

The Story of Salvation

Session Two

Presentation

- I. **"Early World"** Time Period
 - A. Genesis 1-11
 - B. Primeval history in "figurative language" (CCC 390)
- II. Genesis 1 – Six Days of Creation
 - A. "without form and void" (Gen 1:2) – God *forms* creation (Day 1-3) and then *fills* it (Days 4-6).

Formlessness	Emptiness
Day 1. Day, Night	Day 4. Sun, Moon, Stars
Day 2. Sea, Sky	Day 5. Fish, Birds
Day 3. Land, Vegetation	Day 6. Animals, Man
Day 7. Sabbath Rest	

- B. "it was good (Hebrew: *tov*)" (Gen 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25) and "very good" (Gen 1:31)
- C. Male & female "in the image of God" (Gen 1:27, CCC 356-357)
- D. "Be fruitful and multiply... have dominion..." (v.28, CCC 372)
- E. God "rested" on 7th day (2:2)

- III. **Genesis 2** – The Garden of Eden
 - A. "Eden" means "delight" – Man was in friendship with God
 - B. Body & soul; "dust" & "breath of life" (Gen 2:7, CCC 362)
 - C. Man called to "till" and "keep" Garden, reflecting God's order (Gen 2:15, CCC 378)
 - D. "tree of life" (Gen 2:9) – freedom from death (CCC 376)
 - E. "tree of knowledge of good and evil" (Gen 2:17, CCC 396)
 - F. "not good that the man should be alone" (Gen 2:18, CCC 371)
- IV. **Genesis 3** – The Fall of Man
 - A. "serpent" – Satan (CCC 391)
 - B. "Did God say...?" (Gen 3:1) – distrusting God (CCC 397)
 - C. "you will be like God" (Gen 3:5) – pride of man (CCC 398)
 - D. "hid themselves" (Gen 3:8) – sin causes a distorted image of God (CCC 399)

- E. Adam blames Eve (Gen 3:12)
 - disharmony among humans
- F. Sin brings suffering, death, & exile (Gen 3:16-24, CCC 400)
- G. Protoevangelium, “first gospel” (Gen 3:15, CCC 410)
- V. **Genesis 4 to 11 – Sin Spreads**
 - A. Cain & Abel (Gen 4)
 - B. Noah & the Flood (Gen 6-9)
 - C. Tower of Babel (Gen 11)

Discussion Questions

1. Genesis says that humans are made “in the image of God.” How do humans reflect God’s image?
2. God didn’t put Adam in a forest, but in a garden, which requires reason and the work of his hands. What does this teach us about the dignity of human work? How can we bring order, beauty, and abundance to the world around us?
3. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says that all sin involves “disobedience toward God and lack of trust in his goodness” (CCC 397). How is this seen in the sin of Adam and Eve? How is this seen in our own sins?
4. Where do you see disorder or chaos in your own life? How might God be calling you to bring order, beauty, or healing there?
5. Why do you think God included a Sabbath rest as part of the week?
6. The promise of a Savior (Genesis 3:15) appears right after the Fall. What does this reveal about God's character, and how can that give us hope in our own struggles?

Call to Action

Read Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-17; & 22:1-19 in preparation for our next session .

Psalm 148

Leader: Let all creation praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, shining stars.

Praise him, highest heavens
and the waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord.
He commanded: they were made.
He fixed them for ever,
gave a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
sea creatures and all oceans,
fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy winds that obey his word;

all mountains and hills,
all fruit trees and cedars,
beasts, wild and tame,
reptiles and birds on the wing;

all earth's kings and peoples,
earth's princes and rulers,
young men and maidens,
the old men together with children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord
for he alone is exalted.
The splendor of his name
reaches beyond heaven and earth.

He exalts the strength of his people.
He is the praise of all his saints,
of the sons of Israel,
of the people to whom he comes
close.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
— as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

All: Let all creation praise the Lord.