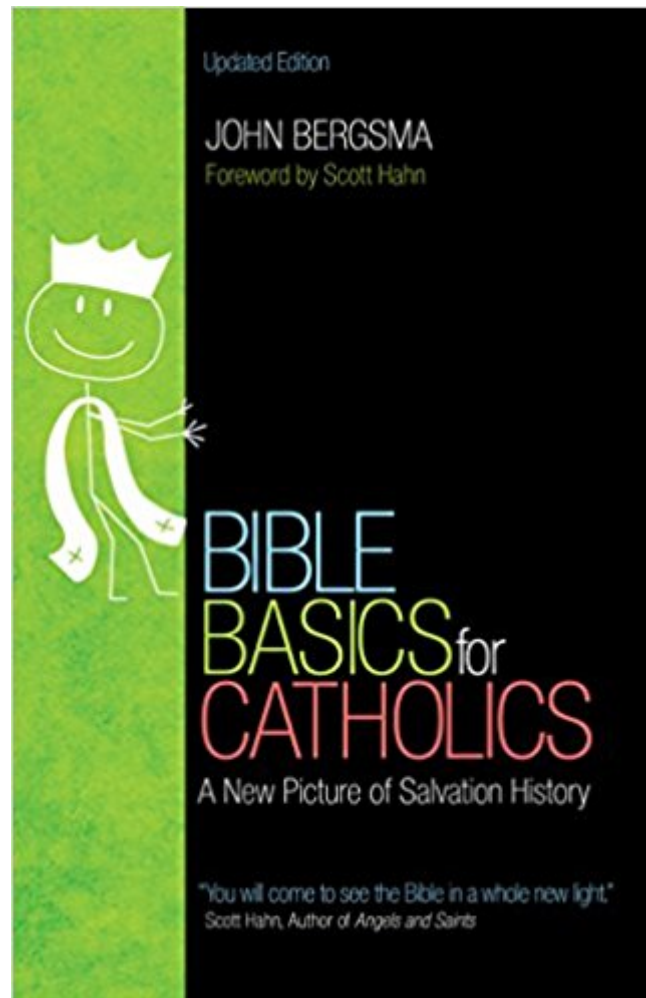




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# Bible Basics For Catholics: A New Picture Of Salvation History



## Synopsis

John Bergsma's popular Bible Basics for Catholics, which has sold more than 60,000 copies, offers readers an accessible vision of salvation history as it unfolds in the Bible, showing how the Bible points us to the saving life and work of Jesus. This new edition includes an additional chapter on covenant fulfillment in the Book of Revelation. John Bergsma brings to his theology a combination of academic expertise, pastoral wisdom, and unique playfulness. Bible Basics for Catholics is based on Bergsma's popular Introduction to Theology course at Steubenville. As a teacher, Bergsma has an uncanny ability to make complex ideas understandable and faith-inspiring while staying true to both Catholic teaching and biblical scholarship. Readers will begin to see the Christian understanding of salvation by walking through the Old Testament, going through the great stories of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, the great kings and prophets of Israel, and culminating in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Let award-winning teacher John Bergsma guide you through a high-energy and entertaining walk through the Bible, illustrated with his own charming drawings. Bible Basics for Catholics: A New Picture of Salvation History is so fresh, engaging, and truly instructive that you will find yourself smiling as you read it, and you'll be amazed at what you retain." --Elizabeth Scalia, Blogger at The Anchoress

John Bergsma is a very effective teacher of Scripture with a gift for clarity and depth."

