

How Can I Understand the Bible Better?

We need to first understand what the Bible really is. The Bible is truly the Holy Word of God, yet it loses its heart when regarded outside the fullness of the risen Jesus alive in His Church. Jesus alone, after all, is the fullness of God's Word to us. Keep in mind, Christianity is not a religion of the book. It is a religion of the Word of God. The Word of God was originally put into writing for use in the liturgy. The idea of carrying a personal copy of scripture is quite recent in Christian history. We can be thankful for the printing press for this gift but we need to rediscover that this is secondary.

All true Bible study begins in the Mass and Sacraments. Not just in the liturgy of the Word, but in the whole mystery of the Mass. You cannot really understand the Word of God apart from the mysteries celebrated in our original apostolic Church. That's what it was written down for.

The Word of God, however, is not held captive in a book. The Word of God is Jesus who is alive in the Church He established, as well as in the message He revealed. This message is entrusted to His Mystical Body, the Church. The fullness of the Word of God is found in the living memory of this mystical Body.

The full Word of God shines forth in and from the Church. The Church is commissioned to bring the Word down through time and space to all people. She does this in her **Holy Liturgy**, her **Holy Teaching** and her **Holy Scriptures**. The New Testament comes from the living memory of our Church. The Old Testament also was put into writing for the Temple in anticipation of the Church.

When we begin to understand the mysteries of our Church, especially our Holy Mass, we begin to see what Scripture is all about. Holy Mass is a reflection that brings us the reality of what Jesus timelessly reports to His Father at His throne in heaven. To comprehend this eternal report it helps greatly to reflect on the Book of Revelation. Until we grasp Revelation as mystery rather than science we cannot really understand Holy Mass or the rest of the Bible. St. John gives us a sneak peek at the timeless mystical drama of heaven. Liturgy connects us with this. We need to wear the glasses of mystery to witness this holy drama.

The Book of Revelation is a good place to learn to think through the Bible as mystery rather than with a modern scientific mind. The Book of Revelation gives us a mystical window to help us develop a heavenly mindset. When we see the victory parade of Jesus before the Father we will look at the whole Bible in a new way. The way it was meant to be.