

Divine Revelation and Sacred Scripture

Previously in RCIA...

How Catholics Understand Revelation and Sacred Scripture

✧ **Divine Revelation**

- ◆ Content – God’s self revealing in history
- ◆ Why? - “God wills that all be saved” - (1 Tim 2:4)

✧ **Transmission of Divine Revelation in Scripture and in Sacred Tradition**

- ◆ Orally and in writing
- ◆ Apostolic succession

✧ **Sacred Scripture and Tradition**

The Hebrew Scriptures

In about an hour...

History and Scripture

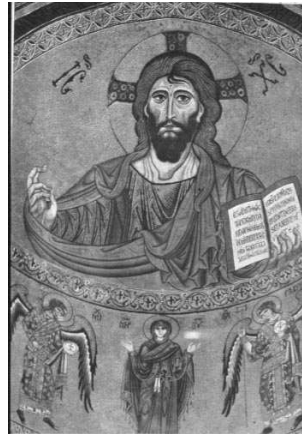
✧ The History of Israel

- Primordial history of the world
- Abraham and the patriarchs
- The age of Judges
- The age of Kings
- The Exile
- Under the Rule of the Gentile powers

✧ What are the Hebrew scriptures and where do they fit into this history?

Hebrew Scriptures

- ✠ We believe that God has uniquely revealed Himself to humanity in the arena of human history.
 - ✠ The content of revelation is
 - ◆ the self-revelation of God (CCC §101)
 - ◆ ...not data or facts
- CCC – Catechism of the Catholic Church



Scripture as Revelation

- ✠ God forms a People
 - ◆ The call of Abraham & Sarah, Moses, David, etc.
 - ◆ The prophets
- ✠ ...in their lives' events
 - ◆ Exodus to the Promised Land
 - ◆ The Age of the Kings
 - ◆ The Babylonian Exile and Return
- ✠ Revealing something about God's self



Hebrew Scriptures:

- ✠ Torah (Pentateuch)
 - ◆ *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy*
- ✠ Historical Books
 - ◆ *Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Tobit, Judith, Esther, Maccabees*
- ✠ Wisdom
 - ◆ *Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus (Sirach)*
- ✠ The Prophets
 - ◆ *Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Baruch, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*

Primordial History of the World



✠ God in the World

- ◆ Creation (*Gen 1-2*)
- ◆ Sin enters the world (*Gen 3-4*)
- ◆ Sin overwhelms the world (*Gen 6-9*) – *Noah and the flood; the world is again blessed*
- ◆ Sin persists (*Gen 11*) - *Tower of Babel*

✠ History – but not as we think of it

- ◆ Oral traditions and myths – a **search for meaning**
- ◆ Describe Yahweh as the Lord of Creation as well as of all of history (the events of people and nations)
- ◆ Yahweh as Lord of salvation
- ◆ Final written form achieved during the Exile in Babylon

Abraham and the Patriarchs

(1800 - 1400 BCE ?)

Genesis

✠ God in relationship to a chosen people (Qahal Yahweh – the people of Yahweh)



✠ **Abraham** is chosen to receive God's blessing and be witness (*Gen 12-25*)

✠ **Isaac** inherits the promise and passes it on (*Gen 21-27*)

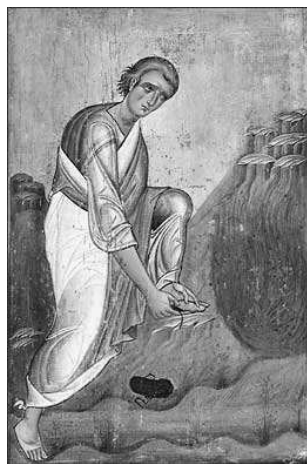
✠ **Jacob** inherits the promise; bears 12 sons (*Gen 27-36; 48-50*)

✠ **Joseph** bring the promise to Egypt; remains faithful to Yahweh (*Gen 37-50*)

Exodus: Moses and Mt. Sinai

(1250 - 1200 BCE)

