



October Bible Tidbits—Books of The Bible #1

A selection of facts and information to help you discover more of the riches about Sacred Scripture. **Over the next several months we will take a journey through the books of the Bible.**

Each month we'll offer you several new tidbits in print and on-line: In print on the reverse side of the OLV Activities Calendar; On-line on OLV's Web Page (ourladyofvictorytallmadge.parishesonline.com). The Tidbits are on the Home Page—below the Question of the Week!

The first five books of the Old Testament--also the books of the Jewish Torah.

- **Genesis:** Genesis is considered the Preface of the Bible because it sets the stage for God's plan of salvation. In Genesis we are told of creation, sin and God's first promises to save humankind. In the first eleven chapters of Genesis we come to know the God who has created us in his divine image, and who continues to love us despite our sinfulness. In chapters 12 – 50 we read the call of Abraham and the early beginnings of the call of the chosen people of God. The stories of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as well as the powerful narrative of Joseph are found in these last chapters of Genesis.
- **Exodus:** It would not be an exaggeration to say that Exodus is the most important book of the Torah and perhaps of the entire Hebrew Bible because it contains the two basic experiences which made the Jewish people into a nation: the Exodus event in which God saved the Israelites from the hands of the Egyptians through parting the waters of the Red Sea, and then makes them "his own" by revealing to them his will, carved in the tables of the Law given to Moses.
- **Leviticus:** This book was written to provide a guide for God's newly redeemed people. It is a book to instruct them in how to worship, how to serve and how to obey God.
- **Numbers:** This book can be referred to as the Book of Wanderings for it is Israel's experiences as they wandered in the wilderness. This book was written in part as a lesson to those who read it: Although it is necessary to pass through the wilderness, you don't have to live there.
- **Deuteronomy:** This book portrays Moses delivering a series of teachings to God's people on the plains of Moab. His speeches were to call people to obey their God and to teach them how they were to live in the Promises Land. These texts were edited and added to in the later centuries, particularly following Israel's exile in Babylon. They were edited to include stronger warnings to Israel to keep their covenant relationship with God through right worship and moral living according to the Law so that God would protect them. The people listened to Moses because they knew that God spoke through him. Therefore, these additions were put in the mouth of Moses so that the people would listen and heed them.

Historical Books of the Old Testament: (*Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ruth, then Ezra and Nehemiah, along with Esther.*) The Historical Books recount the stories of the conquest of the Promised Land. We hear the stories of the 12 tribes of Israel and their relationships with one another.

- **Joshua:** The first chapter of Joshua promises that God will make their victory of the Promised Land possible if the people will obey the law given by Moses, which they have accepted. Chapters 2 - 12 describe the miraculous conquest of the land by the tribes under Joshua's leadership, and chapters 13-22 tell how Joshua divided the land among the tribes and settled all the boundary and territorial disputes. The last two chapters of Joshua give Joshua's final words, his last will and testament, in which he exhorts Israel to remain faithful after his death, and then makes the people solemnly renew their covenant promise to God.