

**Reliability of Scripture**

It is all too easy to read Sacred Scripture assuming a conflict between revelation (faith) and science (reason).

Fundamentalist Protestants come down on one side, and insist that every detail in Scripture must be literally factual.

Liberal Protestants come down on the other side, and presume that anything miraculous in the Bible is fiction.

How would you describe the Catholic view?

Have you ever experienced Catholic preaching or teaching that seems too “fundamentalist” or too “liberal”?

Have you ever encountered something in Sacred Scripture that you found impossible to believe, or difficult to accept on moral grounds?

If so, do you find either of these principles helpful in solving the dilemma:

(a) the human authors of Sacred Scripture sometimes expressed themselves according to the conventions of their time and using literary devices not meant to be objectively factual;

(b) the Old Testament reflects an increasing awareness on the part of the Israelites through their history, as they were gradually “brought along” to recognize the full moral truth.

What difficulties have one of these principles helped you to resolve?

**Scripture in the Life of the Church**

Have you found any way to help yourself appreciate the readings at Mass better as you hear them proclaimed? Do different readers do anything specific that makes it easier or harder for you to appreciate the readings?

Does Sacred Scripture play a part in your prayer life? What is your favorite way to pray with Scripture?

Have participated in a particular Bible study or found a particular guide or commentary that has helped you to understand Scripture better?