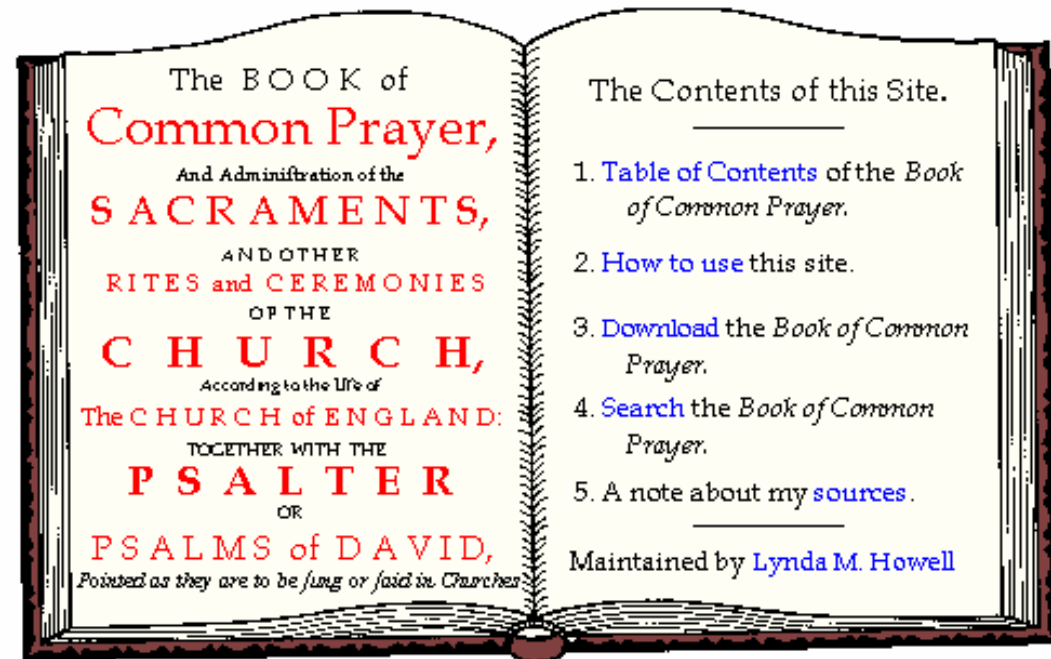


Overview of the 39 Articles of Religion

Church of the Ascension Fall 2006

Class 02

David Laughlin



Outline

- Introduction to the Reformation in England
- **Catholic Beliefs (articles 1-8)**
- Salvation: Our Perspective (articles 9-16)
- Salvation: God's Perspective (articles 17/18)
- Church and Councils (articles 19-24)
- The Sacraments (articles 25-30)
- Church Discipline (articles 31-36)
- Church and State (articles 37-39)
- Summary

By **Catholic Beliefs**, I mean those beliefs that are held in common by *all Christians*: the *Universal or Catholic Church*.

In particular they were not debated during the Reformation by the Protestants with the Roman Catholics: they were held in common (except for Sufficiency of Scripture, VI)

Some of these Catholic Doctrines were not believed by the Anabaptists and other sectarian groups

Catholic Beliefs (articles 1-8)

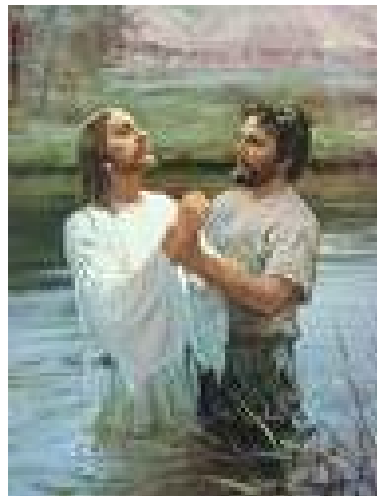
- I. Of Faith in the Holy Trinity**
- II. Of the Word or Son of God, which was made very Man**
- III. Of the going down of Christ into Hell**
- IV. Of the Resurrection of Christ**
- V. Of the Holy Ghost**
- VI. Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation**
- VII. Of the Old Testament**
- VIII. Of the Creeds**

I. Of Faith in the Holy Trinity.

There is but one^a living and true God^b, everlasting^c, without body, parts^d, or passions^e; of infinite power^f, wisdom^g, and goodness^h; the Maker, and Preserver of all things both visible and invisibleⁱ. And in unity of this Godhead there be three Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost^k.



