

Story of Creation-Recap.

- God created the heavens, earth, seas, vegetation, animals and on the 6th day, in His own image, God created Man & then woman to share in his divine life of holiness
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- There was perfect harmony between God, man, and all of creation.
- On the 7th day God created the Sabbath so that man could rest with Him in the beauty of all God had created.
- Evil entered the garden....the serpent tempting the woman, by twisting God's words so as to cause she and her husband to put their will above the divine will of God and eat the forbidden fruit.
- We immediately see the fracture of the once perfect relationship between God and ALL creation (hide, blame each other)
- Adam and Eve had a distorted image of God, fearing him and hiding from him. "Their eyes were opened and they were afraid"

Sin makes it hard to know and follow God.

God created us out of love and wanted us to freely love him in return. After our first parents sinned, the Father had a plan to redeem us. This plan was accomplished by sending his only Son to us.

There is an foreshadowing of this immediately after the Fall in Genesis 3:15

GENESIS 3:15 - THE PROTO EVANGELIUM

- In cursing the snake, but before punishing Adam and Eve, God's mercy for mankind is seen in the Genesis 3:15, the Proto Evangelium (the first gospel/good news)
- God doesn't hesitate to condemn evil, but His response to our sins is tempered with His love, and mercy. (Will the good of another)
- God did not abandon man after the Fall...instead, in a mysterious way He heralds the coming victory over evil and restoration from the Fall. A veiled (mysterious) promise of a redeemer who would destroy satan. (Ccc 411)

Gen 3:15. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; they will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel.

Christ did crush the serpent's head and was struck himself by the serpent during his suffering, death on the cross and resurrection (the Pascal Mystery)

Early Church Fathers noted that in a sense Mary crushed the serpent's head, through her "fiat" agreeing to allow God to work through her in the incarnation, and also in her shared suffering at the foot of the cross.

*However, be it as it may, it is certain that **either the Son by means of the Mother, or the Mother by means of the Son, has overcome Lucifer;***

Saint Alphonsus Luigori 1700s agreeing with St. Bernard of Clairvaux 1100's

God's love never ends, he mercifully pursues us throughout history in an effort to reconcile us to him, restoring the unity we had before the Fall.

Over time, as recorded in Holy Scripture, God gathered a people to himself in a series of **covenants** based on love.

Covenant vs. Contract

- A contract is an exchange of services, whereas a covenant is an exchange of persons.
- a contract can be broken, a valid covenant is **indissoluble**.

<u>Covenant</u>	vs.	<u>Contract</u>
Opportunity; willingly entered into by both parties.		Obligation, something you have to do.
Personal; I am yours, you are mine		Impersonal; involves something I have.
Unconditional; I will do my part whether you do yours or not.		Conditional: If you do your part, I'll do mine
Loyalty: looking out for each others best interest		Leverage: looking out for my best interest
Trust each other to do their part		Suspicion; I want assurance that you will do your part.
Relational: Whatever it takes!		Businesslike: What will it take
Requires sacrifice; I will give 100%		Compromise: I will meet you halfway
Permanent: I will continue to do this as long as I live		Temporary: Once conditions are met, contract is over.

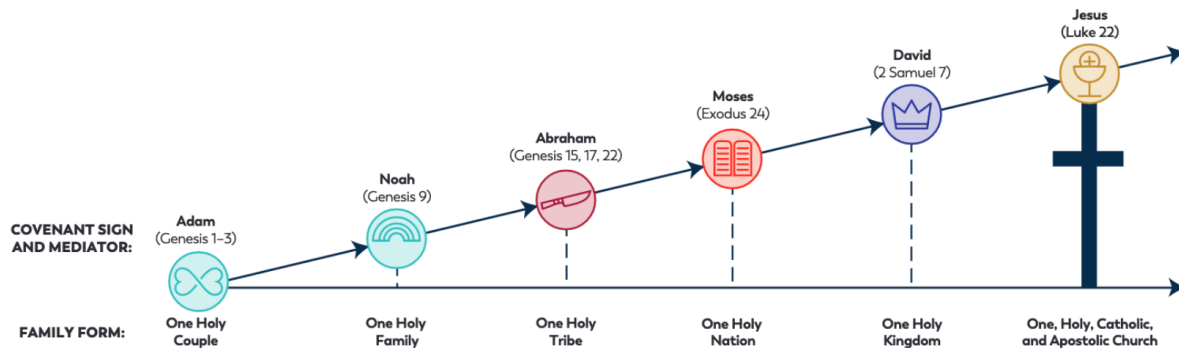
- God's people can and have strayed throughout salvation history, God will not.
- God ensures that his covenants will be fulfilled, even when his people transgress seriously, such as through idolatry.

Old Testament Covenants

ADAM and EVE - ONE HOLY COUPLE (married couple)

- Signs of the covenant: Sabbath rest; be fruitful and multiply.
- After the Fall the world became inundated with sin and evil, but God's plan for our salvation continued. (Cain, Abel Seth-sacrificed)
- God's covenant with our first parents was love and trust. Fail on OUR part, not God's

God's plan was gradually fulfilled throughout Salvation History. He called made covenants with His people through

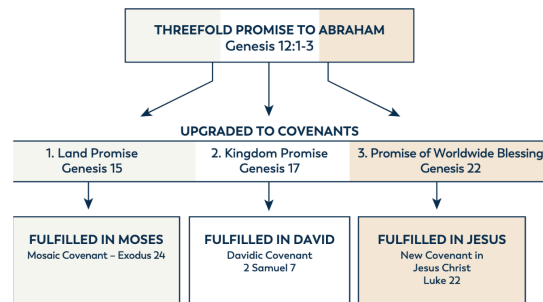


NOAH - ONE HOLY FAMILY

- Covenant between God and Noah and his 3 sons and their wives (eight people) who passed through the waters of the flood to salvation on the ark to be a new creation.
- Sign of the covenant: Rainbow...God promised after the flood he would never again destroy mankind and the earth

ABRAHAM - ONE HOLY TRIBE

- Abram trusted God and left everything behind so God could create through him a Holy Tribe. Sign of the covenant: Circumcision (outward sign of inward faith)
- God's promise to Abraham was that *his descendants* (tribe) would be as numerous as the stars.



