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Answers for Apologetic Catholic FAQs

The questions are found in *Catholic Essentials: An Overview of the Faith*. The questions and answers have been reviewed by the Subcommittee on the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, as part of the review of *Catholic Essentials*, and have been found in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Chapter 1

- How is God the author of the Sacred Scriptures?**
God is the author of the sacred scriptures because all of the divinely revealed and contained in the Bible have been written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. God inspired the human authors of the Bible. It was as true authors that they wrote whatever God wanted written, and no more.
- Who wrote the Bible?**
Seven human authors wrote the words of the Bible. Both the Old and New Testaments developed from an oral tradition in which stories were passed by word of mouth over generations. Much of the Hebrew scriptures was coded during the Babylonian captivity. Originally the first five books of the Old Testament were attributed to Moses. More accurately, entire communities, under God's inspiration, helped to record the scriptures. A similar process for the New Testament writings took place. The gospels were written thirty to sixty years after Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Why should Christians bother reading the Old Testament?**
The Old Testament is important to Christians for several reasons. The books are divinely inspired. They are read in liturgy and contain many beautiful passages. The books of the Old Testament are a testimony to the entire story of Israel's history, including a prophecy of the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.
- Is it true Catholics do not use or read the Bible?**
On the contrary, Catholics use the Bible regularly in many ways. The Bible is a part of the Church's liturgy, especially the Mass, and of the Church's official prayer, the Divine Office. Catholics also use the Bible for personal prayer. Scripture study groups are a common part of parish life. Scripture has always held an important part in Church life. In the fourth century, St. Jerome famously said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

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