Go to II



without body, **God is a Spirit**

without parts, **in Latin, *impartibilis*, not able to be divided**

without passions, **in Latin, *impassibilis*, not able to suffer**

Isaiah 46:9

remember the former things of old;
for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and *there is no one* like me,

1 Cor. 8:4-6

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "*there is no God but one.*" 5Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth--as in fact there are many gods and many lords-- 6yet for us *there is one God*, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and *one Lord*, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Jeremiah 10:10

But the Lord is the *true God*;
he is the living God and the everlasting King.
At his wrath the earth quakes,
and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

1 Thes. 1:9

For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a *living and true God*,

Psalm 90:2

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from *everlasting to everlasting* you are God.

Romans 16:26

but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic
writings is made known to all the Gentiles,
according to the command of the *eternal God*, to
bring about the obedience of faith--

Deut. 4:15-16

Since you saw no form when the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire, take care and watch yourselves closely, 16so that you do not act corruptly by making an idol for yourselves, in the *form of any figure*--the likeness of male or female,

John 4:24

God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him in spirit* and in truth.

Luke 24:39

Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a *ghost* does not have *flesh and bones* as you see that I have."

Acts 14:15

"Friends, why are you doing this? We are mortals *just like you*, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

James 1:17

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is *no variation or shadow due to change*.

Jeremiah 32:17 , 27

Ah Lord God! It is you who made the heavens and the earth by your *great power* and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

See, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too hard for me?

Mark 10:27

Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God *all things are possible.*"

Psalm 147:5

Great is our Lord, and abundant in *power*; his *understanding* is beyond measure.

Romans 11:33

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

Psalm 119:68

You are *good* and do good;
teach me your statutes.

Matthew 19:17

And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is *good*? There is only *one who is good*. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments."

Neh. 9:6

And Ezra said: "You are the Lord, you alone; you *have made heaven, the heaven of heavens*, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. To all of them you give life, and the host of heaven worships you.

Col. 1:16-17

for in him *all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible*, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers--all things have been created through him and for him. 17He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Matthew 3:16-17

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And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

2 Cor. 13:14

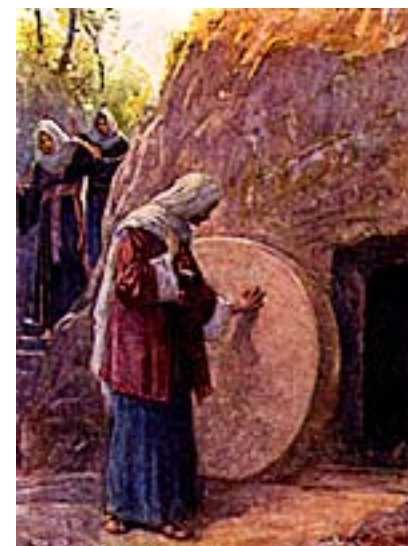
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

II. Of the Word or Son of God, which was made very Man.

The Son, which is the Word of the Father, begotten from everlasting of the Father^l, the very^m and eternal Godⁿ, and of one substance^o with the Father, took Man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin, of her substance^p: so that two whole and perfect Natures, that is to say, the Godhead and Manhood, were joined together in one Person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God, and very Man^q; who truly suffered^r, was crucified, dead, and buried^s, to reconcile his Father^t to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for actual sins of men^m.



Go to III



Proverbs 8:22

The Lord created me *at the beginning* of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

John 1:12-14

But to all who received him, who believed in his
name, he gave power to become children of God,
13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the
flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a *father's*
only son, full of grace and truth.

Proverbs 8:22-31

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.

23Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
24When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

25Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth--

26when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.

