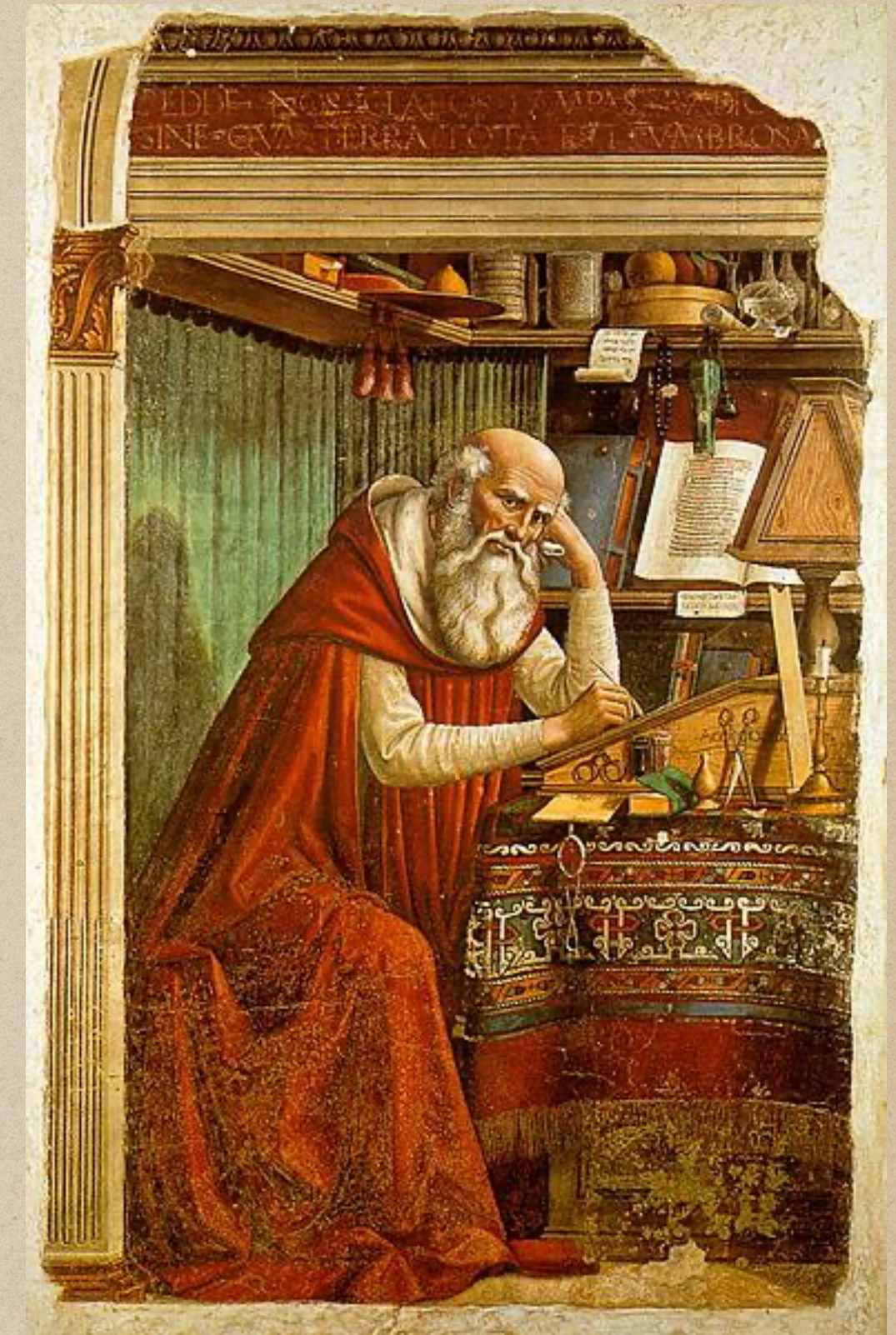
- Greek: 'kanon'
 - yard stick, measuring rod/reed
- the authoritative list of books accepted as Holy Scripture
- canonization - the process of gathering all information to make an authoritative statement, ex, saints
- Scriptures are a “measuring stick” of our Christian walk



“Ignorance of the Scriptures is Ignorance of Christ”

