

# BIBLE HISTORY

A TEXTBOOK OF  
THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS  
FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

*By*

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## TO OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

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You have learned something of the wonderful story which the Holy Bible tells us, but there is still much more to know. In this book you will study the history of God's Chosen People from the day when He called Abraham to found the Jewish nation until the time when the "Scepter passed from Juda" to the hands of strangers. You will follow God's Chosen People through the history of its exile, its wanderings in the desert, and its return home to the Promised Land. You will learn how God directed Moses to build a sanctuary where He could dwell among His people; how Moses, at God's command, consecrated the first High Priest and instituted the feasts of the Lord. You will see how the Israelites, for so the Jews were called, conquered their enemies; how they grew in wealth and power; how they pleased God and how they displeased Him. Finally, you will see how the nation reached the climax of ingratitude and wickedness in the crucifixion of the Redeemer of the world, of Him Whom God promised to their fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, and to Joseph. Your *Bible History* will tell you how the Redeemer came unto His own, and His own received Him not.

The New Testament will show you the Redeemer of men as He lived among men. Jesus Himself will speak to you as He spoke to the Jews in the synagogues. He is the Great Teacher of mankind Who teaches the

wonderful truths which you must believe. He is the much beloved Friend of the poor and the sick Whom you must console. He is the Savior of the world Who saved you from your sins, redeemed you from hell, and opened Heaven for you. He suffered and died and ascended into Heaven where He is waiting for you to come and enjoy eternal happiness with Him and His blessed Mother and all the saints.

Before Jesus left this world, He established His Church, which is His Kingdom on earth. The *Bible History* tells you how Jesus established His Church. This Church must explain to you all the truths which Jesus taught. It must guide you in life and prepare you for a happy passage to eternity.

We have prepared this book for you, dear boys and girls, that you may learn the truth about your Savior, and in knowing the truth, may love Him who died that you may have abundant life in this world and eternal life in the world to come.

THE AUTHORS

### PREFACE TO TEACHER

This book has been written with the aim of providing boys and girls in Catholic Schools with a knowledge of the more important historical facts that are contained in the Sacred Scriptures. The story of the Old Testament is told chronologically, with emphasis on such social, economic, and political details as are within the grasp of pupils of these grades. The New Testament has been organized around the salient features of our Savior's redeeming mission, though at the same time such continuity is maintained as will enable the pupils to appreciate the fact that in Jesus Christ is the culmination of all the events that preceded His coming and the fulfillment of all the promises God had made since the fall of man.

The subject matter of the textbook is presented in the form of eight large units, corresponding to the great epochs in the history of the Redemption. Under each unit such details have been included as were considered essential to an understanding of the whole.

Previews to each Unit have been introduced to serve a double purpose. They prepare the pupil for the central idea in the Unit that follows and at the same time link this idea with the main thought of the preceding Unit. A comprehensive Teachers' Manual accompanies this textbook.

THE AUTHORS

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## INTRODUCTION

### WHY GOD GAVE US THE BIBLE

God created us to know Him, to love Him, to serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him forever in the next. The better we know Him, the more we will love Him; and the more we love Him, the more eager we will be to do His holy will. Therefore, the most important lessons we must learn are those which help us to know more and more about God.

We can learn many things about God from the world in which we live. The shining stars, the silver moon, the glowing sun, the lovely flowers, the rippling streams and the green fields were made by God. They are *beautiful* and they tell us that God is beautiful. The mighty rivers, the strong winds, the great waterfalls were made by God. They are *powerful* and they tell us that God is *powerful*. Our parents and friends who are kind and good to us and watch over us with loving care tell us that God *loves* and *cares* for us. Thus, the world is like a great book, in which we can read many things about God. Sometimes we call it the Book of Nature.

The  
Book  
of  
Nature

But men are not always able to read correctly the wonderful lessons that are found in the book of nature. The things that God made are so beautiful and powerful and good that we are liable to think more of them than we do of the God Who made them, and give them the honor which is due to God alone. Besides this,

The  
Bible

there are many things which are not written in the book of nature. Some truths are above nature, or supernatural. God knows them, because He is all-wise and knows all things. God wanted us to know these truths because, knowing them, we should have a better idea of Him and know how to love Him and serve Him in a nobler way, and thus be happier than we could ever be if we had to depend on what we were able to learn from the book of nature.

Therefore God gave us another book, which we call The Bible. It helps us to understand better the lessons which are written in the book of nature, but it also tells us many things that otherwise we could never know, and some that we can never fully understand. Children cannot understand everything that grown-ups understand, but even the wisest man in the world could never understand some things that are in the mind of God. God tells us that a thing is true. We cannot understand it, but we know that it is true, because God has told us so. Truths that we cannot understand, even after God has told them to us, we call mysteries.

