



3. Common Texts, Different Scriptures

INFORMATION SHEET

The Different Canons of Scripture

| Roman Catholic | Protestant | Jewish <i>Tanakh</i> |
|---|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy 6. Joshua 7. Judges 8. Ruth 9. 1 Samuel 10. 2 Samuel 11. 1 Kings 12. 2 Kings 13. 1 Chronicles 14. 2 Chronicles 15. Ezra 16. Nehemiah 17. Tobit 18. Judith 19. Esther (+ additions) 20. 1 Maccabees 21. 2 Maccabees 22. Job 23. Psalms 24. Proverbs 25. Ecclesiastes 26. Song of Songs 27. Wisdom of Solomon 28. Sirach 29. Isaiah 30. Jeremiah | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy 6. Joshua 7. Judges 8. Ruth 9. 1 Samuel 10. 2 Samuel 11. 1 Kings 12. 2 Kings 13. 1 Chronicles 14. 2 Chronicles 15. Ezra 16. Nehemiah 17. Esther 18. Job 19. Psalms 20. Proverbs 21. Ecclesiastes 22. Song of Songs 23. Isaiah 24. Jeremiah 25. Lamentations 26. Ezekiel 27. Daniel 28. Hosea 29. Joel 30. Amos | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy 6. Joshua 7. Judges 8. 1 & 2 Samuel 9. 1 & 2 Kings 10. Isaiah 11. Jeremiah 12. Ezekiel 13. The Twelve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosea • Joel • Amos • Obadiah • Jonah • Micah • Nahum • Habakkuk • Zephaniah • Haggai • Zechariah • Malachi 14. Psalms 15. Job |

31. Lamentations
32. Baruch
33. Ezekiel
34. Daniel (+ additions)
35. Hosea
36. Joel
37. Amos
38. Obadiah
39. Jonah
40. Micah
41. Nahum
42. Habakkuk
43. Zephaniah
44. Haggai
45. Zechariah
46. Malachi

31. Obadiah
32. Jonah
33. Micah
34. Nahum
35. Habakkuk
36. Zephaniah
37. Haggai
38. Zechariah
39. Malachi

Apocrypha:

1. Tobit
2. Judith
3. additions to Esther
4. Wisdom of Solomon
5. Sirach
6. Baruch
7. additions to Daniel
8. 1 Maccabees
9. 2 Maccabees

16. Proverbs
17. Ruth
18. Song of Songs
19. Ecclesiastes (Qoheleth)
20. Lamentations
21. Esther
22. Daniel
23. Ezra-Nehemiah
24. 1 & 2 Chronicles

Final "Old Testament" words in the Christian Bible:

"Lo, I will send you, Elijah, the prophet / Before the day of the Lord comes, the great and terrible day / To turn the hearts of the fathers to their children / and the hearts of the children to their fathers / Lest I come and strike the land with doom" (Malachi 3:23-24).

Final words in the *Tanakh*:

"Thus said King Cyrus of Persia: The Lord God of Heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and has charged me with building Him a House in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Any one of you of all His people, the Lord his God be with him and let him go up" (2 Chr 36:23).

The "New Testament"

1. Gospel of Matthew
2. Gospel of Mark
3. Gospel of Luke
4. Gospel of John
5. Acts of Apostles
6. Romans
7. 1 Corinthians
8. 2 Corinthians
9. Galatians
10. Ephesians
11. Philippians
12. Colossians
13. 1 Thessalonians
14. 2 Thessalonians
15. 1 Timothy
16. 2 Timothy
17. Titus
18. Philemon
19. Hebrews
20. James
21. 1 Peter
22. 2 Peter
23. 1 John
24. 2 John
25. 3 John
26. Jude
27. Revelation

Rabbinic Writings

[Although not canonically scriptural, the Oral Law expressed in the *Mishnah* and expounded upon in the *Talmud* is considered by Jews to be equally authoritative with the Tanakh.]

The Interpretation of the Bible in the [Roman Catholic] Church

(excerpts from a 1993 statement of the Pontifical Biblical Commission)

*The Catholic Church sees biblical interpretation as comprised of two complementary activities: 1. **exegesis** (the study of a biblical text to draw out its meaning on its own terms); and 2. **actualization** (the process of bringing the text to bear on the life of the church today). The excerpts presented below comment on these two facets of Catholic biblical interpretation.*

CHARACTERISTICS OF CATHOLIC INTERPRETATION

[III] Catholic exegesis [biblical study] freely makes use of the scientific methods and approaches which allow a better grasp of the meaning of texts in their linguistic, literary, socio-cultural, religious and historical contexts, while explaining them as well through studying their sources and attending to the personality of each author. Catholic exegesis actively contributes to the development of new methods and to the progress of research.

