

# OLD TESTAMENT



## GOD'S SAVING PLAN

GA-SI

# INTRODUCTION

# RETURN

Esther

Malachi

Ezra

## The GREAT ADVENTURE

A Journey Through the Bible

Egypt

Code of Hammurabi, 1760 BC

1800

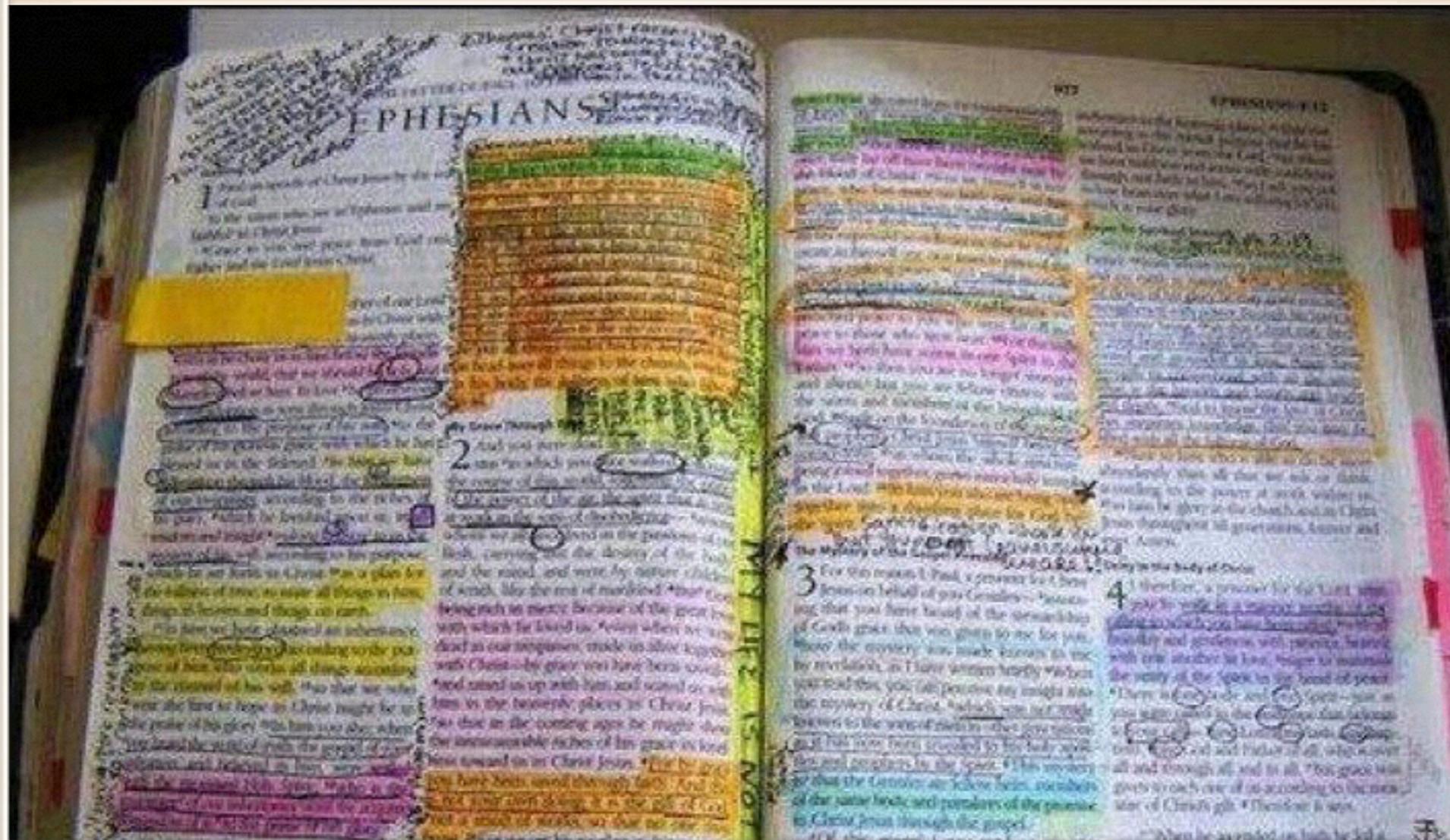
1700



# OUR BIBLE



## A QUICK REVIEW OF SOME BASICS



# THE BIBLE

- ❖ Lets look at the bible we have
  - ❖ **Imprimatur** - **Nihil Obstat**
  - ❖ Table of contents
    - ❖ note - *Groupings of books*

# OLD TESTAMENT

- ❖ No definitive canon in first century
- ❖ Some Hebrew traditions as many as 90 books, others as few as 24.
- ❖ In early Jewish thought, a book makes the hands "unclean" if it is divinely inspired.
- ❖ The **Mishnah** documents this variance.

