

Unit 1 Test Answer Key

God's Original Revelation

Multiple Choice

- | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. c | 8. d | 15. d | 22. d |
| 2. c | 9. c | 16. c | 23. a |
| 3. a | 10. b | 17. b | 24. b |
| 4. d | 11. a | 18. a | 25. c |
| 5. a | 12. d | 19. d | |
| 6. a | 13. d | 20. b | |
| 7. b | 14. d | 21. c | |

Matching

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 26. h | 30. e | 34. d |
| 27. i | 31. a | 35. c |
| 28. j | 32. g | |
| 29. b | 33. f | |

True or False

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 36. T | 39. T |
| 37. F – Magisterium | 40. F – oral tradition |
| 38. T | |

Essay

Responses will vary but should include the following points:

- A. Explain the difference between the fundamentalist and contextualist approaches to Sacred Scripture. Which approach do Catholics take and why?

Some Christians read the Bible literally. They believe every part of the Bible teaches not just religious truth but scientific and historical truth as well. Because of this, they do not support the scientific theories of evolution or the big bang theory. This is called the fundamentalist approach. This approach ignores the literary forms used by the Bible's human authors. It also does not take into consideration the historical setting in which the writings were developed.

Much of what is written in the Bible is scientifically and historically correct, but not all of it. It was never intended to be a science or history book in the way we understand those fields of study today. Offering scientific explanations and recalling historical events are not its main goals; the purpose of the Bible is to reveal religious truth. When the Bible teaches what God wants us to know for our salvation, it is fully accurate and true.

Catholics do not take the fundamentalist approach, but rather take a contextualist approach. Our interpretation of the Bible takes into account various contexts in order to understand the truth God is



revealing through the Bible's words. These contexts include the literary forms used, the historical situation at the time, the human authors' cultural beliefs and practices, and a number of other things. These contexts provide us with clues to help us better understand the intention of the human authors in expressing God's Word.

- B. How does the New Testament fulfill the Old Testament? Give at least three examples from Scripture to support your responses.

The New Testament fulfills the Old Testament in a number of ways. The Old Testament reveals God's covenants and saving actions prior to the coming of Jesus Christ. It is through the events of the Old Testament that God prepares us for the coming of Christ. He called a Chosen People, and over centuries he readied them to be open to and understand Christ. He prepared them through covenants and sent spirit-filled leaders who prefigured Christ. The earthly kingdom he allowed them to build prepared them for the Kingdom of God established by Christ.

At the end of the Old Testament, the Israelites are left hoping for a messiah, a savior, promised by the prophets. The New Testament acts as a sort of sequel to the Old Testament, in that it fulfills this hope with the Good News that Jesus Christ is the long-awaited Messiah. The New Testament reveals how God the Father sends his only Son, Jesus Christ, to initiate a New Covenant with his people. It is "New" because God has never before revealed himself like this. By becoming flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, God establishes a New Covenant that fulfills and perfects the Old Covenant.

The Old Testament leaves the sin of Adam separating us from God. In the New Testament, Jesus is the "New Adam" who reunites God and humanity. In the Old Testament, God establishes his Law through Moses, but the Old Law is not enough to save humanity from sin and death. In the New Testament, Jesus establishes his New Law of Love, fulfilling the meaning of the Old Law and bringing us the fullness of salvation. In the Old Testament, God provides priests, prophets, and kings to guide the people in keeping their covenant with him, but these earthly leaders are not enough to help the people stay faithful to the covenant. In the New Testament, Jesus completely and perfectly fulfills the roles of priest, prophet, and king, bringing the Old Covenant to fulfillment in his New Covenant.

- C. Explain why biblical criticism is important to truly understand Sacred Scripture. Offer an example in your response.

The human authors who wrote down the Bible's words thousands of years ago sometimes used phrases, analogies, and even ways of thinking that are foreign to us. To truly understand the writings of the Bible, we must do biblical exegesis to grasp what the human authors were trying to express. This requires that we pay attention to certain things so that we can better understand a text's true meaning.

Scholars employ various forms of biblical criticism to deepen our understanding of how the human authors expressed God's Word. When doing biblical criticism, there are different types of evaluations we can use to help us better understand the text including: textual criticism, source criticism, literary criticism, form criticism, historical criticism, and redaction criticism. For example, when Jesus suggests that if your eye causes you to sin, you should cut it out, we should not take that literally! We must know that Jesus is using a figure of speech called hyperbole. This is an example of literary criticism.

Though each area of study seems to focus on a narrow and separate field, in reality they are very connected. Because all of them seek the same goal, they cannot work in isolation from one another. They rely on, and often blend into, one another.

