

Journey Through Scripture

P A R O U S I A



T H E B I B L E A N D T H E M A S S

STUDY GUIDE



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WELCOME TO JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Journey Through Scripture is the St. Paul Center's dynamic Bible study program designed to help ordinary Catholics grow in their knowledge of Scripture while deepening their understanding of the riches of our faith. Distinctively Catholic, Journey Through Scripture reads the Bible from the heart of the Church, considering both the Old and New Testaments and how they work together. It's grounded in history, yet it actively engages topics faced by today's Catholics. More than just an ordinary Bible study, it's biblical catechesis.

Parousia: The Bible and the Mass is the fifth study in the Journey Through Scripture series. In ten beautifully produced lessons, you will learn that liturgy is not a matter of a few select verses taken in isolation. It's a major theme that runs through the entire Bible, from Genesis to the Book of Revelation. During this study, we'll make stops along the way—in the Law, the Prophets, the Histories, and the Writings. We'll see how the New Testament is concealed in the Old—and how the Old is revealed in the New.

We'll discover that all of God's action, in creation and redemption, is ordered to communion with us in the Eucharist. The Mass is the explicit sign of His New Covenant with humankind.

Study Components

Parousia: The Bible and the Mass is designed for both group and individual study. It contains seven possible components, all of which can be ordered at JourneyThroughScripture.com.

- This study guide
- *Parousia: The Bible and the Mass* Leader Guide supplement
- *Parousia: The Bible and the Mass* DVD set or video streaming

This study is based on four of Dr. Scott Hahn's books that have Eucharistic themes and are recommended reading for the study:

- *The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth*
- *Letter and Spirit: From Written Text to Living Word in the Liturgy*
- *Consuming the Word: The New Testament and the Eucharist in the Early Church*
- *The Fourth Cup: Unveiling the Mystery of the Last Supper and the Cross*

These books are available for purchase at JourneyThroughScripture.com.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

This study guide will serve as just that—your guide through the duration of the study. The first thing to note is that this guide contains the Scripture verses discussed, saint quotes about the liturgy, lesson summary notes, review and discussion questions, and memory verses.

At the end of every lesson, you will see a “Going Deeper” section with suggested readings from Sacred Scripture, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and Dr. Hahn’s titles mentioned in the previous page to enrich your study. Also included is a “praxis,” which can be a practical application of the content in the lesson or an exercise to practice when attending Mass.

Sample Journey Through Scripture Session

Journey Through Scripture is intended to be a very flexible study. It can be an individual study for personal enrichment, or a faith-building exercise with friends or fellow parishioners. Below is an example of how a typical session might run:

Amount of Time	Section
5 minutes	Opening Prayer
25–30 minutes	Video
10 minutes	Break
10–15 minutes	Review questions (omit if running short on time)
10–15 minutes	Discussion questions
5 minutes	Review of memory verse and “Going Deeper”
1 minute	Closing prayer

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Lesson 1

BIBLICAL WORSHIP IS RITUAL AND SACRIFICE



THE SAINTS AND THE EUCHARIST

“SINCE WE ARE members of Him, and are nourished by creation—and He Himself holds the creation, causing the sun to rise and rain to fall as he wishes—so He professed that the cup from creation was His very own blood. He affirmed the bread from creation to be His very body from which our bodies grow.”

– *St. Irenaeus of Lyons (c. 130–202)*

Scripture Verses Discussed in Lesson 1

- Genesis 4:3–8
- Genesis 8:20–22
- Genesis 15:9–21
- Exodus 12:1–28

LESSON 1 SUMMARY

Where is the Mass in the Bible?

As a zealous Evangelical high schooler, Scott Hahn would challenge his Catholic classmates with this question: “Where in the New Testament do you find the sacrifice of the Mass?” Not having a clear understanding of Scripture, his classmates could not refute Scott’s question and some became convinced that their Catholic faith had no biblical foundations.

