

4. What is the principal of biblical inerrancy?

5. How does the Bible relate to empirical sciences?

6. What is the purpose of God giving us the Scriptures?

7. What is the meaning of the terms accommodation, condescension and elevation as it relates to Sacred Scripture?

Read the following text concerning divine
condescension Exodus, chapter 32

The Golden Calf. When the people saw that Moses was delayed in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for that man Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him." Aaron replied, "Take off the golden earrings that your wives, your sons, and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He received their offering, and fashioning it with a tool, made a molten calf. Then they cried out, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt." On seeing this, Aaron built an altar in front of the calf and proclaimed, "Tomorrow is a

feast of the LORD." Early the next day the people sacrificed burnt offerings and brought communion sacrifices. Then they sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. Then the LORD said to Moses: Go down at once because your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, have acted corruptly. They have quickly turned aside from the way I commanded them, making for themselves a molten calf and bowing down to it, sacrificing to it and crying out, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!" I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are, continued the LORD to Moses. **Let me alone, then, that my anger may burn against them to consume them.** Then I will make of you a great nation.

But Moses implored the LORD, his God, saying, "Why, O LORD, should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a strong hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent he brought them out, that he might kill them in the mountains and wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning wrath; **change your mind about punishing your people.** Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and how you swore to them by your own self, saying, 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky; and all this land that I promised, I will give your descendants as their perpetual heritage.'" **So the LORD changed his mind about the punishment he had threatened to inflict on his people.**

8. What is the relationship between Scripture and the Church's dogmatic teaching?

9. What is the definition of dogma?

10. What is the first sense that we should read Scripture?

11. What is meant by the following statement—What the soul is to the body, the spiritual senses are to the literal. You can distinguish them; but if you try to separate them, death immediately follows.

12. What are the three spiritual senses of scripture and how do they relate to the three theological virtues?

13. What is the relationship between the Old and New Testament?

14. What is typology?

15. What are the three specific criteria that the Church encourages us to use to read the Scriptures?

16. Is the Bible a unified book or a library of different books?

17. What is meant by the Church's Living Tradition?

Introduction To the Gospels

1. What are the four Gospels and how do they relate to the books of the Old Testament?
2. How is Jesus made present to his people in word and in sacrament?
3. Are the four Gospels of apostolic origin?
Who are the four apostles that are held to have been the source of the four Gospels?

4. When was the canon of the four Gospels widely recognized and why is this important?

5. Are the Gospels historically accurate or a form of fictional writing? Are they written in strict chronological order?

6. What is the difference between contradictory testimony vs. complimentary testimony?

7. What are the Synoptic Gospels and how are they related?

Introduction to the Gospel According
to Saint Matthew

1. Who does tradition identify as the author of the first Gospel?
2. How does modern scholarship view this tradition?
3. When does it appear that the Gospel was written? What two major factors support that the Gospel was written in the middle of the 1st century?

4. What group was the Gospel written for and what geographic area? What language was it written in?

5. What is the central theme of Matthew's Gospel?

6. How does the Kingdom relate to King David?
How is the Kingdom ethical, ecclesial and eschatological?