

## RCIA Old Testament

THE BIBLE IS MADE UP OF 73 BOOKS. NON-CATHOLIC BIBLE CONTAINS 66. THERE ARE 7 BOOKS IN THE CATHOLIC BIBLE THAT ARE NOT CONTAINED IN THE PROTESTANT BIBLE. APPROXIMATELY 500 YEARS AGO A VERY DEVOUT CATHOLIC MONK NAMED MARTN LUTHER DECLARED THAT 7 BOOKS HAD LITTLE OR NO HISTORICAL VALUE AND SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE BIBLE. HE ALSO DIDN'T LIKE THE WRITINGS OF JAMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AND THERE MAY HAVE BEEN OTHER BOOKS AS WELL. THE CHURCH LEADERS DISAGREED. THEY FELT THAT IF THOSE SEVEN BOOKS WERE PART OF THE SEPTUAGINT THEY NEEDED TO BE PART OF THE BIBLE. SO DUE TO THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION THE PROTESTANT BIBLE DOES NOT CONTAIN : 1&2 MACCABEES, JUDITH, TOBIT, BARUCH, SIRACH, AND THE BOOK OF WISDOM.

THE PENTATEUCH IS THE FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE, CALLED TORAH IN HEBREW SCRIPTURES. THOUGH WE OFTEN CALL THESE BOOKS "THE LAW" TORAH DOES NOT MEAN LAW, BUT TEACHING.

BASIC TO THE TORAH IS A COVENANT. A COVENANT IS AN AGREEMENT. A COVENANT, IN THE BIBLICAL SENSE, IMPLIES MUCH MORE THAN A CONTRACT OR SIMPLE AGREEMENT. A CONTRACT ALWAYS HAS AN END DATE, WHILE A COVNETAT IS A PERMANENT ARRANGEMENT. ANOTHER DIFFERENCE IS THAT A COTNRACT GENERALLY INVOLVES ONLY ONE PART OF A PERSON, SUCHA AS A SKILL, WHILE A COVENANT COVERS A PERSON'S TOTAL BEING.

BIBLICAL COVENANTS HAVE 3 PARTS:

1. A STATEMENT ABOUT GOD'S SAVING ACT. WHAT GOD BRINGS TO THE AGREEMENT..
2. A STATEMENT ABOUT WHAT GOD EXPECTS FROM HUMANITY IN RESPONSE. WHAT HUMANITY BRINGS TO THE TABLE.
3. A SIGN OR SYBOL AS A REMINDER OF THE COVENANT.

THE MOST COMMON SYMBOL IS THE SACRAFICE OF AN ANIMAL. THE ANIMAL SACRIFICED WAS DETERMINED BY THE REASON BEHIND THE SACRAFICE. THE SACRAFICE WAS NOT MEANT TO APEASE GOD LIKE SOME OF THE PAGEN SACRAFICES. IT WAS MEANT TO REPRESENT ALL THAT THE PERSON HAD AND WAS GIVING BACK TO GOD:

1. IN ATTONEMENT FOR SIN.
2. IN THANKSGIVING
3. IN CELEBRATION

SO WITH THE SACRAFICE THE COVENANT WAS BASICLY SIGNED IN BLOOD. IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, GOD TRIED TO TELL THE PEOPLE WHO HE WAS AND HOW HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF THEM. AGAIN AND AGAIN HE MADE A

COVENANT WITH THEM TO TRY TO GET THEM TO LIVE AS HE WOULD WANT THEM TO LIVE. DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY COVENANTS THERE WERE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT? (5) ADAM, NOAH, ABRAHAM, MOSES/THE PEOPLE OF ISREAL AND DAVID.

GENESIS – BEGINS WITH CREATION, SETTING THE COVENANT IN THE CONTEXT OF GOD’S RULE OVER THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE. COVENANTS WITH ADAM, NOAH AND ABRAHAM,

EXODUS - CENTERS ON THE ESCAPE OF GOD’S PEOPLE FROM EGYPT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MOSES AND THE MAKING OF THE GREAT COVENANT. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. GOD’S PART OF THE COVENANT IS HIS GRACIOUS ACTS OF SPARING HIS PEOPLE DURING THE PASSOVER AND THE EXODUS. HUMANITIES PART IS THE FOLLOWING OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE PASSOVER FEAST IS THE GREAT SYMBOL.

LEVITICUS – LATIN WORD FOR THE BOOK OF THE LEVITES. MAJOR CONCERN IS THE HOLINESS OF THE COMMUNITY OF ISREAL. HOLINESS IS EXPRESSED IN PROPER FORMS OF WORSHIP AND LIVING OUT THE LOVE OF GOD IN THE ROUTINE OF DAILY LIFE. THE “HOLINESS CODE” CHAPTERS 17-27 IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW WORSHIP AND JUSTICE MINGLE TOGETHER IN THE LIFE OF ISREAL.

NUMBERS – NAMED FOR THE CENSUS THAT BEGINS THE BOOK. IT RECOUNTS THE WILDERNESS JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND (THE 40 YEARS OF WANDERING) AND THE MIRACLES OF MOSES.

DEUTERONOMY IS WRITTEN AS MOSES’ FAREWELL SPEECH BEFORE THE TRIBES ENTER THE PROMISED LAND. IT REVIEWS HOW GOD PLANS TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE AND WHAT THAT MEANS FOR THEIR LIVES

Questions?

