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## INTRODUCTION

*By faith we understand that the universe  
was ordered by the word of God, so that what is visible  
came into being through the invisible.*

—HEBREWS 11:3



God's gift of faith enables us to see the account of our world not as history but as "His story." This makes all of the difference! As Saint Augustine said, "Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand."

In this book we present to you the history of salvation, taken entirely from the Scriptures with the exception of a few paragraphs. As you read God's Word we hope you will remember and re-experience His mercy and power in first creating us, then redeeming us, and finally sanctifying us.

*Bible History for Catholics* offers a summary of both the Old and New Testaments, the story of the people of God. As the Catholic Catechism teaches, Scripture supports and invigorates the life of the Church—and that of its members as well!

Saint Jerome said, "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." Through the power of Christ Jesus, then, may God richly bless you as you spend time reading and studying His Word, and renew in you the presence and power of His Holy Spirit. May you then go forth to continue "His story!"

## HISTORY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

### *The Creation of the World*

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ... Thus evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

Then God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other." And so it happened: ... God called the dome "the sky." ...

Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear." And so it happened: ... God called the dry land "the earth," and the basin of the water he called "the sea."

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it." And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it.

Then God said: "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. ... And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

—GENESIS 1:1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11-12, 14, 15-16, 18-19

## JESUS BLESSES THE LITTLE CHILDREN



People were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

—MARK 10:13-16

## JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him, saying, “Master, the one you love is ill.” When Jesus heard this he said, “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?” Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” He said this, and then told them, “Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him.” So the disciples said to him, “Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved.” But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, “Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him.” So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go to die with him.”