[III,A3] Granted that the expression of faith, such as it is found in the sacred Scripture acknowledge by all, has had to renew itself continually in order to meet new situations, which explains the "rereadings" of many of the biblical texts, the interpretation of the bible should likewise involve an aspect of creativity; it also ought to confront new questions so as to respond to them out of the Bible.

Granted that tensions can exist in the relationship between various texts of sacred Scripture, interpretation must necessarily show a certain pluralism. No single interpretation can exhaust the meaning of the whole, which is a symphony of many voices. Thus the interpreter of one particular text has to avoid seeking to dominate at the expense of others.

Sacred Scripture is in dialogue with communities of believers: It has come from their traditions of faith. . . . Dialogue with Scripture in its entirety, which means dialogue with the understanding of the faith prevailing in earlier times, must be matched by a dialogue with the generation of today. Such dialogue will mean establishing a relationship of continuity. It will also involve acknowledging differences. Hence the interpretation of Scripture involves a work of sifting and setting aside; it stands in continuity with earlier exegetical traditions, many elements of which it preserves and makes its own; but in other matters it will go its own way, seeking to make further progress.

INTERPRETATION IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

[IV,A] [W]ithin the Bible itself . . . one can point to instances of actualization: very early texts have been reread in the light of new circumstances and applied to the contemporary situation of the people of God. The same basic conviction stimulates believing communities of today to continue the process of actualization.

[IV,A,1] Actualization cannot mean manipulation of the text. It is not a matter of projecting novel opinions or ideologies upon biblical writings, but of sincerely seeking to discover what the text has to say at the present time.

[IV,A,2] Actualization presupposes a correct exegesis of the text, part of which is the determining of its *literal sense*. Persons engaged in the work of actualization who do not themselves have training in exegetical procedures should have recourse to good introductions to Scripture; this will ensure that their interpretation proceeds in the right direction.

[IV,A,3] Clearly to be rejected also is every attempt at actualization set in a direction contrary to evangelical justice and charity, such as, for example, the use of the bible to justify racial segregation, anti-Semitism, or sexism whether on the part of men or women. Particular attention is necessary, according to the spirit of the Second Vatican Council (*Nostra Aetate*, 4), to avoid absolutely any actualization of certain texts of the New Testament which could provoke or reinforce unfavorable attitudes toward the Jewish people. The tragic events of the past must, on the contrary, impel all to keep unceasing in mind that, according to the New Testament, the Jews remain "beloved" of God, "since the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable" (Rom. 11:28-29).

Catholic Weekly First Readings (Cycle A)

These are the first readings heard at Catholic Sunday Masses for one year of a three-year cycle. Many other Christian churches that use such readings or "lections" distributed over the course of a year use a very similar selection. For most of the year they come from the "Old Testament."

| Sunday | First Reading |
|--|---|
| 1 st Sunday of Advent | Isa 2:1-5 |
| 2 nd Sunday of Advent | Isa 11:1-10 |
| 3 rd Sunday of Advent | Isa 35:1-6a, 10 |
| 4 th Sunday of Advent | Isa 7:10-14 |
| Christmas: Vigil Mass | Isa 62:1-5 |
| Christmas: Mass at Midnight | Isa 9:1-6 |
| Christmas: Mass at Dawn | Isa 62:11-12 |
| Christmas: Mass during the Day | Isa 52:7-10 |
| Sunday within the Octave of Christmas: The Holy Family | Sir 3:3-7, 14-17a |
| Second Sunday after Christmas | Sir 24:1-4, 12-16 |
| Jan. 6: The Epiphany of the Lord – ABC | Isa 60:1-6 |
| The Baptism of the Lord [1 st Sunday in Ordinary Time] | Isa 42:1-4, 6-7 |
| 2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 49: 3, 5-6 |
| 3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 8:23b—9:3 |
| 4 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13 |
| 5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 58:7-10 |
| 6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Sir 15:16-21 |
| 7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Lev 19:1-2, 17-18 |
| 8 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 49:14-15 |
| 1 st Sunday of Lent | Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7 |
| 2 nd Sunday of Lent | Gen 12:1-4a |
| 3 rd Sunday of Lent | Exod 17:3-7 |
| 4 th Sunday of Lent | 1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a |
| 5 th Sunday of Lent | Ezek 37:12-14 |
| Palm Sunday: At the Mass | Isa 50:4-7 |
| The Easter Vigil | <i>Use at least three readings, always including #3:</i> 1) Gen 1:1-2:2 or 1, 26-31a 2) Gen 22:1-18 or 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 3) Exod 14:15—15:1 4) Isa 54:5-14 5) Isa 55:1-11 6) Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4 |

