

Summer Bible Study 2016 – Luther’s Small Catechism – 8 Lessons

LESSON 1 - Introduction – June 26, 2016

The Small Catechism (Enchiridion) & Large Catechisms were completed by Martin Luther in 1529.

Keep in mind that the content of the Catechisms were already in the making when Martin Luther (November 10, 1483 – February 18, 1546) began some of his sermon series. In 1517 Martin Luther preached a sermon series on the Lord’s Prayer followed by a series on the 10 Commandments in 1518. The other parts of the Catechism came afterward based on a Sermon Series or Bible Study Lesson Series which Martin Luther taught.

Why did Martin Luther feel the need to put together a Catechism? Why not just tell people to read The Holy Bible?

"Martin Luther to All Faithful and Godly Pastors and Preachers:

*Grace, Mercy, and Peace in Jesus Christ, our Lord. The deplorable, miserable condition which I discovered lately when I, too, was a visitor, has forced and urged me to prepare [publish] this Catechism, or Christian doctrine, in this small, plain, simple form. Mercy! Good God! What manifold misery I beheld! The common people, especially in the villages, have no knowledge whatever of Christian doctrine, and, alas! Many pastors are altogether incapable and incompetent to teach [so much so, that one is ashamed to speak of it]. Nevertheless, all maintain that they are Christians, have been baptized, and receive the [common] holy Sacraments. Yet they [do not understand and] **cannot [even] recite either the Lord's Prayer, or the Creed, or, the Ten Commandments;** they live like dumb brutes and irrational hogs; and yet, now that the Gospel has come, they have nicely learned to abuse all liberty like experts."* (Taken from the Concordia Triglotta pg. 533)

Thus Dr. Martin Luther desired to put the basic teachings of the Bible into a simple and short form so that parents, particularly fathers, could teach their children at home using *The Small Catechism*.

Luther carefully divided the Catechism into the Six Chief Parts of the Catechism for ease of teaching and understanding. Those six Chief Parts are: (Put these to memory)

1. The Ten Commandments
2. The Apostles' Creed
3. The Lord's Prayer
4. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
5. The Sacrament of Holy Communion
6. The Keys and Confession

Before going any further, let us see how Martin Luther fits into God’s History. (See pg. 2)

Time Line beginning With Creation.

Year After Creation	Event	B.C.
1	Creation of the world, Universe & Adam & Eve, by God in 6-24 hour days.	4,114 B.C.
130	Birth of Seth.. See Genesis Chapter 5:3	
235	Birth of Enosh. Genesis 5:6	
325	Birth of Kenan Genesis 5:9	
395	Birth of Mahalalel. Genesis 5:12	
460	Birth of Jared. Genesis 5:15	
622	Birth of Enoch. Genesis 5:18	
687	Birth of Methuselah . Genesis 5:21	
874	Birth of Lamech. Genesis 5:25	
930	Death of Adam . Genesis 5:5	
1056	Birth of Noah . -----Genesis 5:28-29 -----	3,058 B.C.
1536	God gave the warning of the coming worldwide Flood in 120 years. Genesis 6:3; Genesis 6:17	
1556	Noah was 500 years old & we hear of the Birth of Shem, Ham and Japheth. Genesis 5:32	
1558	Birth of Shem since he was 100 years old, two years after the flood. - Genesis 11:10	
1651	Death of Lamech Genesis 5:30-31	
1656	Methuselah died . Genesis 5:27	
1656	Year of The Flood. -----Genesis 7:11 – Noah is 600 years old. -----	2,458 B.C.
	The Tower of Babel occurred sometime after the flood. When??? – Genesis 11:1-9	
1658	Shem is 100 years old & Arphaxed was born. “Two years after the flood.” See Genesis 11:10	
1693	Birth of Shelah. Genesis 11:12	
1723	Birth of Eber. Genesis 11:14	
1757	Birth of Peleg. Genesis 11:16	
1787	Birth of Reu. Genesis 11:18	
1819	Birth of Serug. Genesis 11:20	
1849	Birth of Nahor. Genesis 11:22	
1878	Birth of Terah. Genesis 11:24	
1948	Abraham was Born. -----Genesis 11:26 -----	2,166 B.C.
2006	Death of Noah ----- Genesis 9:28-29 --- Abraham would have been 58 years old. -----	2,108 B.C.
2048	Birth of Isaac. -----	2,064 B.C.
2088	Isaac & Rebecca were married.	
2108	Esau and Jacob are born. -----	2,004 B.C.
2,123	Abraham died . -----	1,991 B.C.
2,199	Joseph was born -----	1,915 B.C.
2,228	The death of Isaac. -----	1,886 B.C.
2,255	Jacob died. -----	1,859 B.C.
2,309	Joseph died. -----	1,805 B.C.
	Aaron born -----	1,529 B.C.
	Moses Born -----	1,526 B.C.
2,668	First Passover in Egypt -----	1,446 B.C.
	Death of Moses -----	1,406 B.C.
2,824	Ruth -----	1,290 B.C.
	King Saul -----	1,051 B.C.
3,063	King David -----	1,011 B.C.
	King Solomon -----	971 B.C.
	Elijah -----	870 B.C.
	Elisha -----	845 B.C.
	Jonah -----	781 B.C.
	The Fall of the Northern Tribes of Israel to the Assyrians -----	722 B.C.
	Ezekiel & Daniel -----	620 B.C.
	The Fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians -----	586 B.C.
	Malachi -----	465 B.C.
3,782	Alexander The Great conquers Egypt -----	332 B.C.
4,114	Jesus Born -----	1 Anno Domini
	Jesus Began His Ministry -----	30 A.D.
	Jesus Died and Rose from the Dead -----	33 A.D.
	Approximate Date for the Beheading of The Apostle Paul -----	64 A.D.
4,184	Jerusalem Destroyed by Romans -----	70 A.D.
4,210	Book of Revelation written by The Apostle John -----	96 A.D.
	Beginning of Islam -----	610 A.D.
	The split between the Eastern Church (Constantinople) & Western Church (Rome) ---	1,054 A.D
	Crusades.-----	1095 A.D – 1291 A.D.
	Fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Empire -----	1,453 A.D.
	Martin Luther – BORN -----	November 10, 1,483 A.D.
	Luther’s Small Catechism -----	1,529 A.D.
	Martin Luther – DIED -----	February 18, 1,546 A.D.
6,046	New Building at St. John’s -----	1,932 A.D.