27When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

28when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,

29when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

30then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,

rejoicing before him always,
31rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

1 John 5:20

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. *He is the true God and eternal life.*

Romans 9:5

to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, *comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.*

John 17:5

So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I *had in your presence* before the world existed.

Hebrews 1:8

But of the Son he says,
"Your throne, O God, *is forever and ever*,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your
kingdom.

Psalms 45:6

Your throne, O God, *endures forever and ever*. Your
royal scepter is a scepter of equity;

John 10:30

The Father and I *are one*.

Hebrews 1:3

He is the *reflection of God's glory* and the *exact imprint* of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

John 1:14

And the Word became *flesh* and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall *bear a son*, and shall name him Immanuel.

Luke 1:35

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the *child to be born* will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

Galatians 4:4

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, *born of a woman*, born under the law,

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel

Matthew 1:23

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

Romans 1:3-4

the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Isaiah 53:10-11

Yet it was the will of the Lord to *crush him* with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

11 Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Mark 14:33-34

He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. 34 And he said to them, "*I am deeply grieved*, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

1 Peter 2:24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Philip. 2:1

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,

1 Cor. 15:3-4

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ *died for our sins* in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was *buried*, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,

Ezekiel 16:63

in order that you may remember and be confounded, and never open your mouth again because of your shame, when I forgive you all that you have done, says the Lord God.

Romans 3:25

whom God put forward as a *sacrifice of atonement* by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed;

2 Cor. 5:12

We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart.

Isaiah 53:10

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

Ephes. 5:2

and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

1 John 1:7

but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have
fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son
cleanses us from *all sin*.

Hebrews 9:26

for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the
foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for
all at the end of the age to *remove sin* by the sacrifice of

III. Of the going down of Christ into Hell.

As Christ died for us, and was buried; so also is it to be believed, that he went down into Hell.



This article was added to the 42
from Confession Of Wurtemberg



Albrecht Dürer (1471 -1528)
'The Large Passion: The
Harrowing of Hell'
Germany 1510

Go to IV

The original article from the 42



**This article was added to the 42 from the Lutheran Confession Of
Wurtemberg**

Of the going down of Christ into Hell.

As Christ died and was buried for us, so also it is to be believed, that he went down to Hell. **For the body lay in the Sepulcher, until the resurrection: but his Ghost departing from him, was with the Ghosts that were in prison, or in Hell, and did preach to the same, as the place of St. Peter doth testify.**

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ^[8] Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." ^[9] (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ^[10] He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.)

return

Acts 2:27 : For you will not abandon my soul to *Hades*, or let your Holy One experience corruption.

Acts 2:31: Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to *Hades*, nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

Hades is the place of the dead, both the righteous and unrighteous, often translated as *hell*

return

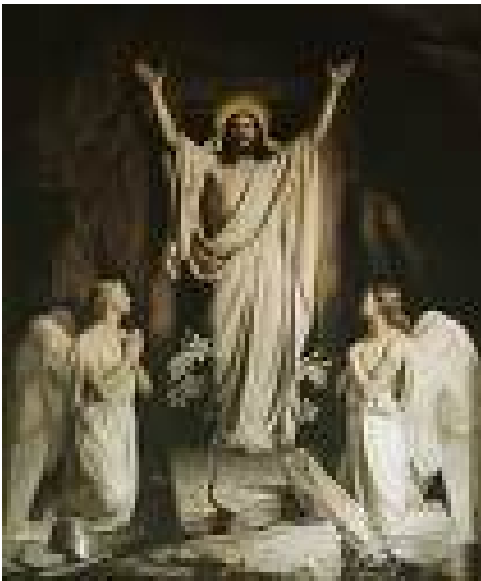
1 Peter 3:18-20

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ^[19] in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ^[20] who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

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IV. Of the Resurrection of Christ (1)

Christ did truly **rise again from death**, and took again his body, with flesh, bones, and all things appertaining to the perfection of Man's nature; wherewith he ascended into Heaven, and there sitteth, until he return to judge all Men at the last day.