- St. Jerome

- Bible = Greek, LXX
- Language = Latin (Rome)
- 382AD, Pope Damasus:
 - St. Jerome translated the Greek Bible into Latin called “**Vulgate**” (73 books)



347 AD - 420 AD

[[File:Domenico Ghirlandaio - St Jerome in his study.jpg|thumb|Domenico Ghirlandaio - St Jerome in his study]]

sola scriptura

- ◆ Catholic priest, ordained 1507
- ◆ Augustinian monk
- ◆ German prof of moral theology



Martin Luther
1483 - 1546

- Plenary indulgences to finance St. Peter's Basilica (\$\$\$\$)
- Pope Julius II started the project, died 1513
 - indulgences to raise money
- Pope Leo X
 - continued indulgences



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/
File:St._Peter%27s_Basilica_in_Vatican_City.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:St._Peter%27s_Basilica_in_Vatican_City.jpg)

- Martin Luther - **On October 31, 1517**
- Luther sent a letter to the Archbishop of Mainz, Albert of Brandenburg, under whose authority the indulgences were being sold AND nailed **95 Theses** to **All Saints' Church** in Wittenberg, Germany.
- **IN ADDITION** - Did not like 7 of the OT books in the Vulgate, so he denounced the 7 books
- ***SAID*** they were not originally written in Hebrew.
 - (Which is why the Jews rejected them at the ??**Council of Jamnia (90AD)**?? They wanted their Bible canon to be different than the of the Christians.)



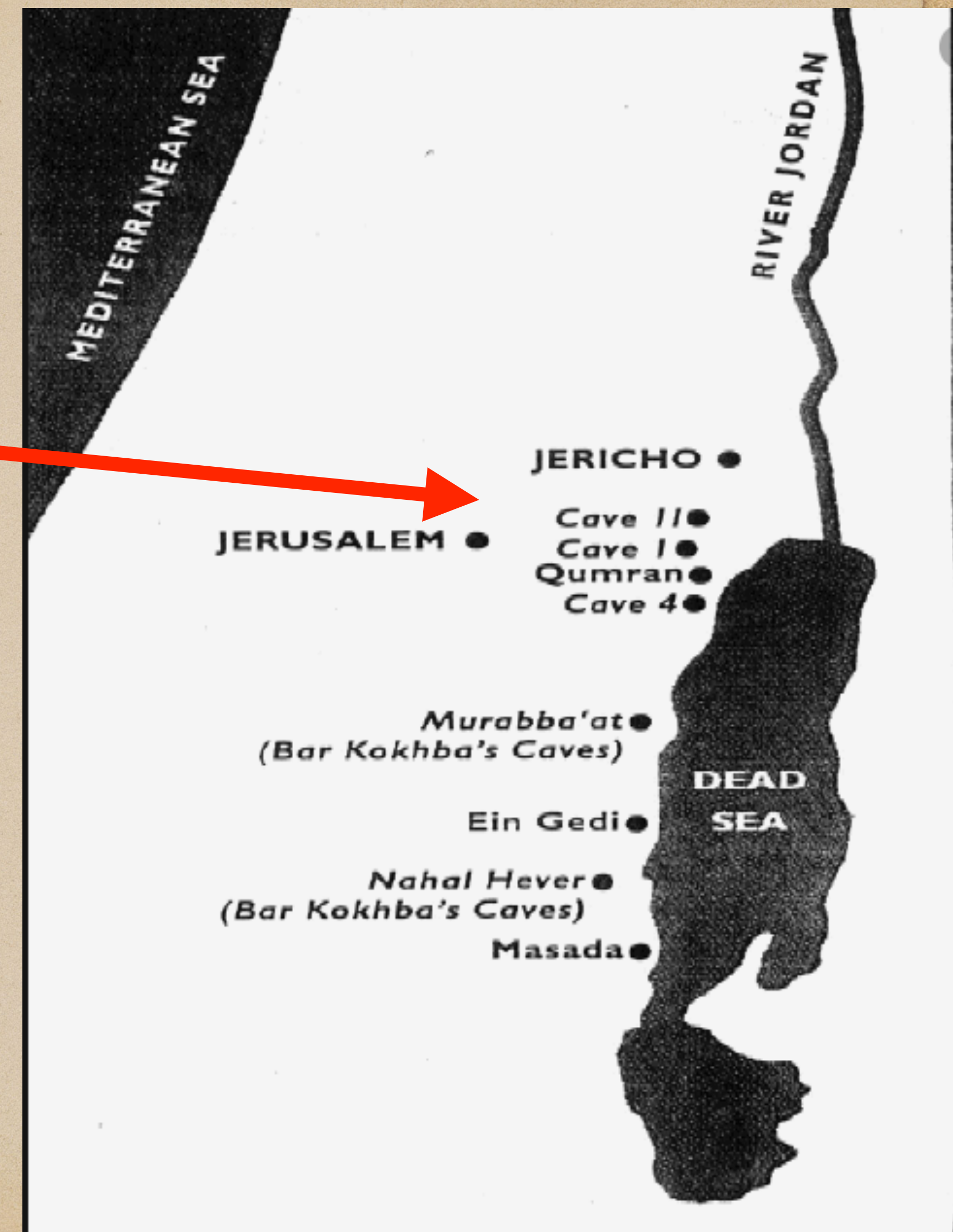
- ***REALLY BECAUSE*** they spoke about traditions in the Catholic Church which he did not agree, such as praying for those in Purgatory (*more as we study each book*)
- Luther (faith alone) also wanted to remove **James** bc of the faith/works difference in belief,
 - as well as **Hebrews, Jude, and Revelation** - but remain
- The Luther Bible - 1522 translated from Hebrew & Greek —> German, published 1534
- **In the **Council of Trent (1546 - 1563)**, the Catholic Church reaffirmed the complete canon - 73 books.
 - **Catholic Counter-Reformation**