It would be years later that Scott would come to understand the true meaning of Christ’s words and actions in the Upper Room and on Calvary. He discovered that the Mass was everywhere in the Bible and that the Bible was all about the Mass.

Liturgy in the Old Testament

Biblical commentary by early Church Fathers guided Scott to better understand the unity of Scripture. “The New Testament is concealed in the Old and the Old Testament is revealed in the New” was the adage of St. Augustine.

In both the Old and New Testament, the Scriptures *presume*, *prescribe*, and *describe* the ritual life of God’s people. The Bible gives both the content and the context of the liturgy, even as the liturgy provides our context for understanding the Scriptures.

What is liturgy? Liturgy is public service or public work. It is the ritual public worship observed by the people of God both in the Old and in the New Testament.



In the Book of Genesis the cosmos is portrayed as a sanctuary for God’s presence, echoed later by the characteristics of Israel’s tabernacle and Temple. The culmination of creation is when God creates man, namely Adam and Eve. As lord over creation, Adam is given the duties of priest of the sanctuary of Eden, to “till [the garden] and keep it” (Gen 2:15). These two actions, *abad* and *shamar* in Hebrew, are his main vocation. But after the Fall, worship and sacrifice change. Adam’s son Cain, filled with envy, kills his own brother Abel in the context of a ritual sacrifice.

Indeed, in Genesis we see the patriarchs performing sacrifices, from Noah in an act of thanksgiving after the flood to Abraham sealing his covenant oaths. As head of their households, fathers perform priestly duties, offering sacrifice for themselves and on behalf of their families, and passing that duty on to their first-born sons. The patriarchs are priests and liturgy is central to the religion they observe.

Liturgy is also at the heart of Israel's Exodus from Egypt. As part of their liberation from bondage, God's people observe the Passover ritual, which was instituted as a memorial meal to be observed by future generations. The law of Moses is itself liturgical, instructing Israel in the manner of worship, detailing even vestments and furnishings.

Even entering the Promised Land requires liturgical action from the tribes of Israel. The battle of Jericho is led not by military force but by priestly action, processing around the city blowing trumpets. Once they are settled and at rest from their enemies, God asks David's son, Solomon, to build Him a house, a temple in Jerusalem where sacrifice may be offered to Him daily.

When prophets begin to rage against the Temple priests, it is not because liturgy or the priesthood is the problem. The problem, as always, is the human heart. It is liturgy done badly and dishonestly, and this is the core of Israel's downfall.

Liturgy in the New Testament

The centrality of liturgy does not vanish with the coming of the Messiah. Jesus observes the rituals of Israel. He goes to synagogue, makes pilgrimages, visits the Temple, and pays the Temple tax. He does not abolish liturgy but instead establishes new and more powerful rites in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist celebrated in the Upper Room in the context of a Passover. It is a memorial meal where He is the Lamb of God, the Bread of Life, offering His flesh and blood in atonement for sins.

So too, the early Church, learning from her Lord, leads a rich liturgical life. The Acts of the Apostles and other New Testament books include accounts of the Apostles observing rituals: they baptize, break bread, anoint, and lay hands on people. They absolve sins and observe ritual meals. In the Letters to the Romans, Corinthians, and Galatians, St. Paul addresses proper etiquette for meals shared in the presence of God. The Letter to the Hebrews and the Book of Revelation are more focused on the liturgy, portraying the Christian Church as priestly, worshipping around an altar vested for service. *All the Scriptures, the Old and New Testament, were written down for the sake of ritual worship.*



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is a liturgy?

2. Give two examples of ritual sacrifice in the Old Testament.

3. What ritual actions do we see the Apostles observing in Scripture?

4. What unique themes do we see in both the Letter to the Hebrews and the Book of Revelation?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is there anything in this lesson that you have just heard for the first time? Is there anything in this lesson that struck you?

2. Why is it important for Christians to understand the meaning of Old Testament ritual and sacrifice to fully understand the Mass?

3. If someone were to ask you where the Mass is in the Bible, how would you summarize what you've learned in this lesson?