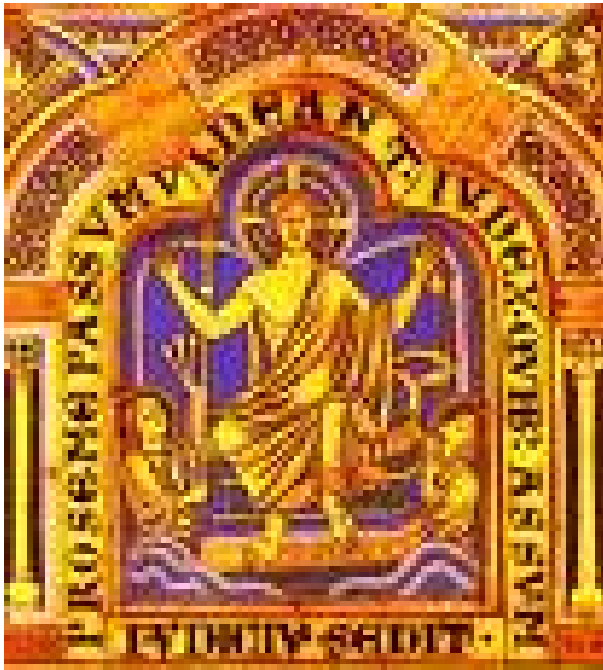
IV. Of the Resurrection of Christ (2)

Christ did truly rise again from death, and took again his body, with flesh, bones, and all things appertaining to the perfection of Man's nature; wherewith he ascended into Heaven, and there sitteth, until he return to judge all Men at the last day.



IV. Of the Resurrection of Christ (3)

Christ did truly rise again from death, and took again his body, with flesh, bones, and all things appertaining to the perfection of Man's nature; wherewith he ascended into Heaven, and there sitteth, until he [return to judge all Men at the last day.](#)



Go to V

V. Of the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty, and glory, with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God.

Not in the original 42: sounds like the Augsburg Confession

This is Western: the so-called *filioque* clause



Go to VI

As to the Sacred scripture, the inspired writers call the holy Ghost the Spirit of the Son ([Galatians 4:6](#)), the spirit of Christ ([Romans 8:9](#)), the Spirit of [Jesus Christ](#) (Phil., i, 19), just as they call Him the Spirit of the Father ([Matthew 10:20](#)) and the [Spirit of God](#) ([1 Corinthians 2:11](#)). Hence they attribute to the Holy Ghost the same relation to the Son as to the Father. Again, according to Sacred Scripture, the Son sends the Holy Ghost ([Luke 24:49](#); [John 15:26](#); [16:7](#); [20:22](#); [Acts 2:33](#); [Titus 3:6](#)), just as the Father sends the Son ([Romans 3:3](#); etc.), and as the Father sends the Holy Ghost ([John 14:26](#)).

[Catholic Encyclopedia](#)

VI. Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation.

Holy Scriptureⁱ containeth **all things necessary to salvation^k**: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be **required** of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith^l, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scripture we do understand those canonical Books of the Old and New Testament, *of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church.*

whose authority was never any doubt in the Church was added to the 42.

Go to VII

Of the Names and Number of the Canonical Books

Genesis,	The First Book of Samuel,	The Book of Esther,
Exodus,	The Second Book of Samuel,	The Book of Job,
Leviticus,	The First Book of Kings,	The Psalms,
Numbers,	The Second Book of Kings,	The Proverbs,
Deuteronomy,	The First Book of Chronicles,	Ecclesiastes
Joshua,	The Second Book of Chronicles,	Songs of Solomon,
Judges,	The First Book of Esdras,	Four Prophets,greater,
Ruth,	The Second Book of Esdras,	Twelve Prophets, less.

Note: 1 and 2 Esdras are the names in the LXX for Ezra and Nehemiah

Note also that there are only 38 books above:
Lamentations must be included with Jeremiah

**The Book of Tobias,
The Book of Judith,
The rest of the Book of Esther
The Book of Wisdom of Solomon
Ecclesiasticus, or the Wisdom of Jesus the Son of Sirach
Baruch the Prophet,
The Song of the Three Children,
The Story of Susanna,
Of Bel and the Dragon
The First Book of Maccabees,
The Second Book of Maccabees.**

The Third Book of Esdras

The Fourth Book of Esdras

The Prayer of Manasses,

The Canon taught in the 39 Articles is the same as most of the Reformed and Confessional Protestant Churches of the Reformation.