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| | 7) Ezek 36:16-17a, 18-28 |
| Easter Sunday | Acts 10:34a, 37-43 |
| 2 nd Sunday of Easter | Acts 2:42-47 |
| 3 rd Sunday of Easter | Acts 2:14, 22-33 |
| 4 th Sunday of Easter | Acts 2:14a, 36-41 |
| 5 th Sunday of Easter | Acts 6:1-7 |
| 6 th Sunday of Easter | Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 |
| 7 th Sunday of Easter | Acts 1:12-14 |
| Pentecost Sunday: Vigil Mass | Gen 11:1-9 or Exod 19:3-8a, 16-20b <i>or</i> Ezek 37:1-14 or Joel 3:1-5 |
| Pentecost Sunday: Mass During the Day | Acts 2:1-11 |
| 9 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Deut 11:18, 26-28, 32 |
| 10 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Hos 6:3-6 |
| 11 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Exod 19:2-6a |
| 12 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Jer 20:10-13 |
| 13 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a |
| 14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Zech 9:9-10 |
| 15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 55:10-11 |
| 16 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Wis 12:13, 16-19 |
| 17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12 |
| 18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 55:1-3 |
| 19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a |
| 20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 56:1, 6-7 |
| 21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 22:19-23 |
| 22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time | Jer 20:7-9 |
| 23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time | Ezek 33:7-9 |
| 24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Sir 27:30-28:7 |
| 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 55:6-9 |
| 26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Ezek 18:25-28 |
| 27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 5:1-7 |
| 28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 25:6-10a |
| 29 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Isa 45:1, 4-6 |
| 30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Exod 22:20-26 |
| 31 st Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mal 1:14b—2:2b, 8-10 |
| 32 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time | Wis 6:12-16 |
| 33 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time | Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 |
| 34 th or Last Sunday in Ordinary Time: Christ the King | Ezek 34:11-12, 15-17 |

Jewish Weekly Bible Readings

Below is a list of the weekly Sabbath readings from the Torah, which are organized on an annual cycle. The haftarah is a reading from the Nevi'im (the Prophets) that relates in some way to the Torah portion of the week. On special occasions, readings from the Ketuvim (the Writings) are added.

