

Newman Institute
Introducing the Old Testament
The Gospel of Mark Continued
(2)
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Welcome

- Session 1: The Old Testament
- Session 2: Mark continued

The Old Testament

- Whose “Old Testament”?
- The Bible of the Jews 24 (39)
- The Protestant Old Testament (39)
- The Catholic Old Testament (46)
- The Orthodox Old Testament (51)

- The Jewish Bible or the **Tanakh**
- Torah (Pentateuch)
- Nevi'im (Prophets)
- Khetuvim (Writings)

- The Reformed Old Testament
- Identical to the Jewish Bible
- Yes to books written in Hebrew
- No to extra books in Greek (even translations)

- The Catholic Old Testament
- Based on the Latin (Vulgate)
- Based on the Greek (Septuagint)
- 39 Books of the Hebrew Bible
- Plus 7 extra books and additions

- Books: Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch, 1 + 2 Maccabees
- Additions: Esther 10-16, Dan 3:24-90, 13 and 14.
- The Deuterocanonical books (Catholic) or the Apocrypha (Reformed)

- Challenge and benefit
- It can feel very remote
- Parts are extremely violent
- Parts seem to us immoral
- You need to know a lot

- Reading the Old Testament today
- It really is a library
- It reflects a long history
- It contains many different kinds of writings
- It shows an evolution in faith

- Many different kinds of writing
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- Creation myths (more than two!)
- Sagas and legends
- “History”
- Prophecy
- Poetry and hymns
- Wisdom books
- Apocalyptic

- Novellas and short stories
- One “comic” book (at least one!)

	Verses total in the Bible	Verses used in the Missal	% used in the Missal
NT Gospels	3997	848 (1962)	22.4% (1962)
		2181	57.8% (1969)
NT Epistles	4178	461	11%
		1061	25.4%
OT Readings	25,044	255	1.02%
		932	3.7% (= 1.2% p.a.)

- Use in the Liturgy
- Though difficult, it is also the Word of God
- It was the Bible of Jesus himself
- St Paul used it to explore the meaning of Jesus
- Impossible to read the New Testament without it

Pentateuch

- Genesis: Dec 8; Holy Family; Lent B (1, 2,) Easter vigil readings (1, 2); Pentecost Vigil (1)
- Exodus: Lent 3; Holy Thursday; Easter Vigil (3); Pentecost Vigil (2); Corpus Christi; Sundays 18B
- Leviticus: Sunday 6B
- Numbers: Jan 1; Sunday 26B
- Deuteronomy: Holy Trinity; Sundays 4B; 9B; 22B; 31B.

Historical Books

Joshua: Sunday 21B
 1 Samuel: Sunday 2B
 2 Samuel: Advent 4
 1 Kings: Sundays 19B; 32B
 2 Kings: Sunday 17B
 2 Chronicles: Lent 4

Wisdom Books

- Job: Sundays 5B; 12B
- Proverbs: Sunday 20B
- Wisdom: Sundays 13B; 25B; 28B
- Sirach: Christmas 2; Holy Family

Books of the Prophets

- Isaiah: Advent 1, 2, 3; Christmas Vigil, Dawn, Midnight and Day; Epiphany; Baptism; Annunciation; Palm Sunday; Good Friday; Easter Vigil 4, 5; Sundays 7B; 23B; 24B; 29B
- Jeremiah: Advent 5; Lent 5; Sundays 16B; 30B
- Baruch: Easter Vigil 6
- Ezekiel: Easter Vigil 7; Pentecost Vigil 3; Sundays 11B; 14B
- Daniel: Sundays 33B; 34B
- Hosea: Sunday 8B
- Joel: Pentecost Vigil 4
- Amos: Sunday 15B
- Jonah: Sunday 3B

- Christians reading the Jewish Bible
- The Jewish People and their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible (2001)
- Implicit and explicit authority of the Hebrew Bible
- To be read in its own historical and literary setting
- To be read also in the light of Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection for us

Mark Continued

- The shortest Gospel (16 chapters)
- The earliest Gospel (Matthew and Luke are expanded editions)
- The first "life of Jesus" (using biographical conventions of the day)
- A one-year ministry (followed by Matthew and Luke but not by John)
- The period of charism (c. ad 30-60)
- The period of memory (c. ad 60-90)
- The period of institution (c. ad 90-120)
- The deaths of the first generation of witnesses
- The special context of Mark's audience / community / "church"
- The First Jewish-Roman War (66-74 CE)
- The first of three major rebellions by the Jews against the Roman Empire fought in Roman-controlled Judea, resulting in the destruction of Jewish towns, the displacement of its people and the appropriation of land for Roman military use, as well as the destruction of the Jewish Temple and polity.

Mark 13

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

Mark 13:1 As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" 2 Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

Mark 13:3 When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 4 "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" 5 Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. 6 Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. 8 For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Persecution Foretold

Mark 13:9 "As for yourselves, beware, for they will hand you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. 10 And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. 11 When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak but the Holy Spirit. 12 Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 13 and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

The Desolating Sacrilege

Mark 13:14 "But when you see the desolating sacrilege set up where it ought not to be (let the reader understand), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains; 15 the one on the housetop must not go down or enter to take anything from the house; 16 the one in the field must not turn back to get a coat. 17 Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! 18 Pray that it may not be in winter. 19 For in those days there will be suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now and never will be. 20 And if the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would be saved, but for the sake of the elect, whom he chose,

he has cut short those days. 21 And if anyone says to you at that time, ‘Look! Here is the Messiah!’ or ‘Look! There he is!’—do not believe it. 22 False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. 23 But be alert; I have already told you everything.

The Coming of the Son of Man

Mark 13:24 “But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Mark 13:26 “Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

Mark 13:28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

Mark 13:32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

- Serious earthquakes in 60 and 63 (Tacitus, Annals 15.44)
- The Roman army was defeated by the Parthians in 62 (Tacitus, Annals 15:13-17)
- In 64, Christians in Rome were blamed for the fire (Tacitus again)
- 68 Nero committed suicide.
- 69 The year of the four emperors
- During the siege of Jerusalem, the general in charge, Vespasian, become Emperor
- Titus, his son and later successor took charge.
- Eventually, Titus won the war and held a triumph in Rome.
- So, just before or just after the destruction of the city and its Temple.

Mark continued

- A mixed church
- Internal tensions
- External challenges
- Time of tremendous upheaval
- Question of faith, practice and identity
- Not so unlike our own time?

Conversation