# OLD TESTAMENT

- ❖ **Pharisees** - believed in the Law, the Prophets and the Writings (Tanakh) - but no definitive text. Torah, the Nevi'im and the Ketuvim.
- ❖ **Sadducees** - believed *only* in The first five books - The Law, (Torah) the writings of Moses.
  - ❖ What did **Jesus** believe and use?

# OLD TESTAMENT

❖ Luke 24:44

❖ He said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you ... that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.”

# SEPTUAGINT

- ❖ Septuagint LXX - 280 BC - The translation into Greek in Alexandria and then sent throughout the Diaspora.
  - ❖ Why Greek?
    - ❖ 46 books - The Catholic Old Testament
    - ❖ 'Canon' for every Israelite *outside* of Judea

# OLD TESTAMENT

- ❖ Septuagint - would have been the “canon” of Galilee, even though the Targum would likely be preached.
- ❖ Jesus would have been familiar with the LXX
  - ❖ The Evangelists, wrote in Greek and *when quoting OT prophecies*, quoted consistent with the LXX. (See for example Mt 1:23\*)

# WHY STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT?



IS THE OLD TESTAMENT  
RELEVANT, IN LIGHT OF  
THE NEW TESTAMENT?



# WHY THE OLD TESTAMENT

- ❖ Jesus in Luke 24:25-27 - To the men walking with him on the road to Emmaus after the resurrection. “...He said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures.”

