

CATHOLIC KNOWLEDGE BOWL QUESTIONS

Topic: Old Testament

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1. Why is the Old Testament an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture?
 - a. Its books are divinely inspired.
 - b. It is very well written.
 - c. It contains everything about God.
 - d. It is held in high esteem by millions.

Answer A) The Old Testament books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value, for the Old Covenant has never been revoked. **CCC 121**

2. The unique word of Sacred Scripture is _____.
 - a. love
 - b. faith
 - c. creation
 - d. Christ

Answer D) Christ is the unique Word of Sacred Scripture. Through all the words of Sacred Scripture, God speaks only one single Word, his one Utterance in whom he expresses himself completely: **CCC 101**

3. The author of Sacred Scriptures is/are _____.
 - a. the human writers
 - b. Moses
 - c. God
 - d. an angel

Answer C) 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**

4. Why does Scripture have some errors or inaccuracies?
 - a. It is not a history or science book.
 - b. The writers used their own knowledge of the world.
 - c. Only things needed for our salvation are free from error.
 - d. All of the above

Answer D) "...we must acknowledge that the books of Scripture, firmly, faithfully and without error teach that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided to the Sacred Scriptures." **Paragraph 11**, "However, since God speaks in sacred Scripture through men in human fashion, the interpreter of sacred Scripture, in order to see clearly what God wanted to communicate to us, should carefully investigate what meaning the sacred writers really intended, and what God wanted to manifest by means of their words." St. Augustine in **City of God**, ...There were different conventional ways of representing the past, i.e., of writing history, with varying proportions of literalness or symbolism. **Paragraph 12, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei Verbum*)**

5. Why is there a unity between the Old and New Testaments?

- a. They are both in one volume.
- b. They both contain many truths.
- c. They are greatly revered.
- d. Both are the true Word of God

Answer D) The unity of the two Testaments proceeds from the unity of God's plan and his Revelation. The Old Testament prepares for the New and the New Testament fulfills the Old; the two shed light on each other; both are true Word of God. **CCC 140**

6. Why is it important to understand the many literary forms used in Scripture?

- a. The Bible conveys the Word of God in many literary forms.
- b. Truth is expressed in the various literary types.
- c. Meaning is found in the literary types.
- d. All of the above

Answer D) "Those who search out the intention of the sacred writers must, among other things, have regard for 'literary forms.' For truth is proposed and expressed in a variety of ways, depending on whether a text is history of one kind or another, or whether its form is that of prophecy, poetry, or some other type of speech. The interpreter must investigate what meaning the sacred writer intended to express and actually expressed in particular circumstances as he used contemporary literary forms in accordance with the situation of his own time and culture."
**Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei Verbum*)
Paragraph 12**

7. Which Biblical books tell pious stories to instruct the people and to encourage them in critical times?

- a. the Acts of the Apostles
- b. the Psalms, Proverbs, and Wisdom
- c. Tobit, Judith, and Esther
- d. the Letters of St. Paul

Answer C) “The inspired author of the book used the literary form of religious novel (as in Esther and Judith) for the purpose of instruction and edification. The seemingly historical data, names of kings, cities, etc., are used as vivid details not only to create interest and charm, but also to illustrate the negative side of the theory of retribution: the wicked are indeed punished.” **usccb.org, Books of the Bible, Tobit, Introduction, 4th paragraph**

8. An Old Testament book named after its principal character, combines Jewish piety and morality with folklore is _____.

- a. Joshua
- b. Numbers
- c. Chronicles
- d. Tobit

Answer D) The Book of Tobit, named after its principal character, combines Jewish piety and morality with folklore. It was probably written early in the second century B.C. **usccb.org, Books of the Bible, Tobit, Introduction**

9. What is the Bible?

- a. A book that contains everything about God.
- b. A library, not a book.
- c. Dictated word by word by God.
- d. Has answers for all our problems.

Answer B) The Bible isn't a book. It's a library. The Bible is a collection of 73 books written over the course of many centuries. The books include royal history, prophecy, poetry, challenging letters to struggling new faith communities, and believers' accounts of the preaching and passion of Jesus. **usccb.org, Understanding the Bible, # 4**

10. _____ is a Greek translation of the Jewish Scripture, used by both Jews and Jewish Christians in the 1st century A.D.

