

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish
Religious Education Office
203 East Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06855
Tel: (203) 866 1189
<http://stthomasnorwalk.org>

Lesson nr. 9 – Tuesday, December 15, 2020. – 8th Grade HANDOUT number # 1

Dear St. Thomas 8th Grade Students:

I hope and pray you are done with your Christmas Shopping and you are preparing to have a very Merry Christmas?☺

As we continue on with our 8th Grade classes let's go back for a moment and re - cap all we have learned so far this year:

We have learned a lot about the Bible: Very important for us is to always remember that:

B....., more specifically OT..... is a R..... I (E)
..... of P.....H....., of A..... H..... and of H.....
T..... .

BIBLE; THE SOURCE OF OUR BELIEFS; How do we know about JESUS CHRIST?

- **Bible** - the word comes to us from the Greek language and stands for: **A COLLECTION OF HOLY BOOKS (*ta biblia ta hagia*)** in other words A LIBRARY OF BOOKS INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- Bible is divided into TWO PARTS; **Old Testament** and **New Testament**
- Catholic Christians accept **46 Books of Old Testament** as Inspired, HOLY and **27 Books of New Testament**, and such number of Books differs from other Protestant Christian Denominations (some of the Books that Catholic Christian accept as Holy, Protestant Denominations do not, they see such Books as ONLY APOCRYPHICAL - SECONDARY; DEUTEROCANONICAL)

WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

- **Many People**, we call them **INSPIRED AUTHORS**. Some we do know by name; for instance: Isaiah, Jeremiah in the Old Testament or Mark, John, Paul in the New Testament)

- The most important part of the OLD TESTAMENT are the first **FIVE BOOKS, called either TORAH in Hebrew, PENTATEUCH in Greek of just simply the Law of Moses.** Old Testament Books of TORAH were edited in the form (translation) as we have it today by the end of so - called BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY that would be between the years 597 BCE and 520 BCE.
- Up until 1946 we did not have copies of Old Testament MANUSCRIPTS that would be dated back to V to IX Centuries AD. Then, due to the great discovery of so - called DEAD SEA SCROLLS in Judean Desert in West Bank, Palestine, scientists discovered the ENTIRE HEBREW BIBLE (Old Testament) with some of the copies of the BOOKS dating back to 3rd and 2nd century BCE.
- **The WRITTEN** composition of the Old Testament took place between years 1000 BCE (King David era) to 167 BCE (Maccabean Period). **Almost 800 YEARS!!**
- **New Testament in its WRITTEN** for, as we have it today was edited **between years 55 AD to 150 AD.** The EARLIEST, most CLOSE TO ORIGINAL TEXT MANUSCRIPTS of the New Testament were found in the 40's and 50's of the XX Century in EGYPT, and date back to 125 to 200 AD (like Bodmer Library with Papyrus P66 that is almost the complete Gospel of John dated to years 125 AD to 175 AD and also P75 which contains Luke's and John's Gospels copies dated to 175 AD to 220 AD); these MANUSCRIPTS are written in the ALEXANDRIAN form of the Greek Language.
- **GOSPEL of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John** are CATHOLIC PRIMARY sources of information about Jesus Christ and His Life. They were written respectively: Mark 65 - 70 but maybe even as early as 55 AD, then Matthew 70 - 80 AD then Luke 80 - 85 AD and the Gospel of John finished by 95 - 98 AD.
- **New Testament** writings include in addition to 4 Gospels so called Acts of the Apostles, Letters of the Apostles, (Catholic Epistles) and the Book of Revelation (Apocalypse). They include 13 Letters of St. Paul (9 to Churches like Romans, Thessalonians, etc. and 4 to INDIVIDUALS like Titus, Timothy and Philemon), Letters of John, Peter, Jude and Letter to the Hebrews.