

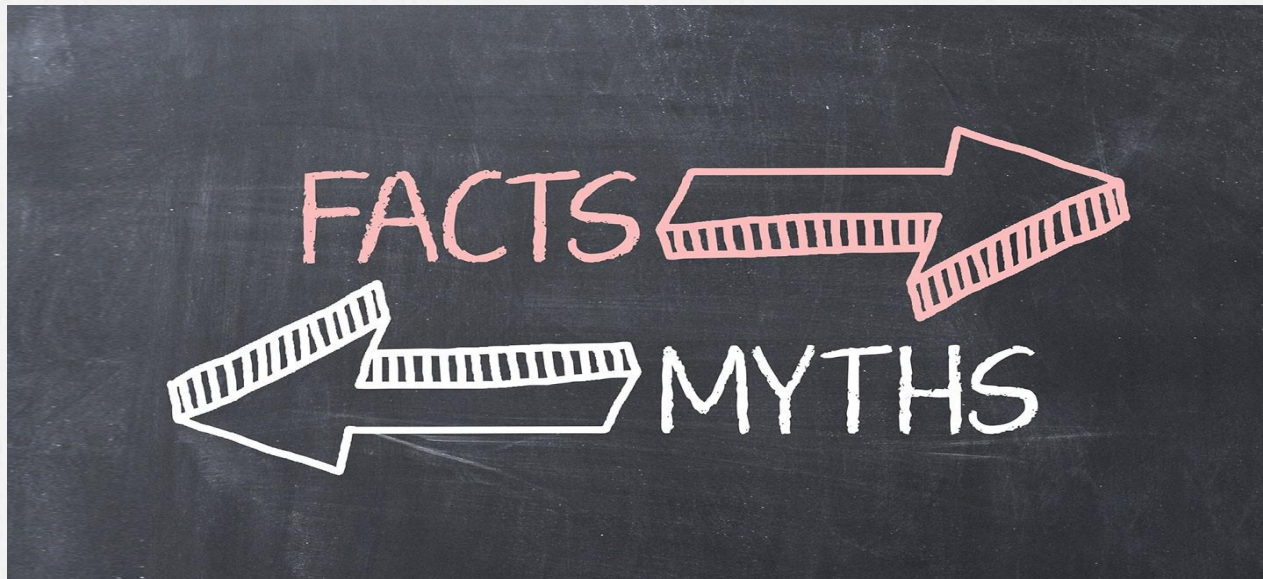


Chapter 2

THE FALL AND THE PROMISE OF A SAVIOR

Creation?

- o How did everything come to be?
- o Who are we?



The Nicene Creed

I BELIEVE in **one God**,
the Father almighty,

**maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.

**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man

GENESIS 2

- o Second Creation story
- o God creates man first, then what man needs
- o Man most needs companionship, love
- o Model of marriage is present
- o There is no shame outside of sin
- o Ends in Original Holiness, Original Justice ... before Original Sin

GENESIS 3

- o Begins in a state of perfection – man has all he needs
- o And yet, **temptation** is present .. even before Original Sin
- o Temptation = needs vs. wants
- o God gives us what we need even when it's not what we want
- o Shame is now present as a result of sin

De-creation



○ **Reversing what ‘good’ God created in the world**

- Because human beings have **turned away from God**, and placed their own **self-interests** above those of the Creator, other humans, and the beautiful world God entrusted to us

De-creation

- o Day 1: Urban sprawl
- o Day 2: Water pollution
- o Day 3: De-forestation
- o Day 4: Protection of wildlife
- o Day 5: Air pollution
- o Day 6: Nuclear arms race

Original Holiness/Justice



- o The perfect grace of being created to share in God's own life
- o We were meant to be in living in friendship with God, with each other, with all creatures
- o We would not experience suffering, pain death

Original Sin

- o The sin of Adam & Eve
- o The first sin
- o How sin entered the world
- o The sin of choosing to follow our own **free-will** (a gift from God) rather than God's will for us

