## Dear Padre,

Why is the Old Testament part of Christian worship? Parts of the Old Testament seem to be opposed to the teachings of Christ.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says it best: "The Old Testament is an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture. Its books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value, for the Old Covenant has never been revoked" (CCC 121).

The Old Testament, also referred to as the Hebrew Scriptures, is the only Bible Jesus ever knew. That is an important reason to try to understand these Scriptures. The Pentateuch (first five books). the prophets, the Book of Psalms, and the wisdom writings all had a

profound impact on Jesus. His image of God as Father, his preaching, his parables, and his proclamation of the reign of God were all influenced by the Hebrew Scriptures.

It is true that Jesus' preaching also goes beyond the Old Testament. At times he substitutes what the law has to say with an even more demanding requirement (see, for example, the Sermon on the Mount). In general, however, the Old Testament forms a context for understanding what Jesus was doing. His passion and death made no sense to his first followers except in light of the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament (Isaiah 52:13–53:12). There are many more examples like this one. Thus, the Catechism says "the Old Testament bears witness to the whole divine pedagogy of God's saving love" (CCC 122).



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1	February 2	February 3	February 4
Weekday	Weekday	St. John Bosco,	Weekday	Presentation of	Weekday	Fifth Sunday in
2 Sm 15:13-14,	2 Sm 18:9-10,	Priest	1 Kgs 2:1-4,	the Lord	1 Kgs 3:4-13	Ordinary Time
30; 16:5-13	14b, 24-25a,	2 Sm 24:2, 9-17	10-12	Mal 3:1-4	Mk 6:30-34	Jb 7:1-4, 6-7
Mk 5:1-20	30-19:3	Mk 6:1-6	Mk 6:7-13	Heb 2:14-18		1 Cor 9:16-19,
	Mk 5:21-43			Lk 2:22-40 or		22-23
				2:22-32		Mk 1:29-39



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Do we listen to Jesus' words, which are authoritative? Always...carry a small copy of the Gospel...to read throughout the day, to listen to that authoritative word of Jesus. And then...let us ask Jesus: "Jesus, you are the prophet, the Son of God, the one who was promised to us to heal us. Heal me!"

> ANGELUS, ROME, **JANUARY 31, 2021**

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