

Romanian Orthodox Church of Edmonton

Saints Constantine and Elena



9005 132 Ave NW

Edmonton, AB T5E 0Y1 Canada

Telephone: 780-475-1422

E-mail: info@bisericaedmonton.org

Website: www.bisericaedmonton.org

2. Divine revelation in The Old Testament (world preparation for The Savior's coming)

Holy Scripture or the Bible (66 books) consists of:

The Old Testament:

- the truth revealed by God to men from the creation of the world to the coming of Messiah;
- describes the first covenant between God and the chosen people through Abraham and Moses concerning the coming of Messiah/the Savior of the world.

The New Testament:

- the truth revealed to all the people by God through Jesus Christ, the institution of the Church and the activity of the Apostles, as well as the prophesies about the Revelation (the final revelation of God's kingdom on earth).
- the second covenant between God and all nations for their salvation.

Prior to the original sin, man knew God directly, being in an intimate relationship of love and grace with Him, which was interrupted by the fall.

Subsequent to the original sin, God chooses, through Abraham, His own people, the Jewish nation, to whom he reveals His will and promises to send, at the proper time, the Savior of the world. God inspires the prophets and the leaders of this nation, who bring testimony about His presence and communication in history, which remained written in the Old Testament as a reminder and also as a mystical promise of His coming to us by the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

The faith in one personal God (monotheism) is the fundamental principle (teaching) in the Old Testament (Exodus 20:2-3, Deut. 6:4, Isaiah 63:10-11). God has also revealed Himself directly, in the form of Three Persons (Gen.1:26, 18:1-2, Isaiah 6:3).

Through Moses, He liberated the chosen people from Pharaoh's captivity (Exodus 12:51) as a foreshadowing of man's liberation from the captivity of the evil one through Jesus Christ. At the same time He instituted the Passover, the paschal lamb (Exodus 12:14), which prefigures the Lamb who voluntarily assumed the sins of mankind and was crucified. Then, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, on Mount Sinai, which are supposed to be obeyed by all those who want to be united with God (Exodus 34:27-29).

Therefore, the Old Testament constitutes the history of preparation for God's coming in person to us in Christ Jesus. There are many such events which are a prefiguration (anticipation) of events in the life of our Savior Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament contains 39 canonical books (recognized by the Church) and 14 non-canonical (good for reading).

The Old Testament books were authored by the prophets in the Hebrew language and the Aramaic language.