- a. The Septuagint
- b. The New Testament
- c. Acts of the Apostles
- d. The Apocalypse

Answer A) The Greek version of the Old Testament is commonly known as the Septuagint. The translation was taken over from the Jews by the Christian church. It was the Bible of most writers of the New Testament. **Harper's Bible Dictionary (1st ed.), San Francisco, Harper & Row, 1985, p. 925**

11. The number of books in the Old Testament in Catholic Bibles differs from Protestant Bibles because _____.

- a. Catholics used the Septuagint version.
- b. Protestant used the Jewish canon.
- c. None of the above.
- d. Both A & B.

Answer D). At the time the Christian Bible was being formed, the Septuagint (which has 46 books) was in common use by Jews and Jewish Christians, and Christians adopted it as the Old Testament of the Christian Bible. In the 1500s, Protestant leaders decided to organize the Old Testament material according to the official canon of Judaism (39 books) rather than the Septuagint. **(christianbiblereference.org) What is the Difference Between Protestant and Catholic Bibles?**

12. Which books are found in the Pentateuch?

- a. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, The Acts of Apostles
- b. Deuteronomy, Leviticus, Judges, Exodus, Numbers
- c. Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- d. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Answer D) "The Pentateuch, which consists of the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy), enjoys particular prestige among the Jews as the 'Law,' or 'Torah,' the concrete expression of God's will in their regard." **The New American Bible, ©1970, The Pentateuch, p 1, 1st paragraph**

13. Old Testament books omitted from Protestant Bibles are _____.

- a. Tobit, Judith, 1st & 2nd Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach & Baruch.
- b. Tobit, Judith, Esther, Ruth, Wisdom, Sirach, & Baruch
- c. 1 & 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Esther, Judith, and Tobit
- d. Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch, Isaiah, Tobit, and Judith

Answer A) “The seven books included in Catholic Bibles are Tobit, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, and Baruch. Catholic Bibles also include sections in the Books of Esther and Daniel which are not found in Protestant Bibles.” **uscbb.org, Bible, Understanding the Bible, Study Materials, Do Translations Matter? 2nd paragraph**

14. Catholics call the seven books that are missing from the Protestant Bible _____.

- a. Important books
- b. Deuterocanonical (second canon)
- c. Apocrypha
- d. none of the above

Answer B) The seven books included in Catholic Bibles are Tobit, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, and Baruch. Catholic Bibles also include sections in the Books of Esther and Daniel which are not found in Protestant Bibles. These books are called the **deuterocanonical books**. The Catholic Church considers these books to be inspired by the Holy Spirit. **uscbb.org, Bible, Understanding the Bible, Frequently Asked Questions, # 3**

15. The seven books, which Catholics call the Deuterocanonical Books, Protestants call _____.

- a. Heretical books
- b. Deuterocanonical (second canon)
- c. Apocrypha
- d. none of the above

Answer C) In the 1500s, Protestant leaders decided to organize the Old Testament material according to the official canon of Judaism rather than the Septuagint. They moved the Old Testament material, which was not in the Jewish canon, into a separate section of the Bible called the *Apocrypha*. The books of the Apocrypha are also known as the *deuterocanonical* books. **christianbiblereference.org, What is the Difference Between Protestant and Catholic Bibles?**

16. _____ decided which books made it into the Bible.

- a. St. Peter
- b. The Council of Trent (1545-63), which definitively defined the Old Testament canon
- c. The Catholic Church, which selected the Septuagint's canon of Old Testament used by Jesus and the apostles
- d. b & c.

