

Adult Bible Study 2024  
Week Two Notes  
7/28/Sunday  
Genesis 2 - Motifs & Images

Genesis 1:1 Recap

- the opening chapter, the opening verse is a “Liturgical outpouring of praise”
- It’s directional from 1) Chaos → 2) Order → 3) Rest
  - this is emblematic of the spiritual life
  - Continual movement (St. Thomas Aquinas says that God is the Unmoved Mover)
  
- Consider chaos in these three forms
  - Darkness
  - Watery Deep
  - Formless earth
- Difference between experience vs. explanation

Questions asked of Genesis 1

- Repetition matters
  - Triple utterans
  - “Barra” is Hebrew for “God creates”
- God gives blessing
  - Antithesis is curse
  - The more powerful/prominent a person is, the more powerful a blessing or curse is
- “God said” and creation is
  - The king speaks and it is done

Key Archetypes/Motifs in Genesis 2. Seek the image for the image is the foundation of all truth (we are creatures drawn to images. Necessary for us)

- Tree
  - God wants us to have everything in the garden
  - Prohibited from eating the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
  - He never says “why”
    - How can our simple minds fathom or comprehend the reasons God has
      - He wants us to TRUST Him
      - Use our free will to follow
  - God never lets His foreknowledge get in the way of His creatures enjoying the life He gave them.
  - God is excited about life

- Good and Evil
  - “Merism” a Hebrew word meaning contrasting words or phrases to mean completion
    - I.e. wedding vows - “In good times and bad, in sickness and health, for richer for poorer” etc.
- Rivers
  - The 4 rivers pour from the 4 corners of the earth giving life to the earth
- Gem/Jewels
  - Gen Z’s understanding of these motifs is distorted by modern media
  - Onyx, emeralds, rubies, sapphires, adornment
  - Key to note in Revelation - description of paradise
  - Distorted by greed, the occult, abusing crystals/rocks
  - God calls us to live in the paradox
- Animals
  - Man bestows on animals the name because he can see into the essence of the animal like how God sees into Man his essence
  - Chaos Monster
    - Leviathan
    - dragons
    - Dracula
- The Beautiful Woman
  - Man could not resonate with the animals.
  - He needed someone like him to be in relationship with him
  - The rib is a symbol of life
  - Man is now male after female is made.
  - Distinguishing and understanding male and female is absolutely essential
    - The binary genders allow Man to participate in God’s creative power
      - “Be fruitful and multiply” in Genesis 1
  - God is not male nor female
    - He uses these symbols for us to understand Him
  - A husband worships God through his wife
  - A wife worships God through her husband
    - Union of life is the union of God
    - When distorted, they worship each other or seek the worship of their spouse. Adam fell because he chose Eve over God
      - Divorce is the dark side of marriage
  - Distorted, evil woman - Lileth - “the night hag”
- Nakedness
  - Nakedness is good because “they are clothed in glory”

- Their interior life is pure innocence. Therefore their external life is pure innocence.
- Childlikeness is beautiful (not childISHness)
- An incredible amount of virtue to have a beautiful relationship in marriage and in life
- Nakedness & Sexuality are beautiful and demands humility & courage
  - It is pure chaos without virtue
  - Need DIGNITY
  
- Combat modernity by making Scripture come alive! Rather than relying on cinema
- In Statu Viae - Latin for “in a state of journeying” ... like being “on the way” (“The Way” is what the early Christians called Christianity). “Towards a perfection that lies at the consummation of all things” - quote from Fr. John