

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used for the books of the Bible cited in the text:

OLD TESTAMENT

Gen.....Genesis
 Ex.....Exodus
 Lev.....Leviticus
 1 Kings.....1 Kings
 1 Chron.....1 Chronicles
 Ps.....Psalms
 Prov.....Proverbs
 Eccles.....Ecclesiastes
 Wis.....Wisdom
 Is.....Isaiah
 Dan.....Daniel
 Hos.....Hosea
 Jon.....Jonah
 Zech.....Zechariah

NEW TESTAMENT

Mt.....Matthew
 Mk.....Mark
 Lk.....Luke
 Jn.....John
 Acts.....Acts of the
Apostles
 Rom.....Romans
 1 Cor.....1 Corinthians
 Gal.....Galatians
 Eph.....Ephesians
 Col.....Colossians
 1 Tim.....1 Timothy
 2 Tim.....2 Timothy
 Heb.....Hebrews
 1 Pet.....1 Peter
 Rev.....Revelation
(Apocalypse)

The abbreviation CCC refers to *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

REFERENCE KEY

The Bible

How to look up Scripture references in the Bible:

Book of the Bible (an abbreviation key can be found above and in the front of the Bible)	Chapter number
	Verse number

Jn 1:14

Catechism of the Catholic Church

How to look up references in the Catechism:

Catechism of the Catholic Church (abbreviation)	Paragraph number
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CCC 234

I Believe, We Believe

AN ILLUSTRATED JOURNEY THROUGH

the Apostles' Creed

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who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,

I BELIEVE in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven
and earth,
and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,



“I BELIEVE”

Find first the baptized Christian with his guardian angel in the corner of page 5. His new light of faith is shown as a brightly lit candle. He is being invited to read, to confess with his lips and believe in his heart (Rom 10:9) all that the Creed presents. From the truths of the Creed he can know with joy and certainty that God is real and true and good and glorious.

“IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,”

In reading the first words of the Creed on page 5, the scene above opens up. At the top, find the hand of God the Father extending down from a semi-circle of divine glory in silver, blue and gold. There is only one God, he who dwells in inaccessible light (1 Tim 6:16) and there is no other (1 Kings 8:60).

No one created God. God is eternal, which means before all time. God is infinite, which means God is boundless and unlimited. Before and beyond any land, sky or space, God is! Only God is unchanging, “the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb 13:8).

God is “Father” because everything comes from his creative love, “for his steadfast love endures forever” (Ps 136:1). He is “almighty” because all might—all greatness and power and glory and victory and majesty—is his (1 Chron 29:11).

“CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH,”

God told the prophets, “My hand laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens” (Is 48:13). God’s hand represents his creative love and blessing over everything. See his Holy Spirit descending as a dove and his Son who is “the image of the invisible God” (Col 1:15). “All things were created through him and for him” (Col 1:16): the heavens where the angels dwell, the light of wisdom (Gen 1:3; Prov 8:22-23) and the lights of the sun and moon (Gen 1:16).

God made time and space, the whole world and everything in it that we can investigate. Finally, he made man and woman, male and female, in his own image, making them most lovingly (Gen 1:27).

Find Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, in the garden named Eden. God loved them and told them what they could eat and what would be bad for them. They are dressed like royalty because God gave them dominion (Gen 1:28), which means caring and providing for the plants and animals.

One day, Satan appeared as a serpent. It was the devil, an evil spirit, who came in while Adam was not watching over the



garden. Eve listened to Satan’s sly voice and Adam listened to Eve. They liked what Satan said, instead of trusting God’s words of loving kindness to them.

As soon as they chose to believe Satan, “a liar and the father of lies” (Jn 8:44), fear and shame flooded their minds and hearts, followed by confusion and chaos. They had chosen disobedience and distrust of God. The consequences of this they passed on to the land, their children and all future families. This sad state is called “original sin,” from which no one can escape without God’s help.

“AND IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD,”

God’s help came when he sent his only Son, born of the Father before all ages. “No one has ever seen God; the only Son . . . has made him known” (Jn 1:18). The name “Jesus” means “God saves” and his title “Christ” means the “Messiah,” the one “anointed” with the Holy Spirit who would rescue the people from their unhappy state.

Jesus is also called “Lord.” A lord is a provider for the good of the people in his care and the people obey him. Jesus is the “Lord of lords” (Rev 17:14) because he is God who cares and provides everything for our good.

“WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,”

God so loved the world (Jn 3:16) that he sent the angel Gabriel to a beautiful young Jewish woman named Mary. “The Holy Spirit will come upon you” the angel said, “and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” (Lk 1:35). This is how Jesus, the Holy Son of God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, over 2,000 years ago.

Mary gave birth to Jesus nine months later in Bethlehem. Notice that the Holy Spirit, as a dove in the stable, is the same Holy Spirit present before the creation of the world. Notice too that the baby Jesus’ halo is the same as his halo as the Son of God through whom the whole world was made.

Jesus grew up in loving obedience to his heavenly Father and to his foster father, St. Joseph. When the time came, he began teaching everywhere in Galilee and doing many miracles. Multitudes loved him but some did not because his life of honesty and goodness was not like theirs (Wis 2:15).