God makes three covenants with Abram/Abraham regarding the latter's descendants:

- 1) **LAND PROMISE:** to make of them a great nation (Gen. 15),
 - fulfilled in the founding of Israel by Moses (Ex. 24);
- 2) **KINGDOM PROMISE:** to make of them a great kingdom (Gen. 17),
 - initially fulfilled in David and his royal descendants (1 Samuel 16); and
- 3) **WORLDWIDE BLESSING:** to make of them a "catholic" or universal blessing (Gen. 22), i.e., one meant to impact all nations,
 - ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, who restored and fulfilled the kingdom of Israel in founding the Catholic Church (Luke 1:26-33; Matt. 28:18-20).

MOSES - ONE HOLY NATION

- God's people became One Holy Nation after the Moses led Exodus of God's people from slavery in Egypt. Sign: Passover meal (Pascal sacrifice)
- 40 years in the desert...another sign was the 10 Commandments.
- God's first promise to Abraham to make of his descendants a great nation was fulfilled when the Israelites crossed the Jordan and took possession of the land God had given them.

DAVID - ONE HOLY KINGDOM

- God's people become One Holy Kingdom with King David taking the throne, unifying the 12 tribes, and beginning construction of the Temple in Jerusalem. (The second promise of God to Abraham of a kingdom.)

The final and everlasting covenant: God's most complete gift of himself

"In the fulness of time, God sends His Son to establish the New and Everlasting Covenant through the Paschal mystery"

The coming of Jesus is foretold in the OT. The NT is hidden in the OT and the OT is revealed in the New. Must consider both together – intimately related.

The seeds of the NT being revealed in the OT come through *Typology*.

See TYPOLOGY handout

One of the threads in Old Testament is the sacrifice.

God "needs" nothing from us...so why sacrifices? God centered the worship of his Old Testament people on sacrifice because **it was an essential part of His plan of salvation**. Because true love means sacrifice – means giving of yourself even when it is hard, when it hurts, when we don't want to. He was preparing them for the ultimate and perfect sacrifice His Son would offer for the atonement of the human race.

The Father's plan is prefigured and revealed in stages in the OT.

- God asked Abraham to offer his beloved son Isaac
- In Egypt, the blood of the innocent lamb saved the Israelites from death.
- God required blood offerings for sin and the use of scapegoats to bear the Israelites' sins.
- In various covenants, God prepared for the final covenant in Jesus' blood.

ULTIMATE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PLAN

IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME, God gives us his Only Son whose perfect gift of love restores our relationship with God.

Incarnation: (Jn 1:1-4, 9-14, 17-18)

- God's plan for our salvation was centered on the second person of the Trinity.

- The Son of God became Man, Jesus Christ, who is true God and true man.
- He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, the true Mother of God.
- He is like us in all things but sin.
- The Incarnation is foundational for understanding Jesus' life and the purpose of his redemptive mission, the purpose of his church and his second Coming.

Redemption:

- Jesus took our sins and the consequences of our sins upon himself and paid our debt to the Father
- He lived a life of complete obedience to the Father.
- By his sacrifice and death he saved us from our sins, reconciled us to the Father, and opened the gates of Heaven so that we might have the hope to live forever with God. With the fall, the gates of heaven were closed; Jesus' Paschal mystery (life/death&resurrection) opened the gates.
- Jesus is the new Adam
 - The first Adam brought sin and death; Jesus, the new Adam brought redemption and life.
 - The first Adam was disobedient, Jesus was completely obedient.
 - The first Adam sinned out of pride; Jesus came humbly and died a humiliating death.
- Jesus is the new Moses – leading people from a life of slavery to sin, to freedom from sin
- Jesus is the new David – the King of Kings, his reign will last forever

The Church:

- So Jesus died for our sins – yes. But important to consider why he LIVED. He lived so that he could establish the Church – the Body of Christ. God's plan for us to receive His Grace, live according to His word and spread the Good News to all the world – the 3rd promise to Abraham. God's ultimate goal not only to save us from our sins, but to restore us in holiness – with our cooperation!
- Through the Church, the Holy Spirit offers the love of Christ in all its fullness, especially in the sacraments. Catholic = cata Holikos – according to the whole: The whole of the Faith, for the whole world.
- The Holy Spirit, beginning at Baptism, works in us to form us in the likeness of the Son.

The Second coming (Matt 25:31:46)

- Jesus will come as King at the end of the world for the final judgement.

The Church is the Body of Christ, and members of His Holy Church are members of His Body....past and present.

- Church militant: The Church as it exists on earth (us!);
- Church suffering: These are the souls in purgatory;

- Church triumphant: The Church in heaven; these are saints known by the Church as well as those saints known only to God.
- God created us now because THIS our time in the story.
- What we do in the world matters.
- God wants our participation, through his Church, in gathering people back to him.
- Mother Teresa described herself as a pencil in the hand of God, allowing God to work through her for the salvation of souls.
- God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called.