Martin Luther
(Reformation
October 31, 1517)

- ♦ The 7 Books are call the ‘**deuterocanonical**’ books.
 - ♦ *Second* canon
 - ♦ (Protestants call them ‘apocryphal” or “hidden” books
 - ♦ All are in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament)
- ♦ Tobit
- ♦ Judith
- ♦ 1 & 2 Maccabees
- ♦ Wisdom of Solomon
- ♦ Wisdom of Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)
- ♦ Baruch
- ♦ Daniel chap 3, 13, & 14
- ♦ Parts of Esther (Chapters A, B, C...)

- ♦ **Dead Sea Scrolls** (also the Qumran Caves Scrolls)
 - ♦ ?Essenes? / ?John the Baptist?
- ♦ 11 caves - Discovered 1946/47; 1956
- ♦ Written on Papyrus, parchment, and bronze
- ♦ Writing Mostly Hebrew;
 - ♦ but also some in Aramaic, Greek
- ♦ Created @ 408 BCE to 318 CE
- ♦ Fragments from some of the deuteronomical books
 - ♦ ex, Wisdom of Sirach, written in Hebrew
 - ♦ none from Esther





Ancient Hebrew Scriptures
Scrolls

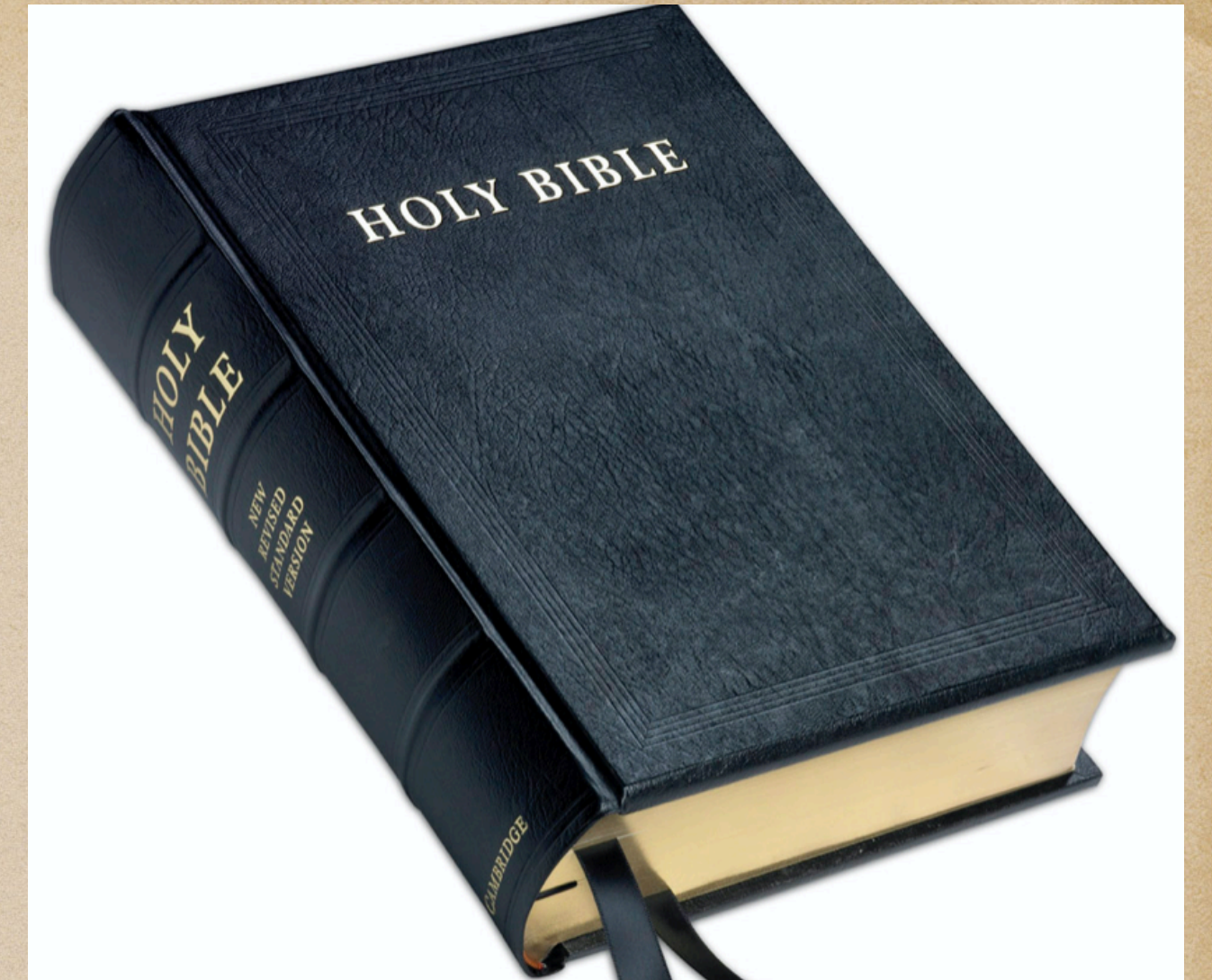


Christian Era:

2 major parts: Old and New Testament

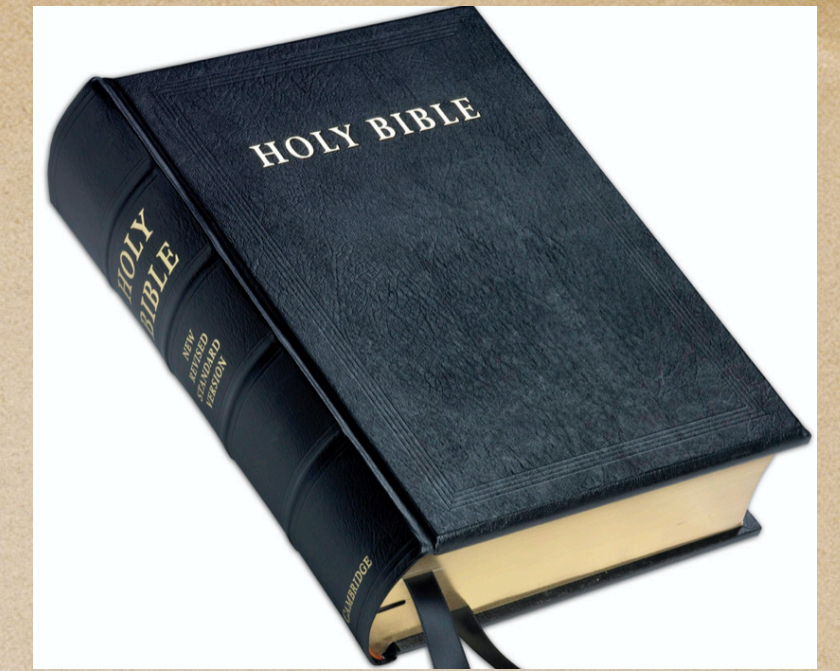
(‘testament’ = covenant)