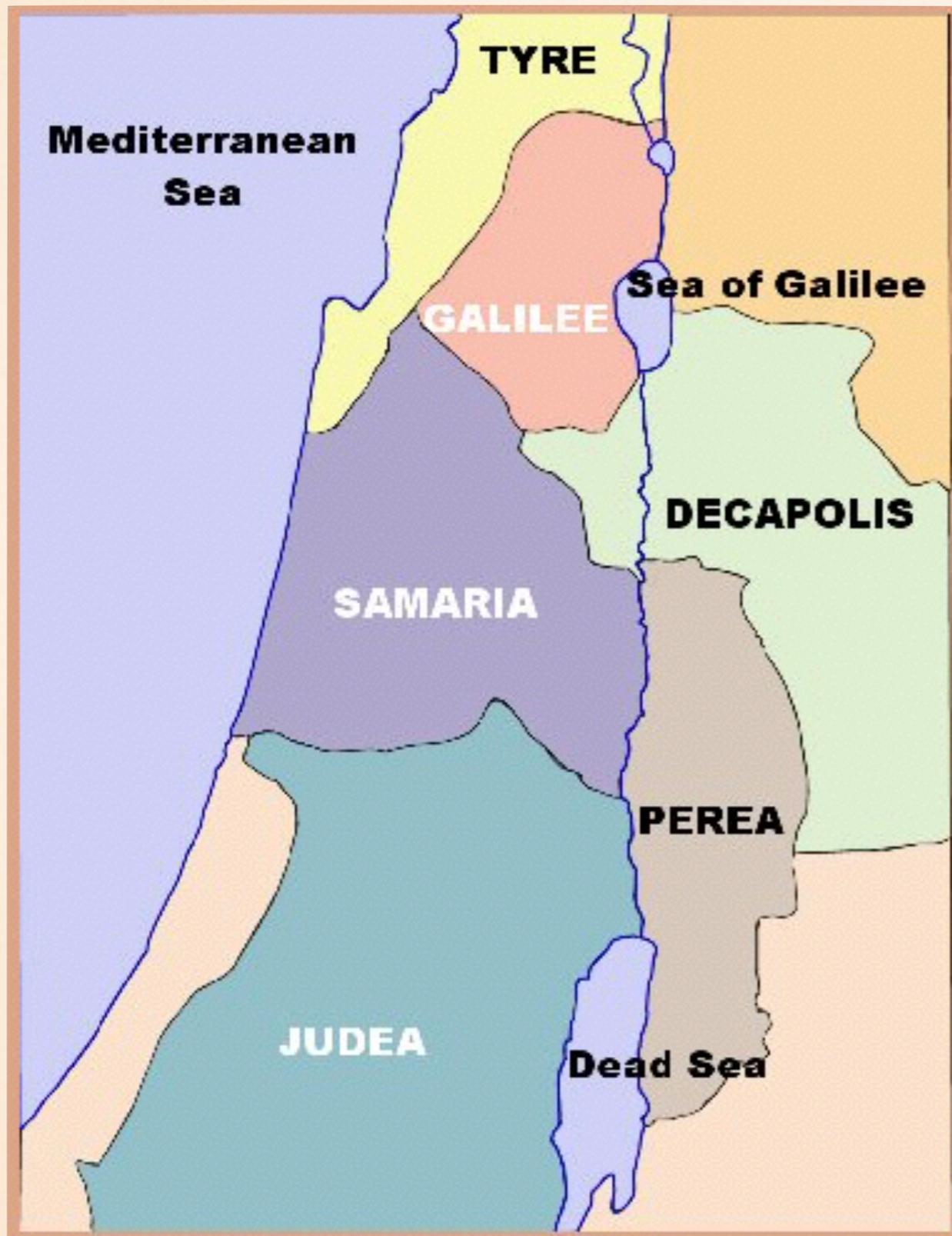
# WHY THE OLD TESTAMENT

❖ St Paul in 1Cor 10:11 - “Now these things happened to them (Israelites) as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ... do not become idolaters as some of them did ...”

❖ What is the context of this instruction?