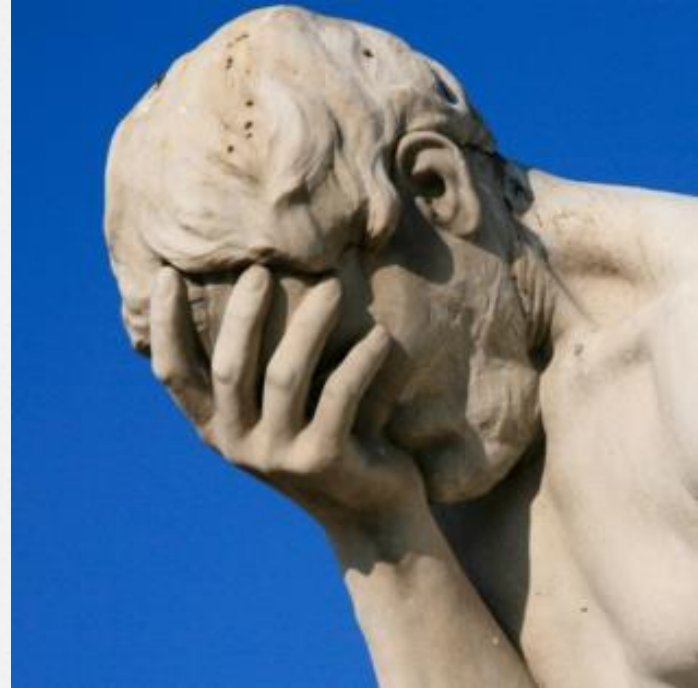




**DOES ORIGINAL
SIN MATTER TO
ME?**

What is Sin?

- o *“An abuse of the freedom that God gives to created persons so that they are capable of loving him and loving one another.” CCC #387*
- o **Turning our back on God; choosing our own way rather than what God has willed for us.**



Personal Sin

- o *A sin consciously committed by me ... I own it.*
- o There is no such thing as a 'private' sin
- o Like ripples in a pond
- o Weakens us .. dulls our defenses ..
- o Increases our risk for falling to temptation



Temptation

- o *A desire to do something that we know is not right*
- o First at work in Gen 3:1
- o The 'agent' of temptation?
- o Why a serpent?



*“... and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil”*

Inclined to sin?

- o Original Sin = *contracted*
- o Personal Sin = *committed*
- o CONCUPISENCE: *An inclination to sin*
- o TEMPTATION: *A desire to do something that we know is not right*



Protoevangelium



- o 'First Gospel'
- o First *COVENANT* between God and his people
- o First announcement of the Gospel of Jesus
- o Announcement of God's plan of salvation
- o Predicts coming of the Messiah

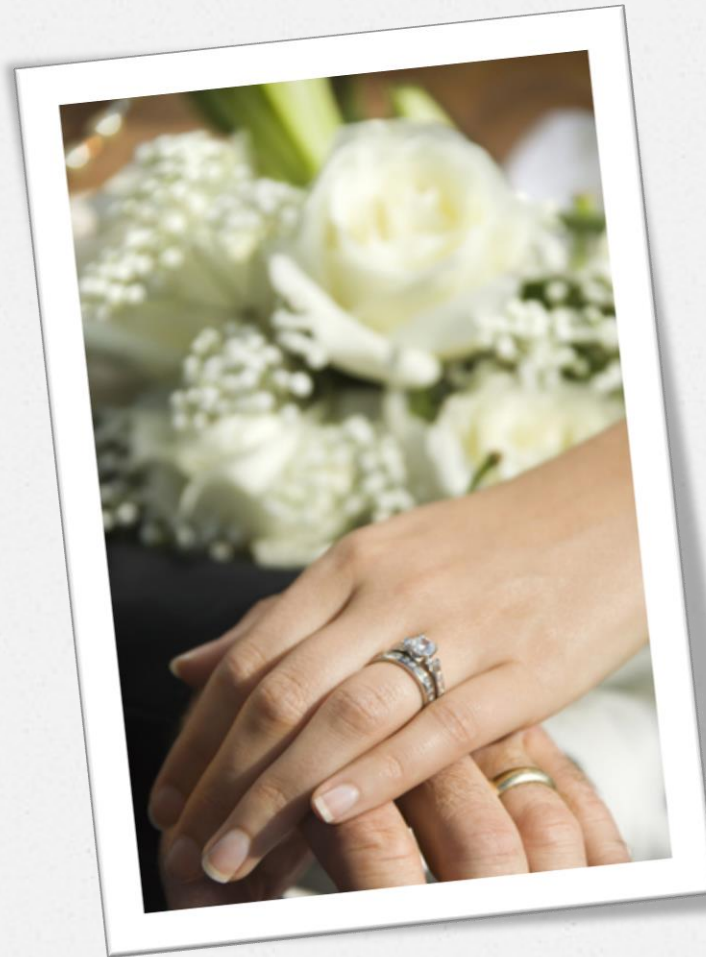
What is a contract?



Can you name some characteristics of a contract?

- o is binding for the time of the agreement and can be broken.
- o is a basic time-limited guarantee that can be extended longer for more money.
- o guarantees that you can return (or get a refund for) the product or service if it fails to deliver on expectations.
- o is limited: you can trade for a new, improved model when contract expires and usefulness ends.
- o is relative to your “investment”; the more you pay, the fancier or more powerful the “model” or the better the service.

What is a covenant?



In contrast to a contract, a covenant ...

- o cannot be broken; has no “time limit” until death.
- o is a sacred life relationship between two people.
- o is open-ended; no guarantees!
- o continues under all conditions: money or poverty, health or sickness, etc.
- o is rooted in deep friendship and love, not in money or power.

