



Christianity

# Divine Revelation



I. Supernatural means of communication, truth revealed by God

A. Truth disclosed or shown by God

1. Truth not disclosed by reason, natural means of communication

a. Truth exceeding reason; truth that can be known by reason, which is communicated by revelation

2. Truth is revealed through imagination, through images, through metaphor

a. Truth must be presented in a way that can be understood

- We begin with what is known to us, the sensible

# The Hebrews (Jews)

## I. The Jews as the Chosen People of Yahweh

### A. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

#### 1. God calls Abram (Abraham) to Canaan (The Promised Land)

a. Because he listens to God, Abraham  
will be given descendants as numerous  
as the stars in the sky

- Progenitor of Isaac, Jacob,  
the Sons of Jacob, Moses





# The Kingdom of Israel

- I. After the Exodus from Egypt, the Hebrews conquer Canaan
- II. The Kingdom of Israel is established (circa 1000 B.C.)
- III. Following the reign of Solomon, the kingdom is divided – Israel in the north and Judah in the south
- IV. The kingdoms are conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians
- A. The Hebrews enter into Exile



# Cyrus the Great and Alexander the Great

- I. Cyrus the Great establishes the Persian Empire, conquers the Babylonians, allows the Hebrews to return and rebuild the God's Temple (Hebrews subject to the Persians)
- II. Alexander the Great conquers the Persian Empire, visits Jerusalem, offers sacrifice at the Temple, allows the Jews to continue worshipping God (Hebrews subject to the Hellenistic Greeks)





# The Jews, Greeks, and Romans

I. The Maccabee Revolt occurs in the Second Century B.C.

A. Orthodox revolt against the Seleucids, Hellenism

II. Establishment of the Hasmonean kingdom

A. Hasmonean civil war ended by Pompey in 63 B.C.

1. The Romans establish Antipater as the client king of Judea

a. The Hebrews become subject to the Romans



# First Century Judaism

---

I. The Jews await the Messiah, a kingly figure who will save Israel and usher in the Messianic Age

II. Jewish Sects of the First Century (Historian Josephus)

A. Sadducees

1. They claim to be descendants of the high priests of the Davidic Kingdom

B. Pharisees

1. They are strict adherents of law and tradition who are motivated by preventing another exile

C. Essenes

1. They are monastics who reject the Temple practices of the Pharisees and Sadducees, await a spiritual Messiah

A. Live in community, reject pleasure, refrain from marrying

D. Zealots

1. They are revolutionaries who await a Messiah who will liberate Israel from Roman occupation





# Divine Revelation in the New Testament

---

## I. The Gospels

### A. Gospel – “Good news”

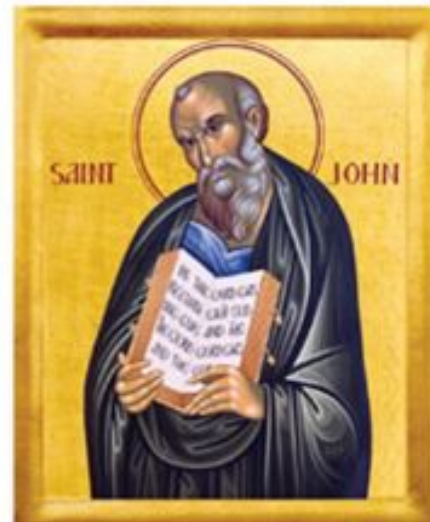
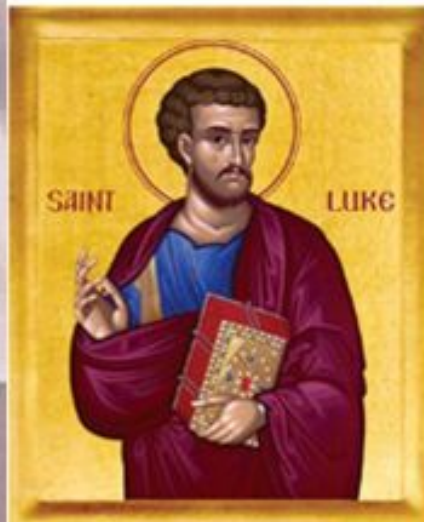
### B. The four Gospels mark the beginning of the New Testament

#### 1. New Testament as a fulfillment of the Old Testament

a. Jesus as the promised Messiah, the  
revelation of God

2. The Gospels contain accounts of  
Jesus' life, miracles, and teachings

a. The Four Evangelists of the Gospels—  
Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John





# Divine Revelation

04/21


1. Supernatural means of communication; truth revealed by God
  - a. Truth disclosed or shown by God
    - i. Not disclosed by reason, natural ways of communication
      1. Truth that exceeds reason, but can be known by reason; communicated by revelation
    - ii. Truth is revealed through imagination, images, metaphor
      1. Must be presented in away that is understandable
        - a. We begin with what is known to us

# **Divine Revelation**

**04/21**

1. ...
2. Hebrews (Jews)
  - a. Chosen People
    - i. Kingdom established in the Promise Land~1000 B.C.
    - ii. Conquered by Assyrians & Babylonians
      1. Cyrus the Great lets them return
      2. Alexander the Great lets them to continue to worship God





### 3. 1st Century Judaism

- a. The Jews wait for the Messiah (king figure who will save Israel and bring Messianic Age)
- b. Sadducees
  - i. Claim to be descendants of the high priests of Davidic Kingdom]
- c. Pharisees
  - i. Strict followers of law & tradition, motivated to avoid another exile
- d. Essenes
  - i. Monastics who reject the practices a & b, await a spiritual Messiah
    - 1. Live in community, reject pleasure and don't get married
- e. Zealots
  - i. Revolutionaries who wait for the Messiah and who will free Israel from Roman occupation

# **Divine Revelation**

**04/21**

- 4. Divine Revelation: New Testament
  - a. The Gospels
    - i. Gospel = Good News
    - ii. 4 Gospels mark the start of New Testament
      - 1. New Testament is a fulfillment of Old Testament
      - 2. Jesus is promised Messiah
      - 3. Gospels contain the accounts of Jesus' life, miracles and teachings
      - 4. Written by the 4 Evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)