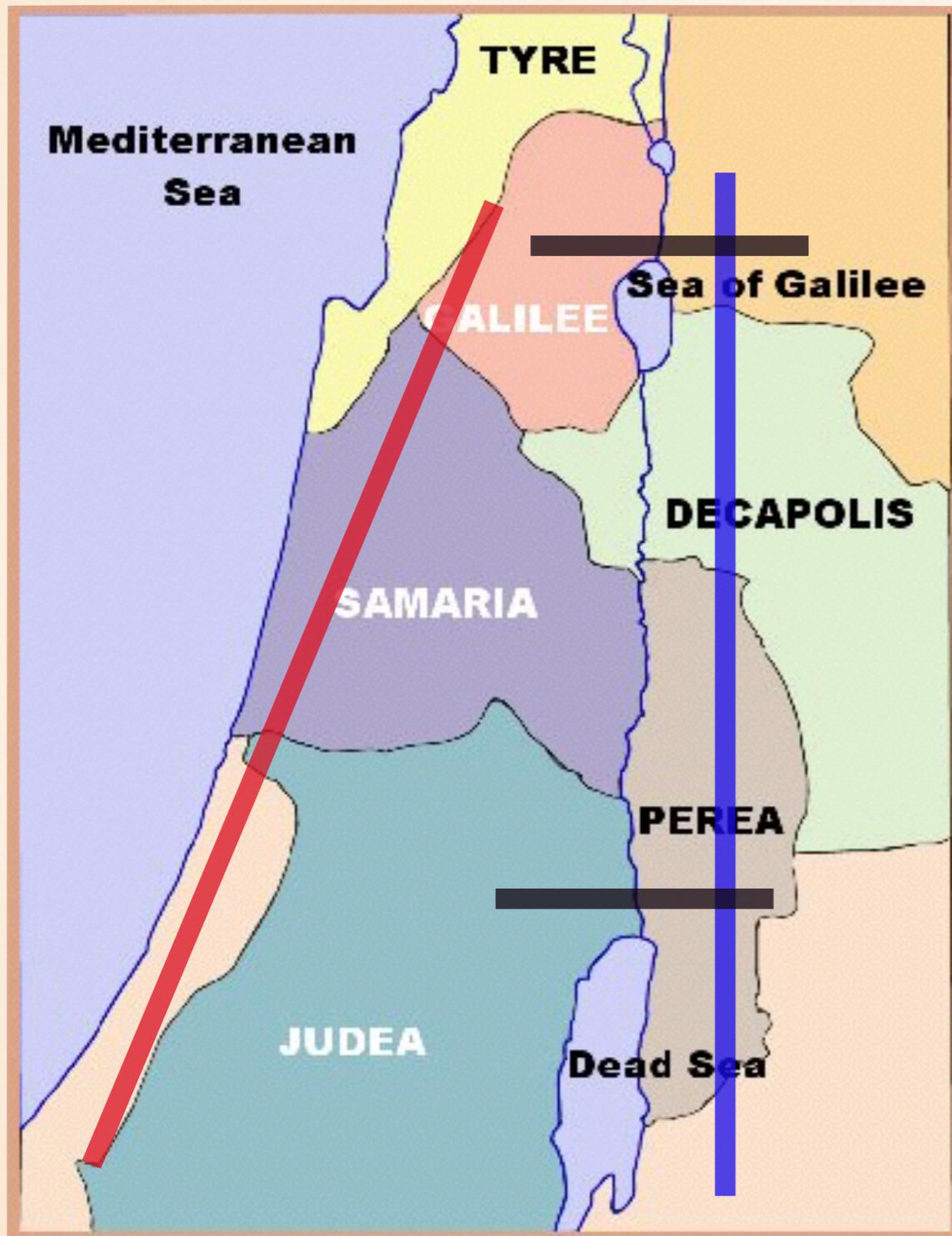
❖ **Allegory**

THE LAND  
AND  
THE DATES



**Galilee, Samaria, Judea**

- ❖ Judea - land of Abraham and Isaac
- ❖ Samaria - Jacob
- ❖ Galilee - first to be lost - Greek/Aramaic.
- ❖ **Via Maris / Kings Highway**
- ❖ 200 x 80 sq.mi.  
Dead Sea at 1400 <SL
- ❖ Jordan runs 156 miles dropping 3,135 ft in its run.



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TURKEY

Caspian Sea

IRAN

Aleppo

Latakia

Hamah

Euphrates

Tigris

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

CYPRUS

LEBANON

DAMASCUS

IRAQ

ISRAEL

JORDAN

SAUDI ARABIA

EGYPT

Persian Gulf

RED SEA

# MAJOR BIBLICAL DATES

- ❖ 1950 BC - Call of Abraham
- ❖ 1700 BC - Israel in Egypt
- ❖ 1280 BC - Moses and Exodus
- ❖ 1000 BC - David
- ❖ 930 BC - Divided Kingdom
- ❖ 722 BC - Israel (10) Assyrian Dispersion
- ❖ 587 BC - Judah (2) Babylonian Exile

# MAJOR BIBLICAL DATES

- ❖ 70 year exile, then Temple Rebuilt
- ❖ 333 BC - Alexander the Great
- ❖ 167 BC - Maccabean Revolt
- ❖ 60 BC - Rome occupies Jerusalem
- ❖ 2-4 BC - Jesus Born - 33 AD Crucified
- ❖ 70 AD - Temple Destroyed on August 10.

HOW TO READ  
THE BIBLE

# SENSES OF SCRIPTURE

- ❖ CCC 115 - 119
- ❖ **Literal** - Who are the author and the audience, When it was written, and Genre of Book.
- ❖ **Spiritual** - This is what makes it a *living* Word.
  - ❖ Allegorical
  - ❖ Moral
  - ❖ Anagogical

# GEN 3:15

- ❖ It is generally safe to look at the *literal* sense of the NT with a more literalist view;
- ❖ while looking at OT both in the *literal* sense and looking for that *allegory* that might point to Jesus.
  - ❖ Case in point: Genesis 3:15

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# HEBREW WORDS

- ❖ **Gen 2:7** - formed 'man out of the clay' ; formed 'adam out of the adamah'
  - ❖ Hebrew contains many play on words, sometimes worth investigating.
- ❖ **Name changes:**
  - Abram** - exalted father; **Abraham** - father of many.
  - Sarai** - princess; **Sarah** - princess of many.

