

Lesson Three – Creation

Purpose of Today's Lesson Is:

To learn about God's creation of man, the angels, free will, and the fall of man.

Why is this important? The gain a better understanding of God's creation and mans fall from our original state of Grace.

1. Genesis

- Definition of Genesis → “the origin or mode of formation of something”.
- Through creation God shares with us his beauty, his power and his glory in the world He created.
- The Book of Genesis is part of an oral tradition (religious stories) which was passed down through the Jewish people.
- It is not to be taken as a scientific account of how the world was created. Some religions treat it this way and by doing so they create false errors in scripture.
- The creation account must be read in the correct manner and tradition in order to understand it.
- The Author of the Genesis (Moses?) recorded it down to instruct the Jewish people that:
 1. There is only one God who created everything
 2. God created everything in an orderly way for man.
 3. Everything created by God is good.

2. The Creation of Mankind

- Read.....

GENESIS CHAPTER 1: Then God said, "Let us make man in our (→ *points to the Holy Trinity*) **image**, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

GENESIS CHAPTER 2: The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

GENESIS CHAPTER 3: Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, `You shall not eat of any tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but God said, `You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

- Genesis states that God made man in his image and that he created the first man and first woman to be the parents of the entire human race.
- Genesis tells us that God has a bigger plan for man → man was created to worship God and to care and rule over his creations such as the animals and plants.
- All of God's creation were created good and were to be used by man for food, clothing, enjoyment, etc.
- The parents of the human race were named Adam and Eve.
- Adam and Eve were real people and not myths as some people today would like you believe.

3. The Human Person

- God created man with both a physical body and spiritual soul. Without both we would not be complete human beings. We are special in God's creation.
 - Our bodies are physical they are made up of matter
 - Our souls are spiritual they are like God in this sense.
 - We can think, reason, and know right from wrong
 - We can choose to love or hate
 - We can choose to do good or bad.
 - No other earthly creatures can do these things.
 - Our souls and body are immortal – we will live forever.
- God created all men equal in dignity.
 - This does not mean that we are all the same.
 - Some people are stronger, smarter, taller, etc.....
 - God expects us to treat everyone with respect and love.

- This does not mean that we have to agree with or like everything other people do. We are simply called to treat them with dignity. Sometimes this means correcting them out of love for God.
- God created man with special gifts.
 - Man was to be free from pain and suffering.
 - Man was to live in a state of peace and harmony.
 - Man was created with SANCTIFYING GRACE which allowed man to know and love God in a special way and enabled man to live forever in this State of Grace.
 - God created man to share in His glory.
 - All that God required of the man and woman was that they love and serve Him all their lives.

[VIDEO - Does the Devil Exist? \(3MC – DVD #1 – Creation – Part 26\)](#)

4. Creation of the Angels/Fallen Angels

- Before God created man he also created pure spirits who we call Angels.
- Angels were created good and not evil.
- Angels are intelligent being like man except that they have no bodies.
- Angels are much more intelligent than man and they possess much greater powers than man does.
- God also tested the Angels. Some of them, led by Lucifer (Satan) rebelled and refused to serve the Lord. Through their own freewill (they were not tricked by a smarter being like man was) they chose to become evil instead of good. We call these disobedient angels the **fallen angels**.
- The fallen angels had a “battle” with the good angels led by St. Michael the Archangel.
 - We say a prayer to St. Michael after every Mass.

- He is the chosen guardian of the Church and of the chosen people of the OT
- The fallen angles try to tempt man and keep us from serving God.
- Each one of us has a Guardian Angel who watches over us all the time.
 - Our guardian angel was given to us at our birth!
 - Our guardian angel protects us from danger (spiritual and physical).
 - They pray for us.

5. Fall of Man

- Like the angels God tested man.
- God was not unfair to man by testing him. God had to give man the gift of **freewill** just as he did for the angels.
 - Through **freewill** man is truly free. God could not force Adam and Eve to love and obey him without giving them a choice.
 - We think of freedom as the ability to do whatever we want. If we are truly free we would not choose evil over good!
 - You cannot force someone to love you. If you did it would not be real love!
- God placed Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden (Paradise) to live and serve Him in perfect happiness.
- God only asked that they not eat any fruit from the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil**.
- Satan saw this as a way to lead Adam and Eve away from God.
- Satan lied to them and told them they could be just like God if they ate of the forbidden fruit.
- When they ate of the forbidden fruit they immediately realized that they had been lied to by Satan.
- Through this sin (**Original Sin**) Mankind was banished from paradise and would be subject to suffering, pain, and bodily death. Their sin (**Original Sin**) would be passed onto their descendants.

- Human nature was weakened by their sin.

[VIDEO - What is Original Sin? \(3MC – DVD #1 – Creation – Part 24\)](#)

5. God Promised Man a Redeemer

- God still loved man even though man sinned against God.
- God wanted Adam and Eve and their descendants to live with Him in heaven forever.
- God promised to send a redeemer to reconcile us to God and restore us to our original state of Grace.
- God told Satan that His redeemer would come from a woman saying: *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”* (Gen 3:15) The woman is to be Mary!

Class Questions:

- 1. In whose image was man created?**
- 2. Who were the first human beings?**
- 3. What are the demons?**
- 4. What is a soul?**
- 5. How does man differ from the Angels?**
- 6. Does man soul die with his body?**
- 7. What is free will?**
- 8. What damage did Adam’s sin cause?**
- 9. How are we to read the book of Genesis?**

Next week’s lesson will be on: *God’s Plan of Salvation*

Prayer to Your Guardian Angel

*Angel of God,
my guardian dear,
To whom God's love
commits me here,
Ever this day,
be at my side,
To light and guard,
Rule and guide.
Amen.*

"From infancy to death human life is surrounded by their (the angels) watchful care and intercession. Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life. Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united to God."- from the Catechism of the Catholic Church; 336.