The Bible was written by men whom God chose specially for that purpose. These men wrote down what God wanted them to write, and nothing else. God guided them so that they could not make a mistake. He recalled to their memories truths which they had learned and put thoughts into their minds which would never have come to them if God were not prompting them. This help which God gave to the sacred writers, we call Divine Inspiration.

Divine  
Inspiration

After Christ had ascended into Heaven, God inspired some of His apostles and disciples to write down many of the things which He had said and done. God watched over them and guided them so that they would write all that He wished them to write. After the last apostle died, no one ever had the gift of inspiration again, for by that time God had left us all the truths that are necessary for us to know in order to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Christ founded His Church to guard the truths which He had revealed, and to explain them and preach them to the people. He promised to be with her until the end of time. Because Christ is with His Church, she cannot make a mistake when she tells us what we must believe and do if we wish to become holy and pleasing in the sight of God. Because she cannot make a mistake in these matters, we say she is Infallible.

The Bible is divided into two parts—the Old Testament and the New Testament. The word testament means an agreement, or a contract. Thus, we speak of someone making his last will and testament. The Bible is a contract or an agreement between man and God. God promises to reward man if man does what God commands. Sometimes in the Bible the word covenant is used instead of testament, because the Bible is like a covenant or a treaty of peace between God and man.

The Old Testament is made up of forty-six books. These books tell how God promised man a Redeemer Who would save him from his sins, and how He chose a certain nation, the Jews, to prepare the world for His

The  
Infallible  
Church

Con-  
tents  
of the  
Bible

coming. The New Testament contains twenty-seven books, and tells how God's promise was fulfilled in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and in the Church which He founded. The Bible, then, is one large book, made up of seventy-three smaller ones.

The books in the Bible are not all alike. Some tell the story of things that happened in the past, and they are called historical books. Others contain rules of conduct and right living, and are called moral books. Others foretell things that will happen in the future, and are called prophetic books. Most of the books are written in prose, but some of them are written in poetry.

Tradition  
Not all the lessons which our Lord taught while He was here upon earth are found in the New Testament. St. John says, "There are also many other things which Jesus said and did; which, if they were written every one, the world itself, I think, would not be able to contain the books that should be written." The apostles remembered many of these things, and told them to the people to whom they preached. These in turn told them to others. We call this handing down of the truths of faith by word of mouth, Tradition.

## THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

### THE PENTATEUCH

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

### THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

Josue  
Judges  
Ruth  
Kings (4 books)  
Paralipomenon (2 books)  
Esdras (2 books)  
Tobias  
Judith  
Esther  
Machabees (2 books)

### THE POETICAL BOOKS

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Canticle of Canticles  
Wisdom  
Ecclesiasticus

### THE PROPHETICAL BOOKS (18)

#### *Major Prophets*

Isaias  
Jeremias  
Lamentations  
Baruch  
Ezechiel  
Daniel

#### *Minor Prophets*

Osee  
Joel  
Amos  
Abdias  
Jonas  
Micheas  
Nahum  
Habacuc  
Sophonias  
Aggeus  
Zacharias  
Malachias

## THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

## THE HOLY GOSPELS

St. Matthew  
 St. Mark  
 St. Luke  
 St. John

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 To the Colossians  
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 To Timothy (2)  
 To Titus  
 To Philemon  
 To the Hebrews  
 St. James  
 St. Peter (2)  
 St. John (3)  
 St. Jude

## THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

## THE EPISTLES

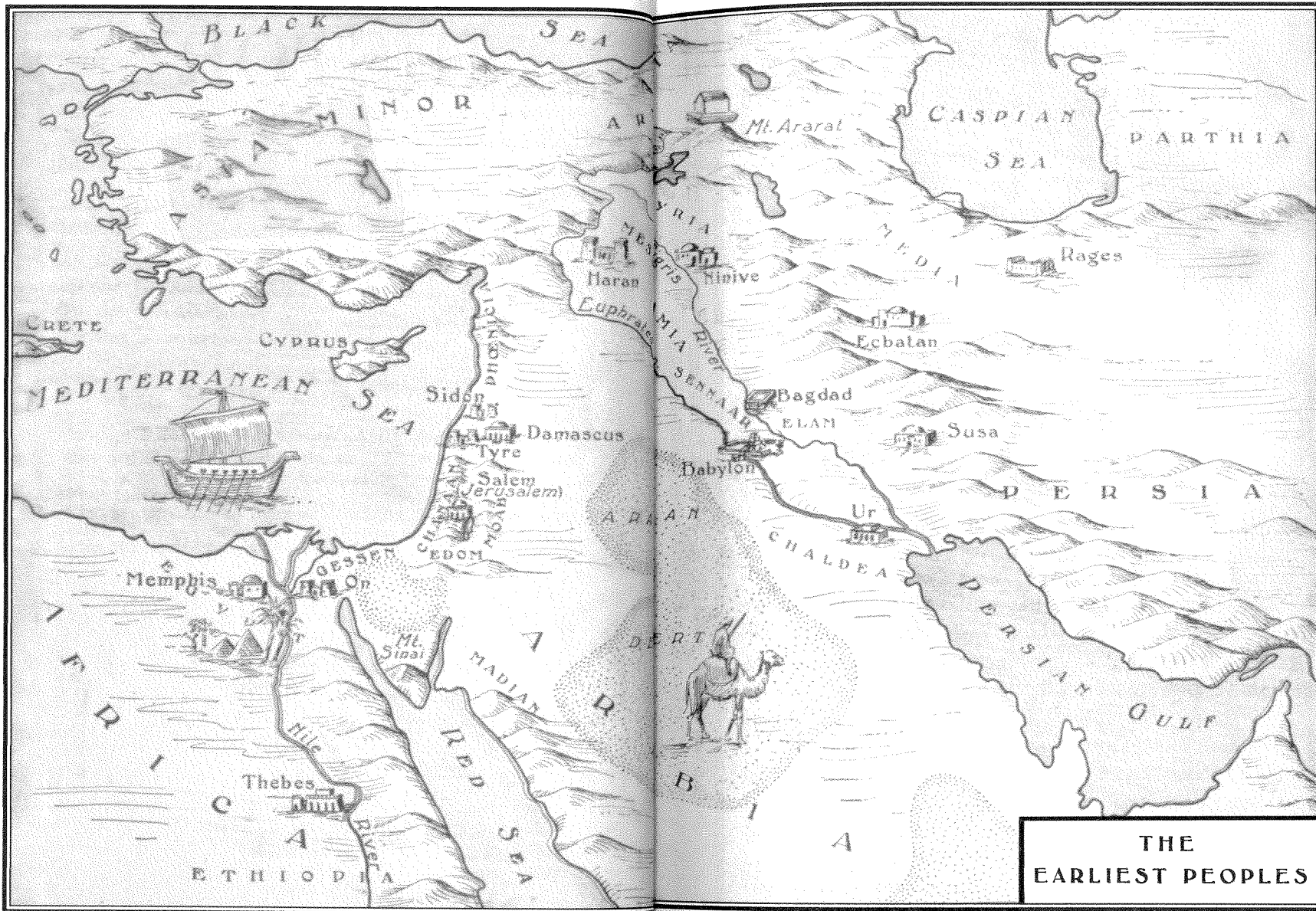
To the Romans  
 To the Corinthians (2)  
 To the Galatians  
 To the Ephesians

## THE APOCALYPSE

## THINGS TO KNOW AND TO DO

1. Why did God give us the Bible?
2. What is meant by Divine Inspiration?
3. What is Tradition?
4. Why are the truths handed down by Tradition as true as the Bible?
5. Why did Christ found His Church?

# BIBLE HISTORY



THE EARLIEST PEOPLES

## PREVIEW

### Unit One

#### HOW GOD CAME TO PROMISE MAN A REDEEMER

In this Unit we shall see how God, in order to show forth His glory and to permit all creatures to have a share in His happiness, created the world.

We shall see how some of the angels proved to be ungrateful and were cast into hell because they rebelled against their Creator.

The story of the life of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, in the Garden of Eden, will be told. We shall learn how in spite of the fact that they were wonderfully happy and had everything their hearts could desire, they listened to the voice of the tempter and ate of the forbidden fruit. For their sin, they were cast out of Paradise and doomed to death.

So great was their sin that they could not make reparation for it. Only God could redeem them. We shall see how God in His mercy promised to send a Savior Who would crush the power of sin and win back for man the happiness that he had lost by his sin.

Yet in spite of the Divine promise, the children of the first man and woman did not remain faithful to God. After a time their sins became so great that God determined to destroy them. Only one man and his family were saved. We shall see how God preserved them in a marvelous way while all the others were allowed to perish.

# The Old Testament

## Unit One

### HOW GOD CAME TO PROMISE MAN A REDEEMER

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# The Old Testament

## Unit One

### HOW GOD CAME TO PROMISE MAN A REDEEMER

#### I. THE STORY OF THE CREATION

##### 1. GOD CREATES THE ANGELS, AND SOME OF THEM SIN

From all eternity God existed. He always was, and never had a beginning, just as He will never have an end.

Before  
the  
Crea-  
tion

God is infinitely perfect. Nothing is wanting to Him in any way. The Three Divine Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, are One God, equal to each other in all things, and They possess in Themselves everything that is necessary to make Them happy. All that is true, all that is beautiful, all that is powerful, all that is good, is found in God. God does not have to look to anyone outside Himself for anything whatsoever. There is no truth that He does not know, no power that He does not possess, no happiness that He does not enjoy. He does not need anything or anyone besides Himself.

But God is good, and because He is good, He wanted others to share in His happiness. That is why He created heaven and earth. He brought them forth out