

CHAPTER 2:

PROPHECY AND PROMISE

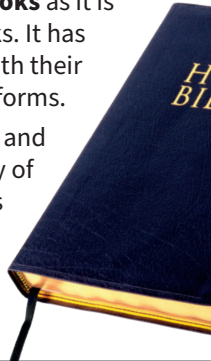
Knowledge organiser

Key vocabulary	
revelation	The way in which God is made known to humans, which Catholics believe is most perfectly done through Jesus.
Dei Verbum	The Latin phrase for ‘Word of God’; also a document from the Second Vatican Council explaining how Jesus is the Word of God.
scripture	The holy book(s) of a religion; in Christianity it is the Bible.
tradition	Also known as Apostolic Tradition, these are actions and teachings of Jesus faithfully passed on from one generation of bishops to the next.
magisterium	From the Latin term <i>magister</i> , meaning teacher or master; it is the authority of the Church to teach.
inspired	‘God breathed’; the belief that the Holy Spirit guides an individual to act or write what is good and true.
canon	the agreed list of books that make up the Catholic Bible
Old Testament	The books of the first half of the Bible showing the creation of the world and God’s relationship with the Jewish people.
New Testament	The books of the second half of the Bible which tell the story of Jesus’ life, ministry and death, and the establishment of the early Church.
Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek	Languages spoken in the area where Jesus grew up; some books of the Bible were written in these languages.
Tanakh	The Jewish Bible.
Liturgy of the Word	The part of Mass where the word of God is proclaimed (announced).

OPTIONS	
Artistic expression	Art is often used in religion to express scripture in a beautiful and engaging way, for example <b>The Book of Kells</b> , which is an ancient and beautiful handwritten book that contains the illuminated Gospels.
Lived religion	<b>Biblical idioms</b> have developed over time to become part of everyday language in the UK. Their presence reflects how influential the Bible has been in the UK. They are used to enhance everyday language and to express deeper meanings in a more interesting way.

**The Bible**

- **Bible references** are made up of book, chapter and verse. They help Catholics to find specific passages.
- The Bible is **read in translation**, which means that it is not usually read today in the original languages it was written in (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek), as most people do not speak these languages now.
- Catholics believe the Bible’s writers were **inspired by the Holy Spirit**, so the true author of the Bible is God.
- The Bible is like a **library of books** as it is made up of many smaller books. It has around 40 different authors, with their own backgrounds and literary forms.
- **The Tanakh** (the Jewish Bible) and the **Old Testament** share many of the same books, however Jews and Christians arrange and interpret them differently.




**How is God’s message revealed to Catholics?**

Scripture	Tradition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Bible is also known as <b>sacred scripture</b>. Christians believe it is how God reveals information that will aid humanity’s salvation.</li><li>• Together, the Old Testament and New Testament explain the <b>history of salvation</b>.</li><li>• The <b>Old Testament</b> reveals prophecies about Jesus and key information about God’s plan for salvation. In the <b>New Testament</b>, the prophecies and promises in the Old Testament are fulfilled through Jesus.</li><li>• The Catechism teaches that the Old Testament has ‘intrinsic value’, meaning that it is essential and valuable in its own right.</li><li>• Catholics believe scripture is without error, which means that through it God speaks to humans and gives them key messages about salvation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Dei Verbum</i> 9 teaches that sacred tradition is just as important to Catholics as sacred scripture. Both are seen as the <b>word of God</b>.</li><li>• Tradition comes from the words and actions of the <b>apostles</b>, who were given the <b>Holy Spirit</b> at Pentecost. This gave them authority.</li><li>• Tradition has developed teachings on the sanctity of life, the sacraments, the Creeds and the Mass.</li><li>• Tradition is alive, therefore as the Church grows and changes, so does tradition.</li></ul>

**The magisterium**

- The magisterium is the **teaching authority** of the Catholic Church, which has been given to the Pope and the bishops so they can faithfully and authoritatively teach Catholics how to follow the word of God.
- The authority was given to **St Peter and the apostles** who founded the early Church and started sacred tradition.
- This authority is passed down to **every Pope and the bishops**, who use it to teach the word of God.



**How is scripture used by Catholics today?**

- The Catholic Church uses scripture as the foundation of Mass. In the **Liturgy of the Word**, Catholics hear Bible readings that help them to feel closer to God and to understand what God expects of them.
- Catholics use scripture in prayer, for example in the **Rosary**, which is connected to key events in the Gospels. Catholics meditate on events in the Gospels when they pray the Mysteries of the Rosary.