Exodus



✠ The choice of Moses (*Ex 1-4*)

✠ Confronting Pharaoh (*Ex 5-12*)

✠ Escape thru the Sea (*Ex 13 -15*)

✠ Hardships in the desert (*Ex 16-18*)

✠ The covenant with God (*Ex 19-14*)

✠ Establishing God's home in Israel (*Ex 25-40*)

◆ *Instructions on the sanctuary*

◆ *Renewal of the covenant*

Numbers: Sinai to the Promised Land

- ✦ Combination of narratives and law
- ✦ Story of preparation for holy war
- ✦ More central, the story of the continuation of
 - ◆ Yahweh's blessing
 - ◆ promise of the land for God's people



Deuteronomy: The Covenant

- ✦ Covenant of the Great King
- ✦ Key Themes in *Dt.*
 - ◆ Covenant giver identified
 - ◆ Historical prologue of the gracious acts of the king
 - ◆ Legal stipulations on the vassals/people
 - ◆ Provision for public reading
 - ◆ List of witnesses
 - ◆ The curses and blessings for those who break or keep the covenant
 - ◆ The importance of the Covenant
 - ◆ Covenant is more than Law; total commitment
 - ◆ God's blessing is conditional
 - ◆ The land is conditional
 - ◆ God is faithful and just

The Promised Land

(1200 - 1000 BCE)

Joshua and Judges

✠ *Joshua*

- ◆ The conquest of the land of Canaan (*Jos 1-12*)
- ◆ Distribution of the land to 12 tribes (*Jos 13-21*)

✠ Context of Joshua

- ◆ Promise to Abraham is partially fulfilled
- ◆ Blessings abound

✠ *Judges*

- ◆ Israel as a tribal confederation in the time before the monarchy
- ◆ Saga of
 - Israel's failure to live in the covenant
 - The hero/judge raised up
 - Israel returns to covenant
 - Blessings return
 - Deborah, Samson, Gideon and others

King David

(1000 – 960 BCE)

Samuel, 1 Kings, 1 Chronicles

✠ The Prophet *Samuel*

- ◆ The call of Samuel (*1 Sam 1:1-3:21*)
- ◆ The call for a king (*1 Sam 8:1-22*); Saul as king

✠ King David (*1 Sam 16 – 2 Sam*)

- ◆ Unites the nation
- ◆ Jerusalem as capital
- ◆ A nation blessed



King Solomon

(960 – 920 BCE)

1 Kings, 1 Chronicles



✠ King Solomon (*1 Kings 1 – 11*)

- ◆ Blessings continued
- ◆ The Temple built
- ◆ Monarchy gone bad

✠ A Nation Divided

(*2 Kings 12:1-24*)

- ◆ Failure of the kings to worship God alone
- ◆ Failure to be just to the people

The Northern Kingdom of Israel

(920 – 722 BCE)

2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, the prophets

✠ History without blessings, only curses

- ◆ 10 tribes;
- ◆ Murder and mayhem as kingly succession
- ◆ False worship
- ◆ 722 BC, Israel conquered by **Assyria**; 10 tribes lost
- ◆ Samaritans