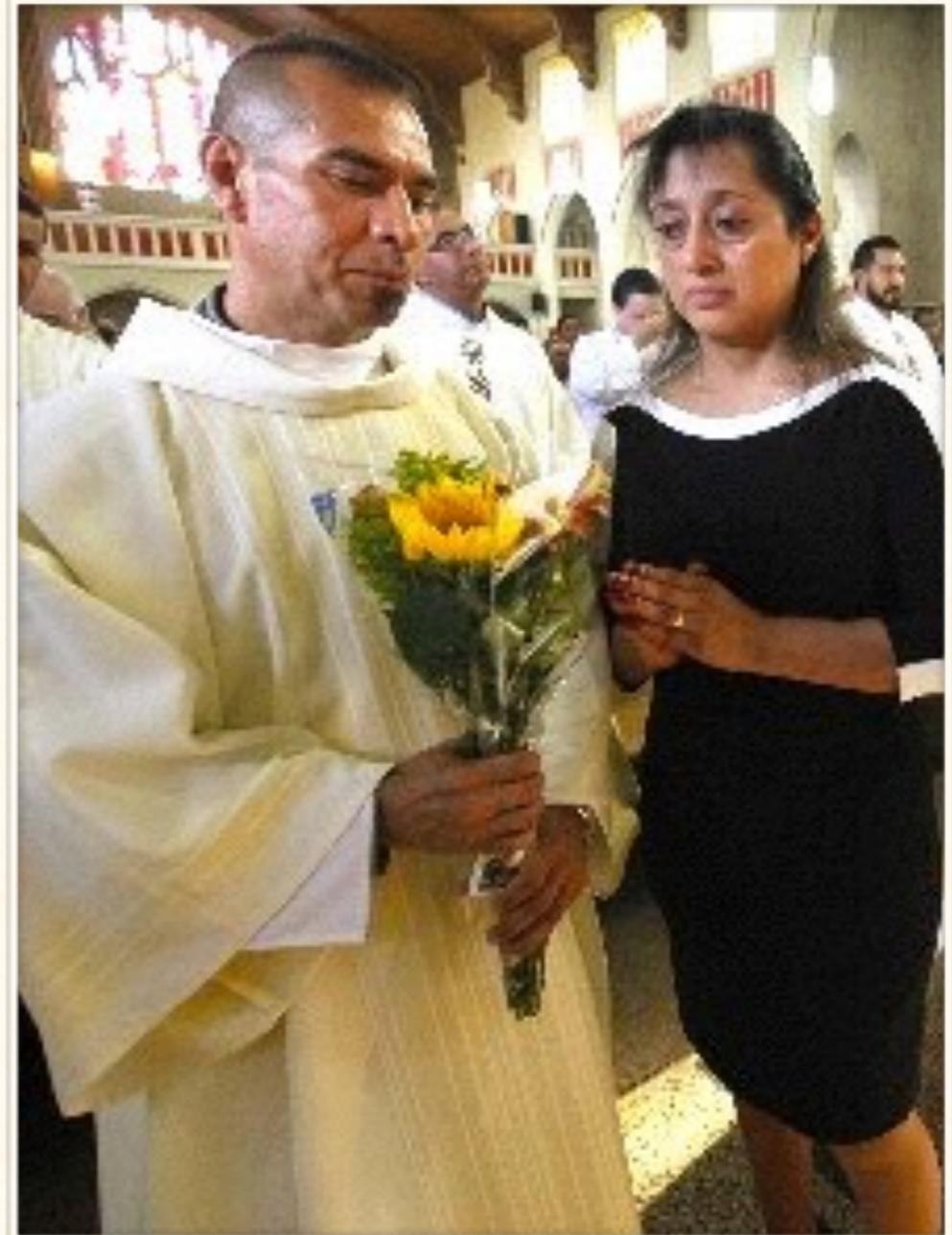
# HEBREW - ARAMAIC

- ❖ Ben - son; Bar - Aramaic
  - ❖ Bath - daughter
  - ❖ Beth - house
  - ❖ EL - God; Michael - one who is like EL  
Yah - suffix for YHWH;
- Aliyah ascent from Egypt to Israel.
- ❖ LORD - Adonai and YHWH, Lord - a master;  
sometimes HaShem is used.
  - ❖ -im makes it plural in Hebrew.

# AS A DEACON

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PREACHING A HOMILY  
HOW IS THE OLD  
TESTAMENT USABLE?



# LITURGICAL CALENDAR

❖ Gospels preached on a Three Year cycle.



❖ Year A - Matthew

❖ Year B - Mark

❖ Year C - Luke

❖ Gospel of John *sprinkled yearly* and during the year of Mark, exposition of John Chapter 6

# LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- ❖ **Second Reading** - The Epistles are spread over a three year cycle, such that all the Epistles are covered in part in each cycle.
  - ❖ **Second Readings are **not** related to the Gospel unless it is a special feast day or solemnity.**

# LITURGICAL CALENDAR

- ❖ **First Reading - The Old Testament Reading.**  
On Sundays and other feast days, **always** associated with the Gospel.
- ❖ **Why did the church pick this Old Testament reading to pair up with this Gospel?**
- ❖ **Look for the *moral, allegorical* or *anagogical* connection.**



# PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE

- ❖ Help you see Jesus in all of Scripture.
- ❖ Look, therefore, especially for the *Allegories* that point to Jesus.



