

Adult Bible Study 2024

Week Five Notes

8/18/Sunday

Genesis 3 with Recap of Genesis 1-3 and the senses of Scripture from *Dei Verbum*

Week 4 Recap

- Senses of Scripture (see article)
 - Literal (Grammatical | Historical)
 - Spiritual (Symbolic)
 - Allegorical - as it reveals the Son of God
 - Moral | Tropological - as it informs us how to live
 - Anagogical - as it tells us of the end times
 - <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/one-text-four-senses>
- Bathe everything in Christ - in our intellects, will, emotions, and passions
- Religion tends to be moralistic - a list of do's and don't's
 - We're a people of a Person - Jesus Christ, not people of a book
- We're made for rest
 - Josef Pieper *Leisure the Basis of Culture*
- Creation
 - Chaos → Order → Rest
- Destruction
 - Rest → Disorder → Chaos
- Protoevangelium = Genesis 3:15
 - The First Gospel - "Greek"

Main Ideas

- 4 Broken Relationships - 4 Conflicts after the Fall
 - Man vs. God
 - Man vs. Other (woman & man)
 - Man vs. Self
 - Man vs. Creation
- Man is constantly looking for the tree of life in all other things. They're not here
 - The pain of exile drives all our additions
 - Man is more deeply looking for God
- The Devil shows the bait, to lure, and then offers death
- Death is not just a cessation of life according to the Hebrews
 - It is a diminished existence, a diminished experience
- Cain in Hebrew means "established"
 - Gen 4:1 reads as follows
 - "I have gotten a man YHWH"

- Eve has high expectations for this child
- Abel in Hebrew means “absurdity” (could be emptiness or vanity - comes from the book of Ecclesiastes)
 - Shows Eve’s disillusionment with family life
 - It shows essentially, this sentiment
 - “If I got the right job/house/paycheck/mate then my life will be better”
 - Ever searching for a better life from material means
 - That’s the absurdity of it all
 - Instead of resolving to love Jesus Christ, we crucify Him. that’s ABSURD!
- We long for Heaven because we’re in an exiled place
- Consider how God first killed an animal to cover Adam and Eve’s nakedness. He is the first “killer”
- Cain & Abel
 - What is wrong with the vegetable offering from Cain?
 - Nothing
 - What is right with the animal offering from Abel?
 - Other than it being bloody (meaning is atonement for sin)
 - More properly - their offerings show their heart. Abel was willing give from a vulnerability and love of God. Cain from necessity and not giving his “best”
 - Topic of tithing - do we give based from our love of God or from our false perception that “I own” my material things.
 - Love God, have faith, honor God, live generously
 - See the contrary of that. Detrimental
 - Sin is personified as an animal lurking outside the door
 - Teshukah → Hebrew word for “desire” translated as “to master you”
 - The same word earlier as Eve will have Teshukah for Adam. She will want to “master” Adam/dominate Adam
 - Sin wants to master us. We rather have integrity
 - Use our volitional will (ability to choose) power of the soul to choose good over evil
 - Integrity of being
 - Cain did not fight for Abel. He fought Abel
 - He killed Abel. He also killed God for the “blood cries out”
 - Misanthropic - hater of people
 - Philanthropic - lover of people
- God asks the questions
 - He is in search of man, always
 - “Where are you”
- At this point the Survivor Mentality sets in
 - I gotta care about me!

- Cain is a fugitive, we're fugitives
- Cain complains that his punishment is too great. Mourns those who are still alive. Given a mark on his forehead - that is God's grace to preserve his life
- Sin of presumption - Cain's lineage leads to Lamech - he presumes God's grace & takes on two wives - a life of chaos.
 - Cain's lineage is associated with culture. There's a bright side and dark side to culture and human progression and technological advancement
- Can't explain man apart from angels, from animals, or from creation
- Heresies have a profound disorder and disdain for this order
- Gnosticism - Greek "gnosis" meaning "knowledge" - a secret knowledge needed for salvation
- Animals don't have the breath of God that Man has
 - Note Isaiah 11 & 35 when the lion and world lie down together, the child with snakes
- **God never does anything which He cannot get someone else to do**
 - God could always turn to someone to do the work He does on earth
 - He wants to be part of humanity, apart of time, for love of us
 - Angels obey. They are God's servants
 - Demons disobey
- Our Guardian Angels work so hard to protect us.
 - THANK YOU, GUARDIAN ANGEL!
- A flaming sword and Cherubim guard the tabernacle. They protect the Garden of Eden.
 - The veil
- Motifs being developed more

Big Question

- How can I change my perspective to look at Scripture through the lens of motifs & images?
 - Story of Fr. John's mom and her Bible
 - Concordance - all the major words A-Z in Scripture in a massive index
 - Complete Concordance - of ALL words including "and"
 - Pray, be faithful in the Sacraments and Liturgy, be ready and willing to submit to the Church, humble obedience
 - We read as Westerners with the Enlightenment and literal, formulaic reading
 - **Read as if a child wondering about images and motifs. Being drawn into the veil, into the mystery.**

■ Have the wonder and awe. Have the loving trust in God's direction through the Church

- Sola Scriptura - slogan meaning “Scripture alone” became “Solo Scriptura” meaning “I interpret SS on my own, by myself”
- Be careful of slogans! They motivate the masses
- How can I enter into Scripture personally while staying faithful to the Church? Will my interpretation and reading conflict with the Magisterium and Sacred Tradition?
 - “Creatio est nihilo” - Creation out of nothing
 - How can we explain this?
 - God fills all. He is always, forever.
 - Genesis 1 doesn't describe where chaos comes from
 - It describes how God draws order from chaos
 - Catholic Theological construct
 - John 6 - manna, bread, Deuteronomy 4, Jesus is the Word of God and the Bread of Life. The Logos become flesh. The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist are INTIMITALLY connected. It is Jesus Christ being revealed so to worship the Father.
 - Catholics live in tension!
 - Concrete AND symbolic
 - Embrace both!

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