

Salvation History in a Nutshell

*Father, we acknowledge your greatness:
all your actions show your wisdom and love.*

*You formed man in your own likeness and set him over the whole world to serve you,
his creator, and to rule over all creatures.*

*Even when he disobeyed you and lost your friendship
you did not abandon him to the power of death,
but helped all men to seek and find you.*

*Again and again you offered a covenant to man,
and through the prophets taught him to hope for salvation.*

*Father, you so loved the world that in the fullness of time
you sent your only Son to be our Savior.*

*He was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary, a man like us in all things but sin.*

*To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation,
to prisoners, freedom, and to those in sorrow, joy.*

*In fulfillment of your will he gave himself up to death;
but by rising from the dead, he destroyed death and restored life.*

*And that we might live no longer for ourselves but for him,
he sent the Holy Spirit from you, Father,
as his first gift to those who believe,
to complete his work on earth
and bring us the fullness of grace.*

Words of God or Words of Men?

God is the author of Sacred Scripture. “The divinely revealed realities, which are contained and presented in the text of Sacred Scripture, have been written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit” (CCC, 105).

God inspired the human authors of the sacred books. “To compose the sacred books, God chose certain men who, all the while he employed them in this task, made full use of their own faculties and powers so that, though he acted in them and by them, it was as true authors that they consigned to writing whatever he wanted written, and no more” (CCC, 106).

Whose Story Is It?

Once upon a time—or so the story goes—God wanted to make sure the whole account of his great love for folks got written down right. So God sent an angel to a scribe to ask if he wanted the job. The scribe jumped at it. God as a client?! All right!

The scribe gathered up his supply of pens, ink, and paper. The angel took the scribe under its wing and set about informing him of all the things God had done for humankind.

The scribe began, “In the beginning . . .” then scribbled on to describe a garden gained and a paradise lost, the building of an ark, the faithfulness of a patriarch, the founding of a people, thunder on a mountaintop, a promise to a king, the cajoling of prophets, the “Yes” of a virgin, and a covenant fulfilled in the life of Emmanuel, giving of the Spirit, and the growth of the Church.

At last the scribe was finished. Looking over his shoulder, the angel nodded approval. “Surely, this is precisely what God had in mind!” the angel said.

“To be sure,” the scribe responded.

“Indeed, this just has to be the greatest story ever told!” the angel exclaimed.

“Amen to that!” the scribe replied.

“Henceforth and forever,” declared the angel, “all who read these words will know that this is *God’s* story.”

“No way!” said the scribe. “This is *my* story.”

“No! You’ve got it *wrong!*” the angel cried.

“No! *You’ve* got it wrong!” the scribe bellowed.

For a long moment the angel and the scribe stared open-mouthed at each other, both too shocked to speak. Silence hung between them like an angry cloud. Suddenly, the cloud parted, and the voice of the Holy One—majestic but gentle—was heard.

“Shhh. You—*both of you*—have got it *right.*”



The books of both the Old and New Testaments in their entirety, with all their parts, are sacred and canonical because written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they have God as their author and have been handed on as such to the Church herself. In composing the sacred books, God chose men and while employed by Him, they made use of their powers and abilities, so that with Him acting in them and through them, they, as true authors, consigned to writing everything and only those things which He wanted.

Name _____ Date _____

Chapter 2 Handout 3

Biblical *Bon Mots*

Many of the phrases we hear every day find their source in the Bible. Look up the references on the bottom of this sheet and match them to the correct phrase.

_____ *Woe is me!*

_____ *A man after his own heart*

_____ **At my wit's end**

_____ *A wolf in sheep's clothing*

_____ A LABOR OF LOVE

_____ **NO REST FOR THE WICKED**

_____ **A DROP IN THE BUCKET**

Isaiah 6:5

1 Samuel 13:14

Psalms 107:27

Matthew 7:15

1 Thessalonians 1:3

Isaiah 48:22 and 57:21

Isaiah 40:15

Interpreting Scripture Means . . .

PAYING ATTENTION TO:

What the human author wanted to say.

Influenced by:

History

Culture

Language

Literary Forms

What God wanted to convey.

