

Inspiration of Scripture

The Church teaches that Scripture is inspired by God. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the human authors of the Bible wrote what God intended to reveal for the sake of our salvation. At the same time, God worked through real people with their own personalities, experiences, cultures, and ways of writing. For this reason, the Scriptures are both the Word of God and the work of human authors. Because the biblical books were written in particular historical and cultural settings, we must take those settings into account when we read and interpret them. The goal is to discover the message God intended to communicate through the human authors and to distinguish the enduring truth of God's revelation from the cultural forms in which it was originally expressed. Vatican II's *Dei Verbum* reminds us that Scripture teaches faithfully and without error those truths God wished to reveal for our salvation. As Catholics, we read the Bible not simply as an ancient text but as God's living Word, through which the Holy Spirit continues to speak to the Church and to each of us today.