

CREATION - Genesis Chapters 1 and 2

Why is knowing our story important?

- Where we came from, why we are here.
- In today's society, we are losing our story, lost our meaning and purpose.
- Secularism removes God from the story and without Him there is nothing but chaos.
- All the things people want today, are what God gave us at creation. Peace, love, harmony, order, food, freedom.

Our Story: God's Plan for us revealed in Scripture.

- We were created by God to share in his blessed life.
- Evil entered the world and our relationship with God and with each other was fractured.
- God, in his infinite love and mercy, *from the moment of that fracture* had a plan to restore perfect unity with him.
- Throughout Salvation History...which is our story.... God lovingly and mercifully pursues us so that we may return to him...
- In the fullness of time, he sent his only Son, born of a woman, to do what we could not do on our own...restore our relationship with God and each other.
- God's never-ending love mercifully pursues us to this day as it has throughout human history.

Our story begins "In the beginning"... Creation

- Genesis chapters 1 and 2 are two complimentary stories of God's creation.
- Genesis is Hebrew poetry, some of the language is figurative (does not use a word's strictest meaning) but it IS the Divinely inspired truth that God is the creator of all things (unlike myths of pagan gods)
- How does it begin..... **Read Genesis 1:1-2**
 - The world was without form or shape and there was a great abyss (void)
 - God speaks the heavens and earth into existence.
 - Out of nothingness...God first brings forth FORM

- Day 1 Light/(separated light from darkness. (The heavens)
- Day 2. Separated Waters/sky (dome). (The Sea/Sky)
- Day 3 Land & vegetation. (The earth) gathered water under the sky to create land

Once heavens and earth are formed...God fills the void (the abyss)

- Day 4: sun, moon and stars fill the heavens
- Day 5: fish/birds fill the water and the sky
- Day 6: Animals and mankind fill the earth

With each creation God saw that it was good and there was evening and morning the next day.

(Note: Evening came and morning followed...from darkness to light....from nothing to something)

Creation of Man on Day 6:

Read Genesis 1:26-28

God created all the animals, and then man in his own image and likeness.

From the beginning, man and woman were made to be like God in all we say and do.

- Intellect
- Reason (combined are Wisdom)
- Love...Capable of fully giving ourselves in love.

Read Genesis 1:31. Emphasis that *everything* was “good”...

In **Genesis Chapter 2** the story of creation is retold but with emphasis on the climactic event: the creation of Man in God’s image and likeness.

- but in this retelling of the story....there is something that we are told is NOT good. **Read Gen 2:18**
- Of all animals/fish/birds, there was no creation that proved to be a suitable helper to the man.
- God’s merciful love is shown in his attention to Adam’s need for a suitable someone to share his life with.
- God creates marriage as we read Gen 2:24 “the man clings to his wife and the two of them become one body.”

READ GENESIS 2:1

Day 7 God made holy the seventh day when he rested from all the work he had done in creation.

- 7th day has no evening or morning, it has no end. On the sabbath, we are invited to share in God's divine life.
- In perfect order, just as the sea was made for the fish
 - Sky was made then the birds
 - land was made then the animals
 - man was made and then the sabbath.
 - Mark chapter 2 disciples are gathering wheat to eat, Jesus tells the pharisees. The sabbath was *made for man*, not man for the sabbath.
 - God gave us this day of rest in him.

Why did God do all this?

God created a world where we could live together with him, in perfect harmony, order and right relationship.

- **CCC 1** God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man.

Man and woman were created in God's image and likeness to live in unity with each other and with God.

- Vertical relationship with God who is always above us, and horizontal relationship with each other.

Creation story ends with...

Genesis 2:25 "The man and his wife were both naked, yet they felt no shame."