Answer D) “Finally, the Council of Trent, in its decree, “*Sacrosancta*” of April 8, 1546, formally and definitely canonized all the books of the O. T. fro the first time.” **Catholic Biblical Encyclopedia, © 1956 by Joseph F. Wagner Inc., New York City, p. 203** “At the time the Christian Bible was being formed, the Septuagint (which has 46 books) was in common use by Jews and Jewish Christians, and Christians adopted it as the Old Testament of the Christian Bible.” **christianbiblereference.org, What is the Difference Between Protestant and Catholic Bibles?**

17. Biblical Prophecy is about _____.

- a. "predicting the future" primarily
- b. challenging people to turn back to God
- c. hidden coded messages for people
- d. writings in times of prosperity

Answer B) Biblical prophecy is *not* primarily about "predicting the future" or finding clues in the Bible that correspond to people or events in our own day and age! The books they wrote do *not* contain hidden coded messages for people living in the 20th or 21st centuries! Rather, biblical prophets were mainly speaking to and writing for the people of their own time ... challenging people of their own world, especially their political rulers, to remain faithful to God's commandments and/or to repent and turn back to God if they had strayed. **What is Biblical Prophecy? Rev. Feliz Just S.J. Ph.D., catholic-resources.org**

18. What is apocalyptic literature?

- a. Literature that abounds in unfamiliar and extravagant symbolism
- b. An encouragement for those suffering persecution
- c. Arises out of a historical context of great turmoil, persecution, and oppression
- d. All of the above

Answer d) “In **biblical terminology**, an "apocalypse" is not an event, but a "revelation" that is recorded in written form: it is a piece of crisis literature that "reveals" truths about the past, present, and/or future in highly symbolic terms; the revelation often comes in dreams or visions, and usually needs to be interpreted with the help of an angel; it is usually intended to provide hope and encouragement for people in the midst of severe trials and tribulations.” **Revelation and Apocalyptic Literature, The Book of Revelation, Apocalyptic Literature, and Millennial Movements, Apocalypse: Definitions and Related Terms by Felix Just, S.J., Ph.D, catholic-resources.org**

19. Which of the following statements about Genesis 1-11 is not true.

- a. These chapters use metaphorical language to describe truths fundamental for our salvation.
- b. We can admit that these chapters borrow materials from non-biblical sources.
- c. The first eleven chapters of Genesis are not written in the same way as modern histories.
- d. Every word of these chapters are to be taken at face value, the world was created in seven days, etc.

Answer D) In the ancient world people wrote stories as a way of doing theology, and the mythical genre signaled to the listener, “I mean to present theology, not history.” When Israel wanted to present theology, they took up the myth. But since Israel’s theology itself was bound up with history, their myth-like writings could not signal that they meant to do theology *as opposed* to history. So the result was a *non-historical* story form whose theology frequently implied that the story was in some respects *historical*. **The Pontifical Biblical Commission**

20. A good reason not to read Jonah as an historical narrative is ___.

- a. Jonah is not " history but satire or parody.
- b. It is a humorous story that makes a serious point.
- c. The story is about prejudice, hatred, arrogance, and bigotry toward others.
- d. All of the above

Answer D) Jonah is not " history but satire or parody, a ridiculous story that makes a serious point" **p. 13**. To read Jonah, as history, is to mis-read according to genre — to mistake its real genre and therefore to "misconstrue its primary message". **p. 2**, (The book of Jonah) has to do with prejudice, hatred, arrogance, and bigotry toward others of the Assyrians. That is a serious message, indeed, far more significant and relevant than debating whether or not it is possible to survive under sea for three days prior to the invention of submarines.

McKenzie, Steven L. How to Read the Bible: History, Prophecy, Literature—Why Modern Readers Need to Know the Difference, and What It Means for Faith Today, pp. 1–21. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

21. How do we understand the story of Noah and the Flood?

- a. Scientific and historical evidence show there has never been a global flood that covered the entire earth.
- b. Science proves that all modern animals and humans did not descend from the passengers of a single vessel.
- c. The story shows the effects of sin and how only God can save us.
- d. All of the above

Answer D) There could not have been a worldwide flood as described in the Bible. U.S. Geological Survey states that the amount of water in the earth's atmosphere could not possibly cover the earth. By the 17th century, believers in the Genesis account faced the issue of reconciling the exploration of the New World and increased awareness of the global distribution of species with the older scenario whereby all life had sprung from a single point of origin on the slopes of Mount Ararat. ...The story of Noah's Ark employs a great deal of figurative language to express an absolute truth about God and our relationship with him: when we sin, it is as if we are drowning. However, God will spare us if we live justly as Noah did.

Do Catholics believe that Noah's Ark is a factual event? by Joe Paprocki, August 13, 2010, BUSTED HALO