✠ Prophets in the North

- ◆ *Amos*
- ◆ *Hosea*

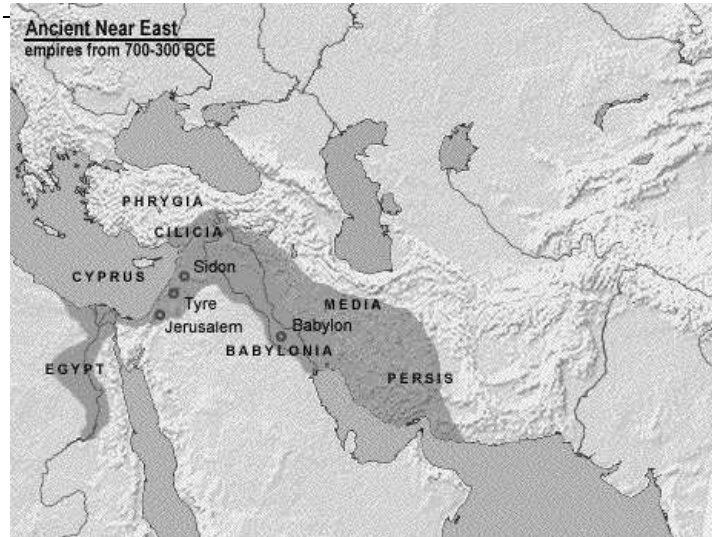
✠ Prophets in the South

- ◆ *Micah*
- ◆ *Isaiah* (*first Isaiah*)

✠ Always the call to covenant

- ◆ True worship and justice as the measure

Assyrian Empire (746 - 609 BCE)



The Southern Kingdom of Judah

(920 – 586 BCE) *2 Kings, 2 Chronicles and the prophets*

✧ Judah and Benjamin

✧ Evil kings

- ◆ Ahaz (732-715 BCE)
- ◆ Manasseh (686-642 BCE)

✧ Righteous kings

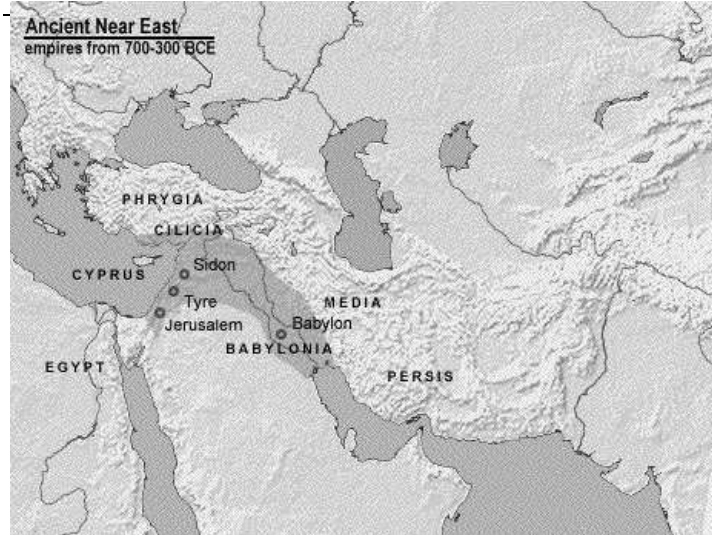
- ◆ Hezekiah (715-686 BCE)
- ◆ Josiah (640-609 BCE)

✧ Babylon destroys Jerusalem (586 BCE)

✧ Prophets

- ◆ *Isaiah* (second Isaiah)
- ◆ *Zepaniah*
- ◆ *Habakkuk*
- ◆ *Jeremiah*
- ◆ *Baruch*
- ◆ *Nahum*
- ◆ *Ezekiel*
(who begins to write at the
beginning of the Exile)

Babylonian Empire (609 - 539 BCE)



The Exile (586-538 BCE)

✦ Prophetic writings

(from the era)

