

Torah and the People of God

“Sounding the depths of the mystery which is the church, this sacred council remembers the spiritual ties which link the people of the new covenant to the stock of Abraham.”

- Nostra Aetate 4 (Vatican II)

The Torah forms part of the sacred story of the Jewish people. Since Christianity grew out of Judaism, the Torah is foundational to our sacred story also. Without the Torah, the New Testament would be like a plant deprived of its roots; it would dry up and wither.

What is the theme common to both Testaments? It is a love story; a story of salvation; a story of a loving God who forms a people and draws that people ever more closely, revealing God's self at ever more intimate depths. A love for Torah is a love for one's faith family. If you want your children to understand their ancestry, would you just tell them about their grandparents, or would you want them to know their great great-grandparents too? The Torah draws us deeply into the story of our spiritual ancestors. It imparts the story of their gifts and weaknesses, their opportunities and obstacles; their growth points and setbacks. It teaches us that their story is our story too. By journeying through the Torah we journey deep into the heart of God. With the Jewish people, we learn what it means to live and worship as God's people.