Martin Luther saw a need for Catechetical instruction in the Word of God.
 Catechism comes from the Greek word - *katnXew* – meaning – to instruct by mouth.
 Later the Latin term *Catechismus* came to be applied to a Book of instruction.
 By the time of Martin Luther the term Catechism involved a form of questions and answers.

From Which Book did Martin Luther base his Small Catechism? _____

The Bible is divided into what two parts? _____ & _____

How Many Books of the Bible are there? _____ (Can anyone say them from memory?)

How Many Books of the Bible are in the Old Testament? _____

How Many Books of the Bible are in the New Testament? _____

Whose Word do we find In the Holy Bible? _____

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Who wrote the Bible? _____

II Peter 1:19-21 - And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.
²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

What Term is used when speaking of God using Holy men to write His Word? _____

_____.

Circle the statement that is True:

The Bible is God's Word.

The Bible contains God's Word.

The **Old** Testament was originally written in what language (s)? _____ with some _____

Genesis 1:1 - Ārah taw μymvh ta μyhla arb tyvarB -

Some Aramaic Passages include: Genesis 31:47; Ezra 4:8-6:18; Ezra 7:12-26; Jeremiah 10:11; Daniel 2:4b-7:28. The Aramaic used is close enough to the Hebrew that it can be read by only a Hebrew Reader / Writer.

The **New** Testament was originally written in what language? _____

John 3:16 -

Ουτως γαρ ηγαπησεν ο Θεος τον κοσμον, ωστε τον υιον τον μονογενη εδωκεν, ινα πασ ο πιστευων εισ αυτον μη αποληται αλλα εχη ζωην αιωνιον. -

From what three (3) ways do we know that God exists? _____, _____, _____,

Romans 1:20 – For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Romans 2:14-15 – Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, ¹⁵ since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.

Psalms 119:105 – Your word (LORD) is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Genesis 15:1-4 - After this, **the word** of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” ² But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

⁴ Then **the word** of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.”

What are the Two main TEACHINGS / Doctrines of the Bible? _____ & _____

Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

The LAW **S**hows us **O**ur **S**_____

Romans 3:20 - Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

The GOSPEL **S**hows us **O**ur **S**_____

Romans 1:16-17 - I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

What Is The Purpose of The Bible?

John 20:30-31 - “Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

If you were to pick a Bible Passage to tell someone the central message of the Bible, what passage might you use?

Examples:

John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

I Peter 3:18 - “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,”

I John 2:1-2 – “My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

Feel Free to add to the list.