

Tracing Our Roots

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 2*.

❖ Salvation history is the story of God's loving relationship with his people. It is the story of God's redeeming love and the response of others to that love throughout history. It is also the story of your response to God's love.

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❖ Abraham, our father in faith, was the person with whom God made a special promise known as a covenant. Through Abraham, God called the Jewish people to be his own. God showed his care for these people by revealing to them the divine name, Yahweh.

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❖ Sacred Tradition is the lived faith of the Church. It is the beliefs taught by the Church that have been passed down by word, customs, and example. This Tradition is usually written with a capital *T* to distinguish it from ordinary tradition.

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❖ The story of our spiritual heritage is found in the Bible, our sacred writings. Scripture is the written record of God's love for us. It has two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

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❖ Christians revere the Old Testament as God's inspired word to us, as do the Jewish people. The 46 books of the Old Testament tell about God's relationship with the Jewish people before Jesus came.

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❖ The New Testament is made up of 27 books that reveal to us the life and message of Jesus Christ. They tell of the beginning and growth of his Church. All Christians believe that God speaks to us in the books of the New Testament: the Gospels, the letters, the Acts of the Apostles, and the Book of Revelation.

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❖ God freed us from sin and death through the Paschal Mystery—the suffering, death, Resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. Jesus made it possible to share in his eternal life and to glorify God in all that we do.

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❖ When we were in the state of sin, God moved us to a state of grace so that we can be holy and righteous like God. This act of God is called justification.

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❖ People who have died and are in purgatory belong to the Church even though they are not ready to meet God face-to-face. Those in purgatory are being purified from the effects of sin so that they can be wholly united with God.

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❖ Jewish people are related to the Church in a special way because of their faith in God. All other believers, including Muslims and Buddhists, are related to Catholics. To a lesser degree, people who do not know God but who live according to their consciences are also joined to Catholics.

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