The historical basis of the canon is that it is the canon cited in Athanasius's Festal Letter of 367, that of Jerome and that of the Council of Carthage, 397.

In the 16th century at Trent (1546) the RCC included the apocrypha in the Bible

all things necessary to salvation^k:

Not other thinkgs like worship! See Article XX

required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith^l,

of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church.

Why do we believe the Bible?

By the church's authority

Because it is God's Word and self authenticating?

Romans 1:2

which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the *holy scriptures*,

2 Tim. 3:15

and how from childhood you have known the *sacred writings* that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Peter 1:20-21

First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of *scripture* is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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Psalm 19:7

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

2 Tim. 3:15-17

and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

James 1:21,25

Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act--they will be blessed in their doing.

Acts 20:32

And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified.

return

Proverbs 30:5-6

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. ⁶Do not add to his words, or else he will rebuke you, and you will be found a liar.

Isaiah 8:20

for teaching and for instruction?" Surely, those who speak like this will have no dawn!

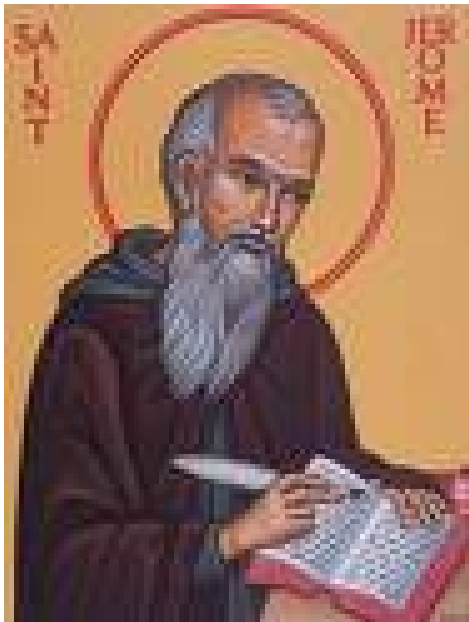
Acts 26:22

To this day I have had help from God, and so I stand here, testifying to both small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would take place:

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The Apocrapha

And the *other* Books (as Hierome saith) the Church doth read for example of life and instruction of manners; but yet doth it not apply them to establish any doctrine; such are these following:



VII. Of the Old Testament.

The Old Testament is **not contrary** to the New: for both in the Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to Mankind **by Christ**, who is the only Mediator between God and Man, being both God and Man. Wherefore they are not to be heard, which feign that the old Fathers did look only for **transitory promises**. Although the Law given from God by Moses, as touching Ceremonies and Rites, do not bind Christian men, nor the Civil precepts thereof ought of necessity to be received in any commonwealth; yet notwithstanding, no Christian man whatsoever is **free from the obedience of the Commandments which are called Moral**.

Go to VIII

VIII. Of the Creeds.

The Nicene Creed, and that which is commonly called the Apostles' Creed, ought thoroughly to be received and believed: for they may be proved by most certain warrants of Holy Scripture.



The original Article given Royal assent in 1571 and reaffirmed in 1662, was entitled, “Of the Three Creeds”; and began as follows, “The Three Creeds, Nicene Creed, Athanasius’s Creed, and that which is commonly called the Apostles’ Creed . . .”

The Puritans did not like this article because:

1. The Apostles did not write the Apostles' Creed
2. The Nicene Creed is better called the Nicene – Constantinople Creed
3. The Athanasian Creed was not written by Saint Athanasius

But they believed what was in the Apostles and Nicene Creed except perhaps for the descent to hell and some of the details of the Person of Christ

IX. Of Original or Birth-Sin.

X. Of Free-Will.

XI. Of the Justification of Man.

XII. Of Good Works.

XIII. Of Works before Justification.

XIV. Of Works of Supererogation.

XV. Of Christ alone without Sin.

XVI. Of Sin after Baptism.