

Introduction to Orthodoxy

Fall 2016: A Basic Catechesis
in Orthodox Christianity

Part 6: Scripture
in Tradition



Holy Tradition: Life of Spirit in the Church



Sources of Holy Tradition:

1. **Scripture** (the Bible)
2. **Liturgy** (The corporate Prayers of the People of God)
3. **Councils** (including both the creeds and the canons of the councils)
4. **Saints** (both their teachings and the various “Lives” that describe their journeys)
5. **Church Art** (including icons, vestments, church architecture, and church music)



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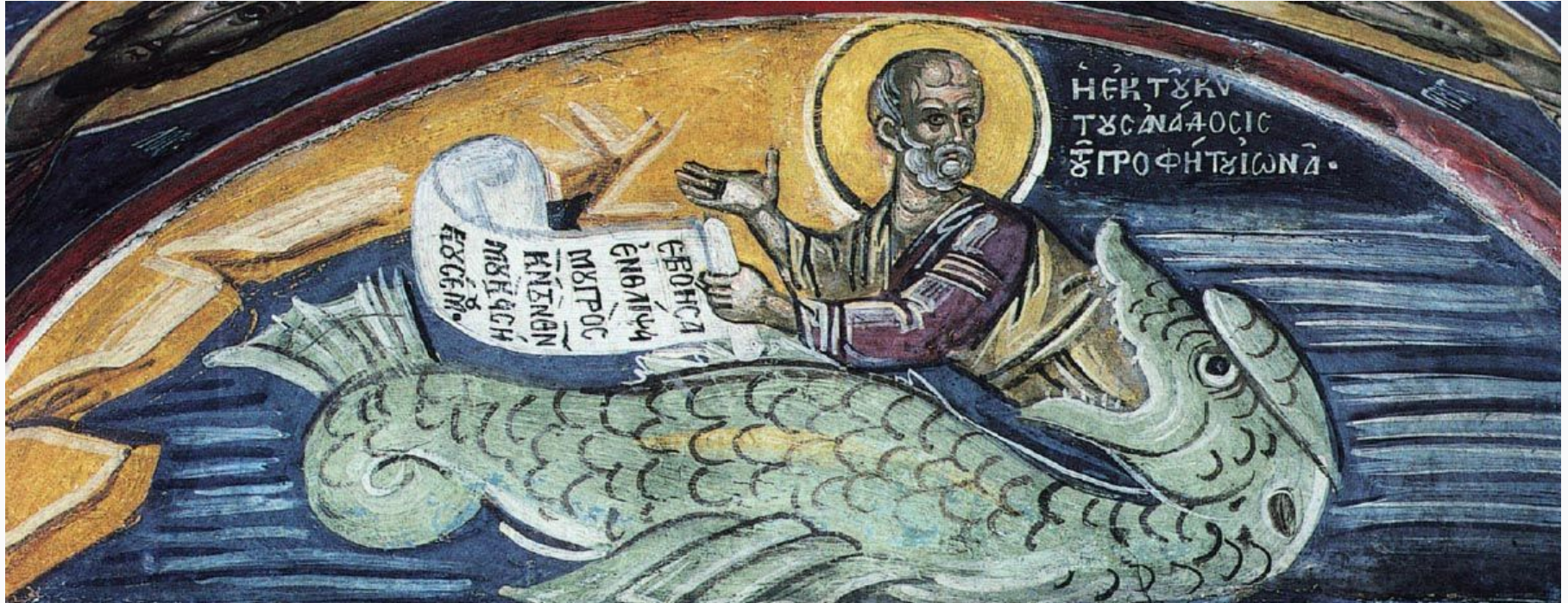
The Law, Torah, Pentateuch