covenant ~ *unbreakable agreement*





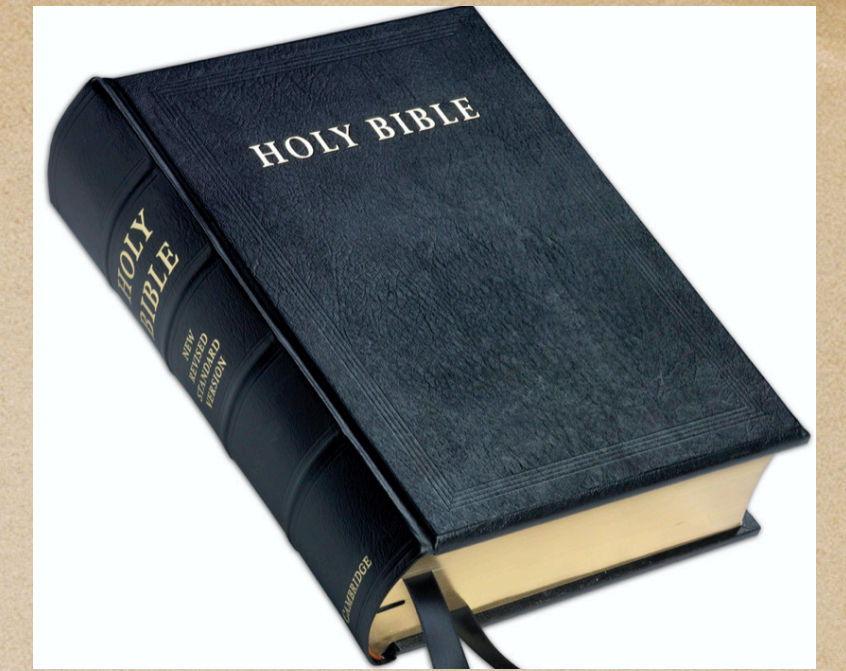
Chapters and Verses



- The **chapter divisions** - developed by **Stephen Langton**, an Archbishop of Canterbury.
 - around A.D. **1227**
- The Wycliffe English Bible of 1382 was the first translation of the Bible to use this chapter pattern.
- Since the Wycliffe Bible, nearly all Bible translations followed Langton's chapter divisions.
- So — entire Bible divided into chapters



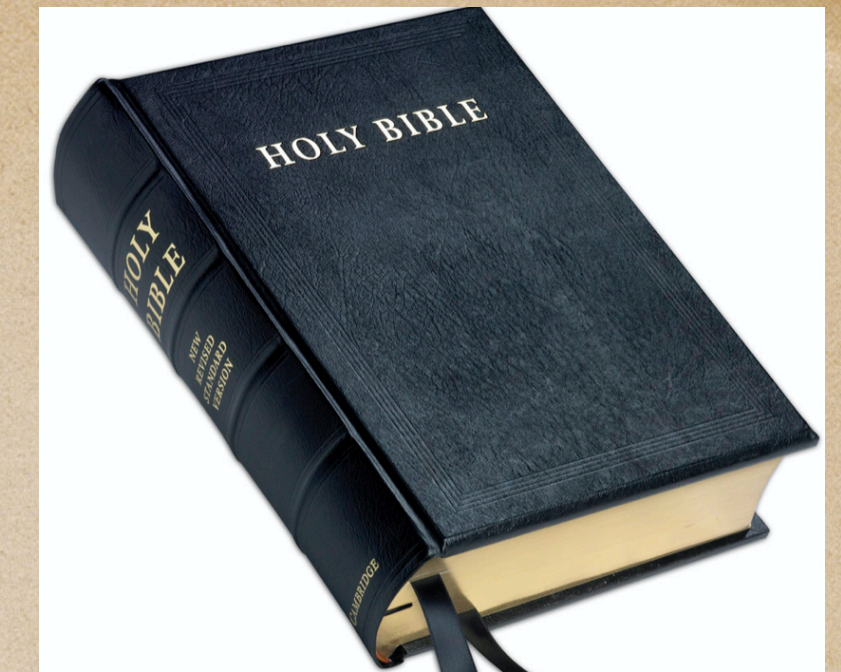
Chapters and Verses



- The Hebrew Scriptures (Tanakh, Old Testament) was divided into verses by a Jewish rabbi by the name of **Nathan in A.D. 1448**.
- New Testament still only in chapters