- ◆ Isaiah
- ◆ Ezekiel
- ◆ Zechariah

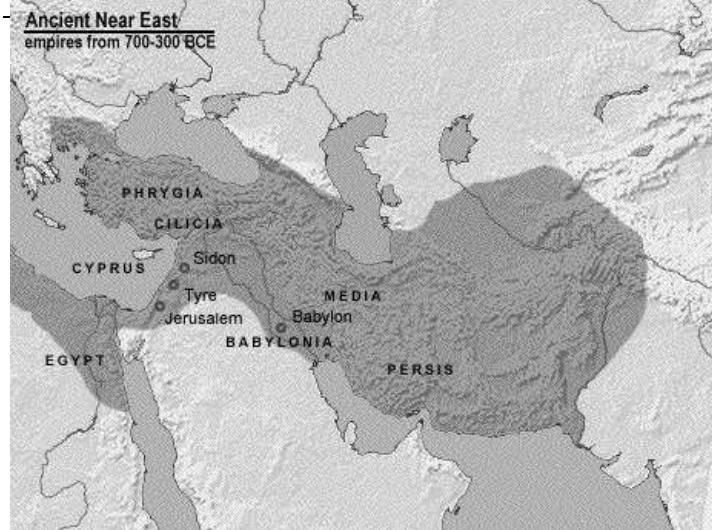
✦ Prophetic writings *(about the era)*

- ◆ Daniel *(ca. 175 BCE)*
- ◆ Joel

✦ King Cyrus, sends the exiles home to Israel



Persian Empire (550 - 330 BCE)



Post-Exilic Israel

✧ 1 and 2 Maccabees



✧ Writings (from the era)

- ◆ Isaiah *
- ◆ Zechariah *
- ◆ Haggai *
- ◆ Ezra
- ◆ Nehemiah

✧ Other writings (authored in the era)

- ◆ Esther, Judith and Tobit
- ◆ Jonah
- ◆ Obadiah? Malachi?

* prophetic

Macedonian Empire

(During the reign of Alexander the Great (III) 336 - 323 BCE)



The End of the Kingdom

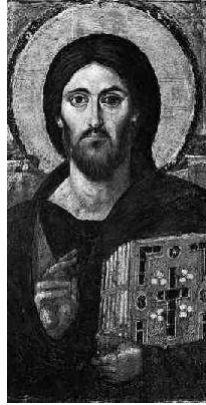
- ✧ The Exile (598/586 – 538 BCE)
in Babylon
- ✧ Persian Rule (537 – 333 BCE)
- ✧ Greek/Hellenistic Rule (333 - 175 BCE)
under Alexander the Great and his successors
- ✧ Independent Jewish state (175 BCE – 63 BCE) under
the Maccabees and their successors
- ✧ Roman Rule (63 BCE into the Christian era)

The Wisdom Books

✧ Psalms

✧ Song of Songs

✧ Lamentations



✧ Job

✧ Ecclesiastes
(Quoheleth)

✧ Proverbs

✧ Wisdom

✧ Ecclesiasticus
(Sirach or Ben Sira)

Psalms

✧ The word *psalms* is derived from the Greek:

- ◆ *Psalmoi*, originally meaning "songs sung to a harp",
- ◆ from *psallein* "play on a stringed instrument"

✧ Catholic Usage

- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Liturgy
- ◆ Meditation

✧ Psalm forms

- ◆ Hymns
- ◆ Imprecatory Psalms
- ◆ Individual Laments
- ◆ Communal Laments
- ◆ Songs of Trust
- ◆ Individual Thanksgiving Psalms
- ◆ Royal Psalms
- ◆ Wisdom Psalms
- ◆ Pilgrimage Psalms
- ◆ Liturgical Psalms

Old Testament Differences

- ✧ In Jesus' time the Hebrew Scriptures
 - ◆ Existed in Hebrew, and
 - ◆ In Greek (Septuagint, LXX)
- ✧ The New Testament church used LXX
 - ◆ 85% of OT citations in NT are from LXX
- ✧ LXX has 5 additional books, plus additional parts of two other books

J.T. McWeb, ED

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| ✧ Judith | ✧ Greek portions of ... |
| ✧ Tobit | ◆ Esther |
| ✧ 1 st and 2 nd Maccabees | ◆ Daniel |
| ✧ Wisdom | |
| ✧ Ecclesiasticus | |
| ✧ Baruch | |

Why the Difference

- ✧ Canon of OT unquestioned for more than 1000 years until...
- ✧ Protestant Reformation
 - ◆ Removed the 5 books, 2 portions
 - ◆ Relying upon a Rabbinical decision that occurred
 - 60 years after Jesus' Resurrection
 - After expelling Christians from the Synagogue
- ✧ More an argument about authority

The Hebrew Scriptures...

...in about an hour