

Adult Bible Study 2024
Week Seven Notes
9/1/Sunday
Genesis 6 - 9 (briefly going over Gen 7-8)

Main Ideas of Genesis 6

- Being immovable, being like a rock is not perfection
 - Perfection is a right orientation toward God
 - A walking with God (like Enoch in Genesis 5:22)
 - “I’m not perfect” is not an excuse in life
- Genesis 6:11 - God saw that the earth was “rotten” or in Hebrew “Shackhat”
 - This is opposed to it being good! As was said in Genesis 1-2
 - Chaos has grown to the point where it is time to move in
 - A flood is coming
 - “Hamas” - meaning violence
 - This is a code word that God is moving to judge
 - It is done patiently and with great love
 - What has man done with God’s grace?
 - HE HAS PRESUMED IT!
 - Man has presumed the goodness of God.

Main Ideas of Genesis 9

- Noahic Covenant in Genesis 9
- The sign of this covenant is a rainbow
 - The rainbow is a reminder to God - Genesis 9:15
 - Anthropomorphism - a quality of man used to describe how God feels/interacts
- God commands Noah and his sons to “be fruitful and multiply” JUST LIKE He told Adam
- Every beast on the earth will be afraid of man - Genesis 9:2
 - Different from creation in Genesis 1-2
 - Man has become bloodthirsty - has become like a beast - cannibalism, drinking blood of the animals
 - Blood is volatile
 - Blood can be used to defile
 - That prevents us from being in the presence of God
 - OR
 - Blood can be used as atonement
 - To restore us to God

- Genesis 9:6 “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for God made man in his own image”
 - God gives the responsibility of capital punishment
 - The act of murdering a man on earth is murdering God - it’s an attack on God - it’s a strike on God
 - “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground” Genesis 4:10
 - No human has in himself the authority to take anyone else’s life
 - It is an authority given by God
 - **KEY POINT ON THE CATECHISM**
 - The Catechism of the Catholic Church includes a paragraph on capital punishment
 - It is not a defined doctrine of the Catholic Church. It is a recent edit that has not been solemnly defined, decreed, or commissioned by the Church’s Magisterium
 - The respect for the life and dignity of every human person is defined
 - Capital Punishment is a judgment reserved for those for whom it has been reserved
 - There is an exegetical, theological basis for capital punishment as defined by God
 - **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY AND REFLECT ON THIS**
 - **THIS IS MEANT TO OPEN CONVERSATION AND CONVERSION TO LEARN THE HEART OF GOD**
- The human race is bloodthirsty
 - Just see how much media and video games there are on murder!
 - We are protected from ourselves by:
 - The power of the Holy Spirit!
 - Human laws and governance
 - It is obscene to see spilled blood
- St. Paul writes - it is good to respect human authority - Romans 13

Key Points to remember

- In Statu Viae - Latin for “being on the way” or “in a state of journeying”
 - Life is “being on the way” or “in a state of journeying” to God
 - It’s an ADVENTURE!
- Note the form and meaning of Scripture!
 - It is both propositionally true and structurally true
 - There’s something to learn from both its grammar and syntax (the word choice and the way the words are structured)
- Chiasitic Structure - *See the photo below for Fr. John’s handout for the day*

- Covenant is the backbone of Scripture
 - A covenant is a kinship bond established by an oath
 - Covenants are brought about by signs and symbols that are sacramental - the signs and symbols mean what they intend
 - Each covenant builds upon its previous covenant
 - Adamic - “Be fruitful and multiply”
 - Noahic - Genesis 9
 - Abrahamic
 - Mosaic
 - Davidic
 - Christ
- Pre-Created State
 - Darkness
 - Formless Void
 - Watery Deep
- Presumption is a TERRIBLE SIN

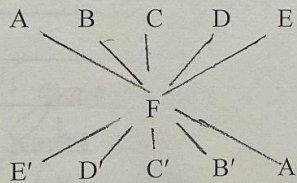
Motifs

- First Man motif - Noah sent on a mission which he does fulfill
- Ark motif - an ancient Babylonian memory
- Flood motif - an ancient Babylonian memory
- Dove motif - a bird motif - meaning peace or how the Spirit of God hovered over the watery deep
- Blood motif

The Flood Narrative is structured in a "chiastic" fashion:

- A Reason for the Flood: Cosmic Sin (6:1-12)
- B Commissioning Noah: Reestablishing the Creation Covenant (6:13-32)
- C Entering the Ark (7:1-9)
- D The Coming of the Flood: Animals Safe Inside (7:10-16)
- E Effect of the Flood: Mountains Covered (7:17-24)
- F "Then God Remembered Noah..." (8:1)
- E' Receding of the Flood: Tops of Mountains Exposed (8:1-5)
- D' Receding of the Flood: Sending out of the Birds (8:6-12)
- C' Exiting the Ark (8:13-19)
- B' Promise to Noah: Created Order will be Maintained (8:20-22)
- A' Noachian Covenant: Dealing with Antediluvian Cosmic Sin (9:1-17)

A "chiasm" is a literary structure where parallel lines are aligned in one panel so as to be mirrored in another. Here, lines A – E of the first panel parallel lines E' – A' of the second panel with an emphatic center line. (The "prime" marker ' indicates a parallel idea but not exact repetition.) If we lay out the letters of the chiasm like this below and draw a line between the parallel letters through the letter F, we have big X's that looks like the Greek letter "*chi*."



Chiasm in narrative stories like this one on the Flood establishes a crisis (called a "complication"), a central point in the story where there is a turn in the plot (midpoint), and a resolution to the crisis (denouement) working toward a conclusion that answers an introductory situation. The A sections are emphatic as beginning and end pieces, in this story being the reason for the Flood (cosmic sin, A) and the establishment of the new order in light of that reason (A'). Likewise, the central section (F) is essential in that the center of chiasms are always in an emphatic position; here it provides the turning point in the story.