Chapters and Verses



- Gutenberg printing press, 1440/1450
- Gutenberg Bible - (42 lines) ~ #180
- German translation of the Vulgate Bible
 - OT: chapters and verses
 - NT: chapters (no verses)



Chapters and Verses

- **Robert Estienne**, who was also known as **Stephanus**, was the first to divide the New Testament into standard numbered verses, in **1555**.
- Stephanus essentially used Nathan's verse divisions for the Old Testament.
- Since that time, the chapter and verse divisions formed by Stephanus have been accepted into nearly all the Bible versions.

Chapters and Verse

- **Tabs to mark books of the Bible**



How to Approach Bible

Remember, the Bible is **not a history book** as we understand history books. - not concerned with recounting things in accurate time, but to tell a story — Salvation Story.

Therefore.....

When we read the Bible, we have to remember to read it in **context**:

- **Cultural context** - we can't judge another culture
- **Time / Historical** - era, education, world flat, earth center of the universe
- **Critical method** - using science, discoveries to understand the message the author is trying to convey
- **Linguistic** - phraseology was different
 - "It's raining Cats and dogs!"
 - Word emphasis - "*I didn't say he stole the pen*"

Remember: The Bible does not err in matters of faith.

The 8 Considerations

As we read the Bible:

1. pray to the Holy Spirit, the great interpreter, before starting to read the Bible
2. Read, and ask: What does it say?
3. Who is the intended audience? What is the context? what does it mean?
4. what historical or cultural influences are reflected?
5. what was the author's intent — given that he/she was inspired by the Holy Spirit?
6. what does it mean to me? **What is the Holy Spirit saying to me?**
 - choose a **memory verse; memorize; 5 to recite and share.**
7. what am I going to do about it?
8. pray a prayer of thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit, ask for the Grace to digest and live out

Hebrew Scriptures (46)

Pentateuch

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Historical Books

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
II Samuel
I Kings
II Kings
I Chronicles
II Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Wisdom Books

Job
Psalms
Proverb
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

Deuterocanonical

Tobit
Judah
Wisdom
Ecclesiasticus or Sirac
Barach
1 Maccabees
II Maccabees

and fragments of Esther
and Daniel found in the
Greek version

Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentatins
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

New Testament Scriptures (27)

Gospels

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John



Historical Books

Acts

(Luke-Acts)

