

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Who Is The Author Of Sacred Scripture?

Know This...

The Bible is the best selling book of all time, but it's not the most read book. All too often it sits and collects dust. In 410 A.D., St. Jerome wrote, "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." The Bible is the inerrant Word of God. Its pages should be stained and torn from use, loaded with highlighted verses and handwritten notes. The Holy Spirit is the author of Sacred Scripture. He inspired men to write it.



John: The Bible is a Catholic book. It didn't fall from the sky. It didn't come with a table of contents, punctuation, or numbered chapters and verses. The Church formed the Bible; the Bible didn't form the Church.

James: All Christians are indebted to the Catholic Church because She, guided by the Holy Spirit, wrote the New Testament and professed that both the Old and New Testaments comprise Sacred Scripture.



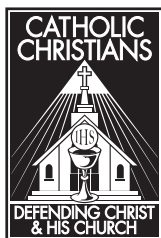
John: The Old Testament embodies 46 books. The New Testament embodies 27. St. Augustine said, "The New lies hidden in the Old, while the Old is revealed in the New."

James: In the fourth and fifth centuries, several Church Councils with the approval of the Pope, established the canon of Scripture. The Council of Trent universally confirmed this in the sixteenth century.

John: The Church calls us to accept and venerate Holy Tradition and Sacred Scripture with equal devotion and reverence.

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When many Jews sought to persecute Jesus, He told them, "You search the scriptures, because you think you have eternal life through them; even they testify on my behalf." ^{Jn 5:39} Everything that God has done and said is not recorded in the Bible. "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." ^{Jn 20:30-31}



"Sacred Scripture is the speech of God as it is put down in writing under the breath of the Holy Spirit." ^{Dei Verbum, 9} "All Sacred Scripture is but one book, and this one book is Christ, 'because all divine Scripture speaks of Christ, and all divine Scripture is fulfilled in Christ.'" ^{ccc 134} "Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written." ^{ccc 111} "If you should find someone who does not yet believe in the Gospel, what would you answer him when he says: 'I do not believe'? Indeed, I would not believe in the Gospel myself if the authority of the Catholic Church did not influence me to do so." ^{St. Augustine, 397 A.D.}

PAPA SAYS

"First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." ^{2 Pet 1:20-21} "Brethren, be contentious and zealous for the things which lead to salvation! You have studied the Holy Scriptures, which are true and are of the Holy Spirit. You well know that nothing unjust or fraudulent is written in them." ^{St. Clement of Rome, 80 A.D.}



"All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, in order that the man of God may be fit, fully equipped for every good work!"

^{2 Tim 3:16-17}

Lord, Your gifts are priceless. I cannot repay You. Thankfully, You do not seek repayment, but seek only my faith in Your goodness and love. You inspired early Christians to document Your Word. You continue to guide Your Church in interpreting it. I pray that You will instill in me a great love for Holy Scripture and that I will remain forever faithful to Your Word. I ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