| GENESIS - Bereshit ("In the beginning") | | |
|---|------------------------|--|
| Name | Parsha | Haftarah reading (eastern European) |
| Bereshit | Genesis 1:1 -6:8 | Isaiah 42.5-43.10 |
| Noah | Genesis 6:9 - 11:32 | Isaiah 54.1-55.5 |
| Lekh Lekha | Genesis 12:1 - 17:27 | Isaiah 40.27-41.16 |
| VaYera | Genesis 18:1 - 22:24 | II Kings 4.1-37 |
| Chayay Sarah | Genesis 23:1 - 25:18 | I Kings 1.1-31 |
| Toledot | Genesis 25:19 - 28:9 | Malachi 1.1-2.7 |
| VaYetze | Genesis 28:10 - 32:3 | Hosea 12.13-14.10 (or + Micah 7.18) |
| VaYishlach | Genesis 32:4 - 36:43 | Obadiah 1.1-21 (or Hosea 11.7-12.12) |
| VaYeshev | Genesis 37:1 - 40:23 | Amos 2.6-3.8 |
| Miketz | Genesis 41:1 - 44:17 | I Kings 3.15-4.1 |
| VaYigash | Genesis 44:18 - 47:27 | Ezekiel 37.15-28 |
| VaYechi | Genesis 47:28 - 50:26 | I Kings 2.1-12 |
| EXODUS - Shemot ("The names") | | |
| Shemoth | Exodus 1:1 - 6:1 | Isaiah 27.6-28.13, 29.22-23 |
| VaEra | Exodus 6:2 - 9:35 | Ezekiel 28.25-29.21 |
| Bo | Exodus 10:1 - 13:16 | Jeremiah 46.13-28 |
| BeShalach | Exodus 13:17 - 17:16 | Judges 4.4-5.31 |
| Yithro | Exodus 18:1 - 20:23 | Isaiah 6.1-7.6, 9.5-6 |
| Mishpatim | Exodus 21:1 - 24:18 | Jeremiah 34.8-22, 33.25-26 |
| Terumah | Exodus 25:1 - 27:19 | I Kings 5.26-6.13 |
| Tetzaveh | Exodus 27:20 - 30:10 | Ezekiel 43.10-27 |
| Ki Thisa | Exodus 30:11 - 34:35 | I Kings 18.1-39 |
| VaYakhel | Exodus 35:1 - 38:20 | I Kings 7.40-50 |
| Pekudey | Exodus 38:21 - 40:38 | I Kings 7.51-8.21 |
| LEVITICUS - Va"Yakra ("And he called ...") | | |
| VaYikra | Leviticus 1:1 - 5:26 | Isaiah 43.21-44.23 |
| Tzav | Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36 | Jeremiah 7.21-8.3, 9.22-23 |
| Shemini | Leviticus 9:1 - 11:47 | II Samuel 6.1-7.17 |
| Tazria | Leviticus 12:1 - 13:59 | II Kings 4.42-5.19 |

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| Metzarah | Leviticus 14:1 - 15:33 | II Kings 7.3-20 |
| Acharey Moth | Leviticus 16:1 - 18:30 | Ezekiel 22.1-19 |
| Kedoshim | Leviticus 19:1 - 20:27 | Amos 9.7-15 |
| Emor | Leviticus 21:1 - 24:23 | Ezekiel 44.15-31 |
| BeHar | Leviticus 25:1 - 26:2 | Jeremiah 32.6-27 |
| BeChuko-Thai | Leviticus 26:3 - 27:24 | Jeremiah 16.19-17.14 |
| NUMBERS - BeMidbar ("In the wilderness...") | | |
| BeMidbar | Numbers 1:1 - 4:20 | Hosea 2.1-22 |
| Naso | Numbers 4:21 - 7:89 | Judges 13.2-25 |
| BeHa'alothecha | Numbers 8:1 - 12:16 | Zechariah 2.14-4.7 |
| Sh'lach | Numbers 13:1 - 15:41 | Joshua 2.1-24 |
| Korach | Numbers 16:1 - 18:32 | I Samuel 11.14-12.22 |
| Chukath | Numbers 19:1 - 22:1 | Judges 11.1-33 |
| Balak | Numbers 22:2 - 25:9 | Micah 5.6-6.8 |
| Pinchas | Numbers 25:10 - 30:1 | I Kings 18.46-19.21 |
| Mattoth | Numbers 30:2 - 32:42 | Jeremiah 1.1-2.3 |
| Massey | Numbers 33:1 - 36:13 | Jeremiah 2.4-28, 3.4, 4.1-2 |
| DEUTERONOMY - Devarim ("Words") | | |
| Devarim | Deuteronomy 1:1 - 3:22 | Isaiah 1.1-27 |
| VeEtChanan | Deuteronomy 3:23 - 7:11 | Isaiah 40.1-26 |
| Ekev | Deuteronomy 7:12 - 11:25 | Isaiah 49.14-51.3 |
| Re'eh | Deuteronomy 11:26 - 16:17 | Isaiah 54.11-55.5 |
| Shoftim | Deuteronomy 16:18 - 21:9 | Isaiah 51.12-52.12 |
| Ki Titze | Deuteronomy 21:10 - 25:18 | Isaiah 54.1-10 |
| Ki Tavo | Deuteronomy 26:1 - 29:8 | Isaiah 60.1-22 |
| Netzavim | Deuteronomy 29:9 - 30:20 | Isaiah 61.10-63.9 |
| Vayelech | Deuteronomy 31:1 - 31:30 | Isaiah 55.6-56.8 |
| HaAzinu | Deuteronomy 32:1 - 32:52 | II Samuel 22.1-51 |
| VeZot HaBerakhah | Deuteronomy 33:1 - 34:12 | Joshua 1.1-18 |