Pauline Letters

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

Catholic Letters

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

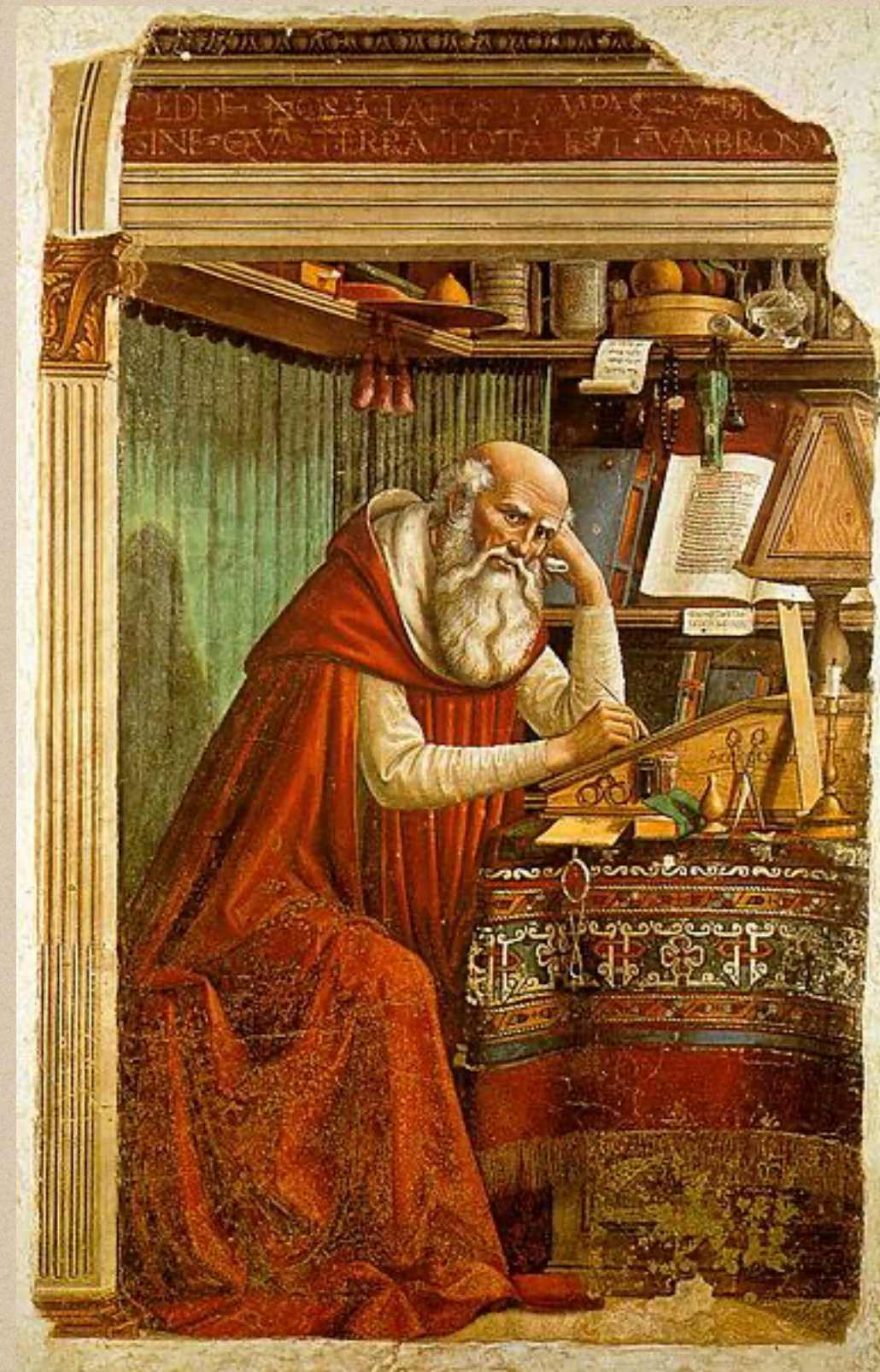
3 John

Jude

Revelation

Why the Bible?

“Ignorance of the Scriptures is Ignorance of Christ” - St. Jerome



347 AD - 420 AD

[[File:Domenico Ghirlandaio - St Jerome in his study.jpg|thumb|Domenico Ghirlandaio - St Jerome in his study]]

“...the righteousness of God, ... was veiled in the Old Testament, and is revealed in the New;...”

St. Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430)

On the Spirit and the Letter, Chapter 18

The New Testament is in the Old Concealed ,
and the Old is in the New Revealed

The New Testament concealed in the Old ,
and the Revealed in the New.



Traditions

- Teachings of the Early Church Fathers
 - early writings, such as the Didache (@90-110 AD)
 - sermons from St. Justin Martyr, First Apology, -> the Mass in 150AD
- Teachings of the present day **Magisterium** (teaching office of the church)
 - Pope, bishops
 - Catechism of the Catholic Church
 - Papal and other Church writings
 - ex, Encyclicals
 - vatican website
 - Vatican II documents (1962-1965)

Pick up:

- Catholic Bible
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Missalette (readings through late Nov)
- Mass Journal (2)
- Liturgical Calendar
- Rosary and Rosary leaflet
- **www.stjudesp.org**
- download: **myParish** app —> St. Jude as favorite

MASS JOURNAL



myParish

Break Open The Word

- Attend Mass
 - in person *OR* via Livestream
 - www.stjudesp.org
- Gospel reflections
 - Reflections on website:
 - Lectio Divina & Sunday Scripture
- Sundays - 11AM via ZOOM?

Sponsor

***companion on your RCIA journey*

- Practicing, Confirmed Catholic
- 16+
- if married, *Canonical*
- not your parent (but another relative ok)

☐ Sponsor form from his/her home parish