Accomplished by:

Looking at the content and unity of Scripture

Reading within Church Tradition

Paying attention to the analogy of faith

Another Crucial “How To”

“If you aim at nothing, you’ll probably hit it.”

1. _____

2. _____

Making SENSE of Scripture

*Littera gesta docet;
quid credas allegoria,
moralis quid agas,
quid tendas anagogia.*

Jerusalem

Literal Sense

- Capital of ancient Israel
- Site of the Temple of Solomon
- City where Jesus was crucified

Allegorical Sense

- The new Israel
- The People of God
- The Church

Moral Sense

- The soul at peace with itself

Anagogical Sense

- The heavenly communion
- The future City of God

✿ Facts ✿ Faith ✿ Charity ✿ Hope

History, Science, and the Bible

- Cornelius Tacitus, a Roman historian born in about AD 53, writing in his “Annals” (ca. AD 110) about the reign of Nero, describes how Nero accused the Christians of burning down Rome.

Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus.

- Flavius Josephus, a Jewish historian who became commander of the Jewish forces in Galilee in AD 66, just after the time of Jesus, wrote the following in his work, “Jewish Antiquities”:

Now there was about this time Jesus a wise man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.



Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind.

Albert Einstein

I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forego their use.

Galileo Galilei

Science can purify religion from error and superstition; religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes. Each can draw the other into a wider world, a world in which both can flourish. . . . We need each other to be what we must be, what we are called to be.

Pope John Paul II

The Liturgy of the Hours

The Liturgy of the Hours “is the very prayer which Christ himself together with his Body addresses to the Father” (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 85). Ancient and venerable words and actions continue to shape the Liturgy of the Hours. In praying the Liturgy of the Hours, we reflect on and offer thanks for the values of life. In turn, our daily communal prayer helps to shape our values and give deeper meaning to our daily living. Both morning and evening prayer share the following format.

Beginning Acclamation, Sign of the Cross, and Praise

Hymn (Morning and Evening)

Psalmody (Book of Psalms)

Psalm

Psalm Prayer

The Word of God

Scripture Reading

Silent Reflection

Gospel Canticle

Morning: The Canticle of Zachariah (Lk 1:68–79)

Evening: The Canticle of Mary—Magnificat (Lk 1:46–55)

Intercessions

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer

Concluding Prayer

Dismissal

tugh (“Hurry Up”) and Translate

Try your hand at the fine art of translation. The following is a Scripture passage written in both English (the missing letters) and Klingon. Begin by discovering the English words. Match the numbers to the letters in the grid and fill in the blanks.

Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A
7	12	22	19	24	3	11	2	13	21	8	26	16	20	4	25	10	6	15	9	17	23	1	18	5	14

joH'a' chut ghaH _____, _____

8 23 13 17 23 18 11 13 23 2 26 13 6

_____ qa'. joH'a' _____

6 16 9 11 15 23 11 23 2 11 6 20 26 16

_____ ghaH _____, _____ val _____ nap.

12 2 3 13 23 20 14 25 6 16 9 11 15 23

Next, discover the meaning of the Klingon words by matching the numbers beneath each word with its number in the grid. A word of warning! The letters will *not* be in their correct order!

ghaH joH'a' val

2 6 1 9 2 26 19 6 2 23

nap chut

2 6 20 8 4 23 14 19 4

Now, unscramble the letters to find the correct translation of the Klingon words.

ghaH _____

joH'a' _____

val _____

nap _____

chut _____

Finally, write the complete translation below.

When It Comes to the Bible, Everyone's a Critic! or The CSIs of the Bible

Historical Criticism

Objective: Understand the historical context of the biblical text

Techniques: Archeology, dating methodologies (e.g., carbon dating), historical research

Answers the Question: _____

Source Criticism

Objective: Uncover the source of the biblical writers' material and determine the prewritten shape of small biblical units

Techniques: Historical research into other texts

Answers the Question: _____

Form Criticism

Objective: Study units of biblical text to determine how each book took shape and also identify written literary genres

Techniques: Comparing biblical texts with contemporary nonbiblical ones

Answers the Question: _____

Redaction Criticism

Objective: Discover what theological insight influenced the biblical author's organization of the material

Techniques: Examining the collecting and editing of a particular section or book of the Bible

Answers the Question: _____