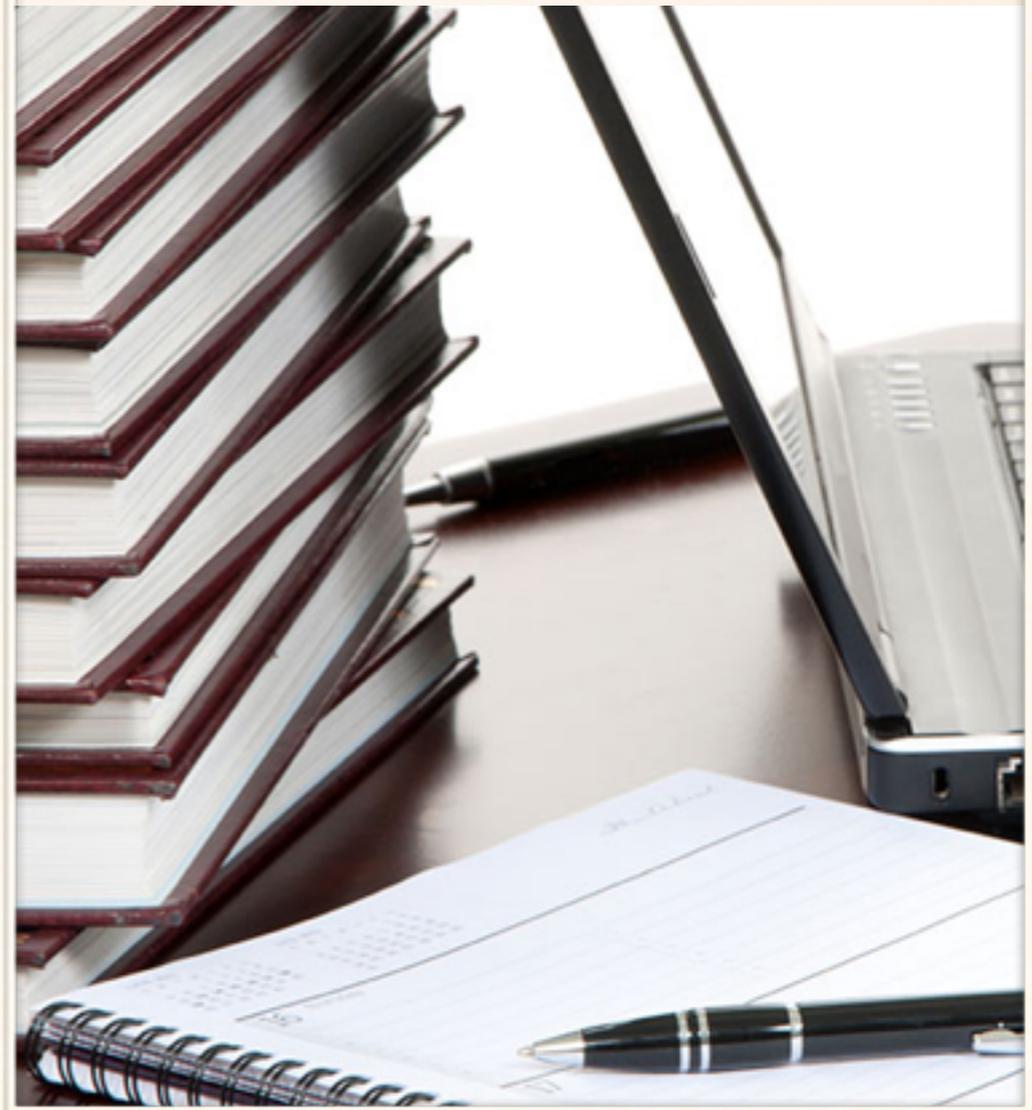
- ❖ The New Testament is hidden in the Old, and the Old is revealed in the New.

(St Augustine)

- ❖ *Jesus is present* in the Old, but *fully revealed* in the New.

# COURSE ASSIGNMENT

- ❖ Look for **Allegories** when you read OT
- ❖ For **each book of OT**, identify **author**, **audience** for time and cultural context, and **genre**. (Feb discussion)



# OLD TESTAMENT



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