



**1. Divine revelation. What is Holy Bible? How do we read Holy Bible?**  
 (Finding a text in the Bible)

**Divine revelation** is when God reveals His will, His work and His plans concerning the people and their salvation. The divine revelation is: **absolute necessary** in order to understand the meaning of man's life and his happiness; **possible**, because God is personal, all-powerful loving and full of wisdom.

There are two kinds of Divine Revelation: **natural** (through the whole of God's creation) and **supernatural** [**internal**: inspiration from the Holy Spirit (the Holy Scripture and Tradition), visions, dreams, prayer and **external**: miracles, signs, prophecies].

The supreme supernatural Revelation is the Incarnation of our Savior Jesus Christ who, being God, assumes the divine human nature and comes in the midst of creation as God and Man at the same time and in the same person.

Revelația naturală / Natural Revelation	Revelația supranaturală / Supernatural Revelation
- <b>insufficient</b> for salvation; - <b>indirect</b> : by admiring the creation and contemplation upon life and the world; - <b>it is initiated by the person</b> ; - <b>it involves a certain effort</b> from the person (scientific knowledge); - <b>incomplete</b> : only some of God's attributes are known: His existence.	- <b>sufficient</b> for salvation; - <b>direct</b> : God makes His will known to people; - <b>it is initiated by God</b> through His supernatural interventions and His power, which surpass the laws of nature; - <b>it is received by people through faith</b> ; - <b>complete</b> : reveals truths about God, the world and man as much as it is necessary for man's salvation.

**The Inspiration of the Holy Spirit** is the divine work through which God **reveals** His will, plans and work, enlightens the mind of the person so that they can know and understand for themselves and pass on to others by word or in writing, without errors.

**Holy Scripture** ( Bible in Greek) is the collection of the holy books written during the course of 1,500 years by the prophets, apostles and their disciples, chosen by God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, containing the necessary truth for man's salvation and revealed by Him, from the creation of the world until the coming of Christ and the institution of the Christian Church.

**The Bible (Holy Scripture or „the Word of God”** to people) is the most significant example of divine revelation through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, which conveys events and extraordinary circumstances where certain people have come to know God as much as He wanted to reveal Himself to them. The Bible contains truth, guidelines and historical events, which have been written in order to be preserved and passed on over time to the faithful for their salvation.

The Church services, including the Divine Liturgy, include an abundance of biblical texts, which are either read or sung, constituting the very essence of the Orthodox worship.

**All Christians must read the Bible** as often as possible, according to the words of our Lord and Savior: „ Search the Scriptures... and these are they that testify of Me” (John 5:39).

Understanding God's will from the Bible is not always easy. It is a gift given to those who ask God's

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help through prayer and who live a godly life, seeking the teachings of the Church Fathers: „No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (II Peter:1-20-21).

**How to find a text in the Bible:**

- in the **Contents** there is a list of all the books and the page number where each book starts;
- each book has a **name** which can also be found at the top of the page the respective book;
- each book is structured on **chapters** (numbered) and each chapter has a number of **verses** (also numbered);
- in order to find a verse in the Bible, we need to know the name of the **reference** book; i.e: Genesis 1, 1-31;
- the first word is „**Genesis**,” the **name** of the book;
- the first number indicates the **chapter** of the book 1,);
- the next numbers indicate the **verses** (1-31);
- at the **footnote** of each page there are **references** (other texts in the Bible containing the same theme or context).