**HISTORICAL BOOKS** THESE BOOKS ARE HISTORY IN THE BEST SENSE, THAT IS THEY DO MORE THAN PRESENT DATA ABOUT PAST EVENTS. THEY PRESENT THE DATA IN A FORM THAT TRIES TO EXPLAIN WHAT THE EVENTS MEAN AND HOW GOD WAS WORKING IN THOSE EVENTS.

JOSHUA, JUDGES, RUTH, 1&2 SAMUEL, 1&2 KINGS, 1&2 CHRONICLES, EZRA, NEHEMIAH, TOBIT, JUDITH, ESTHER, 1&2 MACCABEES

### **BOOKS OF POETRY AND WISDOM**

**POETRY BOOKS INCLUDE PSALMS AND SONG OF SONGS.**

THE PSALMS WERE THE HYMN BOOK AND PRAYER BOOK OF THE SECOND TEMPLE AND CONTINUES TO BE USED IN THE SAME WAY BY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY TODAY.

**WISDOM LITERATURE TAKES SEVERAL FORMS. SOMETIMES SHORT SAYING ON HOW TO COPE WITH LIFE.**

JOB, PROVERBS, ECCLESIASTES, BOOK OF WISDOM, SIRACH.

**BOOKS OF THE PROPHETS**

INTERPRET THE ACTS OF GOD IN THE EVENTS OF HISTORY. JONAH AND THE WHALE

MAJOR

ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, LAMENTATIONS, BARUCH EZEKIEL, DANIEL

MINOR

HOSEA, JOEL, AMOS, OBADIAH, JONAH, MICAH, NAHUM, HABAKKUK, ZEPHANIAH, HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH, MALACHI

The Ten Commandments were given to Moses from God, on two stone tablets at the top of Mt. Sinai

I was going to tell you that they are our rules we have to follow, but when I said “Rules” the first thing that popped into my mind was: “DON’T!” Don’t do this! Don’t do that! I thought oh no! That’s not how I want to present the commandments!

So, instead I’ll say a more refreshing approach to following the commandments!

The commandments are our moral law. As American citizens we all abide by laws right? Occasionally some of us have been pulled over for not following the law. Instead of remembering what not to do, make the commandments more a question of what to do! And use them as a guideline for leading our lives.

Moral Law includes the Two great commandments= To love God and To Love our neighbor

The First 3 commandments are your relationship with God.

The last 7 deal with your relationship with one another, your neighbor.

**1. I, the Lord, am your God, You shall not have other gods besides me.**

Have God above everything else!!!

God 1<sup>st</sup> and foremost! Not money, power, popularity, cars, tv’s etc.

Base your daily actions on that love of God, a positive way to prove that love is to follow the next 9 commandments positively.

**2. You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain.**

Pretty self explanatory! Don't curse using the Lords name in vain!

Remember I said I was trying not to say Don't?! some use other words ( Gosh darn it?) instead let's remember that saying "If you don't have something nice to say don't say anything at all!"

That's just it! For the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment we can remember to use God's name positively! Either by praising God when we pray or by speaking the word of the Lord.

**3. Remember to keep the Sabbath day.**

Instead of viewing Sunday as "have to do" you can view attending mass as a time to concentrate on holy things, rest, reflection and family. Another example is: Think of everything God has given you throughout the week... yet we can certainly spare an hour to show our appreciation for the good and bad he has given us! It is our obligation to attend mass.

The main objectives of the next 7 are to honor parents, human life, human sexuality, the property of others, and the truth.

**4. Honor your Father and your Mother.**

Show respect for our parents as children and as adults. Not just to respect, but also see to their care when they become old and infirm.

(Show respect to your whole family and the community as well. Showing respect and love for our country---this doesn't mean we have to agree with our leaders, but it does mean that we must be proud to be citizens of the country in which we reside.)

**5. You shall not kill.**

Means just that! Other than what it reads, this commandment includes "right to life" issues--- like abortion, euthanasia, suicide, murder, the death penalty, and other unnatural ways of ending human life. "Thou shall not Murder"

Letting anger lead to violence, mental or physical. Racism, Sexism, abusing alcohol or drugs.

Basically actions that kill spirits of others and actions that harm the body and mind.

**6. You shall not commit adultery.**

This commandment calls for honesty and loyalty in all relationships.

Honoring human sexuality.

We should not have sex outside of marriage.

Prostitution, pornography, homosexual activity, masturbation, group sex, rape, incest, and child molestation.

**7. You shall not steal.**

Respecting and honoring the possessions of others.

They deal not only with outright theft but with feelings of envy, greed and jealousy in reaction to what others have.

**8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**

Lying or not telling the truth-----because we believe that God is truth, we are obligated to honor the truth-----we must never consciously tell things that are not true or take advantage of our neighbors.

**9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.**

It means a lot more than looking with longing at a suntanned, bikini-clad neighbor. Allowing yourself to get hung up on such thoughts can and will create problems. The problem will be when you can't shake those thoughts and may even wish to encourage them. And that's where you pass over the line into sin.

(Think of others as whole persons, not as sex vending machines)

**10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.**

We have all heard of the phrase "keeping up with the Joneses", we should be satisfied with what we have; enough to eat, clothes to wear, and a place to stay.

Commandment 7 & 10 are alike

Commandment 6 & 9 are alike

So that's a basic overview of the Ten Commandments. They are not independent of each other, nor can you pick and choose which ones to follow. They go hand in hand with each other to use as directions to live in a positive way and without sin.