The Psalms and Wisdom Literature



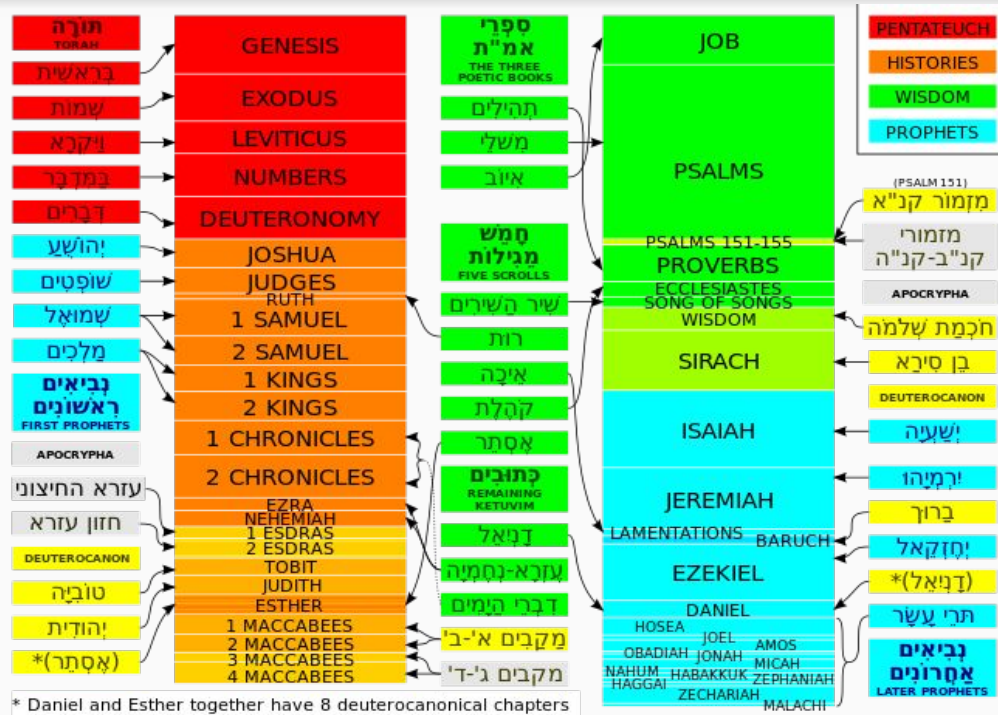
The Prophets



The Eschatological Books: Ezekiel & Daniel



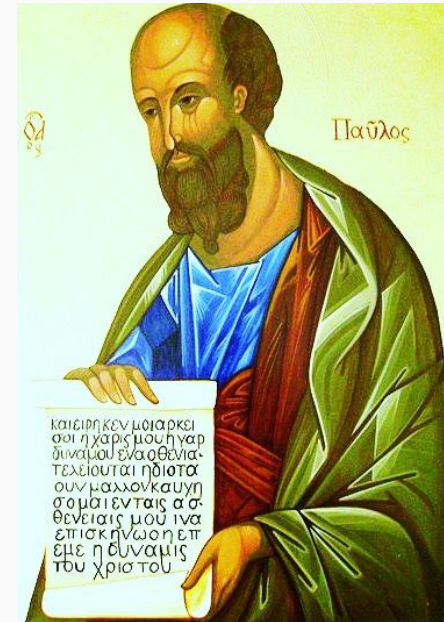
The Orthodox Christian Old Testament



New Testament: 4 Gospels



New Testament: the Epistles (Apostol) & Acts



The Revelation (Apocalypse)



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- 6). The Scriptures are iconic.

9 Basic Principles for Interpreting Scripture

... in fidelity to the Orthodox Faith: as adapted from the work of Dr. Mary Ford, professor of Scripture, at St. Tikhon's Seminary.



9 Basic Principles for Interpreting Scripture

Principle 1:

God is real and has become Incarnate in Jesus Christ revealing himself to us in the person of Christ, in the Scriptures about Christ, and in various ways in and through the Church.



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Principle 2:

Our capacity for interpreting the Scripture depends upon our spiritual state.



9 Basic Principles for Interpreting Scripture

Principle 3:

We must commit to be obedient to the Scriptures if we are to fully understand them. The most important aspects of Scripture can only be comprehended by living them.

Principle 4:

The ultimate purpose of interpreting Scripture is the same as the ultimate purpose of the Christian life: to become like God (*theosis*) through real Communion with him.

9 Basic Principles for Interpreting Scripture

Principle 5:

Scripture can only be interpreted fully and correctly within the community of the Church and in her Tradition.

Principle 6:

While Scripture is a witness to the Truth, it does not necessarily contain everything necessary for comprehending that truth.

9 Basic Principles for Interpreting Scripture

Principle 8:

We must have
humility before
the text of the
Scriptures



9 Basic Principles for Interpreting Scripture

Principle 9:

Secondary or
academic knowledge
has its place in
interpreting Scripture.



9 Basic Principles for Interpreting Scripture

Bonus Principle:

The Scriptures, to profit my soul, must be read personally.



Next week...

“Liturgy in Tradition”