--Scott Hahn, Author of *Signs of Life: 40 Catholic Customs and Their Biblical Roots*"John Bergsma brings his biblical scholarship, pastoral heart, and gift for teaching together in this charming, easy-to-use overview of Salvation History. Catechists, teachers, and pastoral ministers will find this an inestimable resource, both for their own reference, and for shepherding those under their care. Highly recommended." --Edward Sri, STD, Chancellor and Professor of Scripture and Theology, Augustine Institute"We go by way of history and imagination to the Holy Land, and to times long past, and we meet the most fascinating people who ever lived: Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus. We can do all this because of John Bergsma's rare gifts. This book can change lives." --Mike Aquilina, Author of *The Mass: The Glory, the Mystery, the Tradition*

John Bergsma is professor of Theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville and a senior fellow at the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. Twice voted Faculty of the Year by graduating classes at Franciscan University, he is a popular teacher whose love of scripture inspires his students. Bergsma earned Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees and served as a Protestant pastor for four years before converting to Catholicism in 2001 while working on his doctorate in theology at the University of Notre Dame. He specialized in Old Testament and the Dead Sea Scrolls, graduating with high honors in 2004. His articles, some coauthored with Scott Hahn, have appeared in the *Journal of Biblical Literature* and other academic and popular periodicals. A frequent speaker at conferences and parishes, Dr. Bergsma has appeared as a guest on Franciscan University Presents, EWTN's *The Journey Home*, and Relevant Radio's *Drew Mariani Show*. He and his wife, Dawn, live with their eight children in Steubenville, Ohio.

If you have ever felt baffled by the Old Testament and wondered how it relates to the New Testament, this is the book for you. I've been a serious student of the Bible (at a layman's level) for nearly a decade, and I couldn't see the forest for the trees. After reading this book, the big picture of salvation history finally began to reveal itself to me. The author is a convert to the Catholic faith from Protestantism. He is a professor of theology and has received honors for his outstanding teaching ability. Bergsma has taken college-level concepts and packaged them in an entertaining and easy-to-read format with stick-figure drawings to illustrate his points. He bases his text around the Old Testament covenants God made with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David, all leading to fulfillment in the Eucharistic covenant of Jesus Christ. Through his discussion of these covenants, Bergsma covers the history of God's interaction with his people throughout the books of the Old Testament in a clear and compelling overview. At only 180 pages, the book is a short read, but it is

crammed with information. It is appropriate for teen-agers and adults. It is an excellent supplement to more detailed books on the Bible that you may be reading. Highly recommended.

This book taught me how to look at the entire bible as one big story from Genesis to Jesus; it shows how everything is connected and related through the many covenants. I feel as though I can, now, gain a better understanding of what I am reading when I read the events within any part of the bible by looking at it through the understanding of salvation history. This book is written in very simple and easy to read language which includes picture diagrams of the sequence within the time line; and I feel that even a child will be able to understand its simple explanation. This book ended my confusion.

Our parish priest recommended this book at a parents meeting for First Communion prep. It was an easy read that broke down the multiple covenants found within the Bible, comparing the similarities of each and explaining how each was built from the previous one ending with the ultimate New Covenant in Jesus Christ. I had been looking for something that would tie everything together and found it. Even as a lifelong Catholic, Mass makes more sense after reading and is much more powerful. Highly recommend for anyone looking for a good summary of the Bible, whether Catholic or not.

I really enjoyed this book. His simple diagrams helped me learn the covenants of the Old Testament and gave me a simple way to remember them.

Most people just don't 'find time' to read nor is it easy to understand the bible. Mr Bergsma keeps it simple and visual while at the same time points to the detailed verses in the bible if you want more. The beauty is in the simplicity, and bible's message is a powerful one. Enjoy and pass this one on.

Really nice book. I'm a Catholic who is returning to the church and this was a gentle reminder of all the things I used to know. Loved the style of the book and the suggested activities to get you more involved.

This book is thorough, but concise. Illustrations are great. An excellent teaching tool and very enjoyable to read. I learned many facts I did not know; enlightening why events happened and how. A must read for those who are interested in reading the bible, but do not have the time or patience to

read all the books of the bible. Very interesting the way history repeats itself.

This book is to be highly recommended. It should be required text for any scripture course. John Bergsma puts into simple, eloquent and straightforward language the ties of the Old Testament in the New (and it is easily remembered). I can't recommend this book highly enough!

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