Covenants



- o **WHAT?** A binding promise
- o **BETWEEN WHO?** Between God and us (humankind)
- o **PROMISING WHAT?** God promises to love us for eternity, and we pledge our love in return

- 1. Cain and Abel (Gn 4), including their descendants**
- 2. The Great Flood (Gn 5-9)**
- 3. The Tower of Babel (Gn 11)**
- 4. Covenant with Abraham (Gn 12-17, but should be able to summarize the story of Abraham leading up to this point)**
- 5. Covenant with Moses (Exodus 19-20, but should be able to summarize the story of Moses leading up to this point)**
- 6. Covenant with David (2 Sam 7, but should be able to summarize the story of David leading up to this point, as well as the fulfilment of this covenant in Jesus from Matthew 1:1, Acts 2:29-36).**

Covenants

1. Summarize the story, while telling it completely focusing on key facts. Who were the main characters?
2. Is there evidence of a covenant God made with his people in this story?
 - If so, cite chapter and verse.
 - What was the (covenant) promise by God?
 - With whom did God make the promise?
 - God commonly uses symbols to mark his covenants. Look for the symbol in the story. Cite chapter and verse, what was the symbol.
 - What was God trying to teach us through this story.
3. If no covenant is evident in the story, why is this story important to salvation history? What is God trying to teach us?

The path to the covenants ...

1. God judges sinners
2. God extends his mercy out of love for his creation



Cain & Abel



- First offspring of Adam & Eve
 - Farmers
 - Cain older – would-be heir
 - Both offer ‘first fruits’ to God
 - Abel finds favor of God
 - Cain kills Abel out of jealousy
 - 3 sins of Cain: jealousy, murder, lying
-
- *Sin deserves punishment - God banishes Cain from the land*
 - *When we separate ourselves from God, we banish ourselves from others as well*
 - *God could have destroyed Cain for his sin – but he spared him ... why?*

The Great Flood



- Allegorical story, but geological evidence of a great flood
 - God enters into his first covenant with his people
 - God finds the people deeply rooted in sin and unbelief
 - Why 2 conflicting versions of the number of animals taken on the ark?
-
- Flood for 40 days-40 nights – *biblical parallels?*
 - God sends a raven? Then a dove? Why?
 - God commanded Noah and his family to be ‘*fertile and multiply*’ – biblical parallel?
 - ***The covenant and the sign ?***

The Tower of Babel

- Noah's ancestors have now re-populated the earth
- History of sin continues
- Story set in Babylonia (modern-day Iraq) – great and powerful civilization
- The people of the nation were very homogeneous
- Out of the sin of pride, Babel's king wanted to show the world his greatness
- Chose the symbol of a great tower
- God saw the pride of the people, who had turned their backs on God
- God caused them all to speak different languages causing confusion
- People then dispersed through the earth
- Babel = *babbling* (confusion)



Covenant with Abraham



- First named ‘*Abram*’, a nomadic sheep herder
- God asked him to uproot and settle in a new land. Abram obeyed
- Because of his faithfulness, God made a **covenant** with Abram – **to make a great nation through him**
- God changed his name to ‘*Abraham*’
- Considered the ‘*father of our faith*’ because our Judeo-Christian roots come from him
- Muslims claim their roots in him as well
- God’s covenant extended to Abraham’s descendants
- **The sign**: *circumcision*; would later test Abraham’s faith!

Covenant with Moses

- The Israelite people are enslaved in Egypt for two hundred years
- God appoints Moses to lead them to freedom – the Exodus (Gk.) for ‘*departure*’
- Pharaoh resists, so God sends plagues
- Israelites escape and begin a 40-yr wandering in the desert
- God established a covenant at Mt. Sinai – gave them his law – the Ten Commandments – the Law of Moses, the Torah - the **Decalogue**
- Through the Exodus, God made good on his covenant with Abraham
- The Ten Commandments express the **Natural Law** – **the law God placed into our hearts to guide morality - right and wrong, good and bad – universally**
- Eventually the people fell back into the sin – this time into **idolatry** – **the worship of idols**



Covenant with David

- **CHARACTERS:** Samuel, the prophet; Saul, the first king; David, Israel's greatest king
- **DAVID CHOSEN KING:** David was the 8th son of Jesse, a sheep herder
- After Saul fell into sin, God called Samuel to appoint a new king from among Jesse's sons; David, first overlooked, was chosen the 2nd king of Israel
- David and Goliath story to prove David's readiness to be king
- **COVENANT:** God promises David and Israel that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would come from the lineage of David and the tribe of Judah and would establish a kingdom that would endure forever.
- **GOD'S PROMISE REALIZED:** **Abraham** = God formed a people; **Moses** = God gave them the Law to guide them; **David** = the future Messiah would descend from the house of King David
- *David himself fell victim to sin, and there were consequences to his actions!*



Consequences for sin

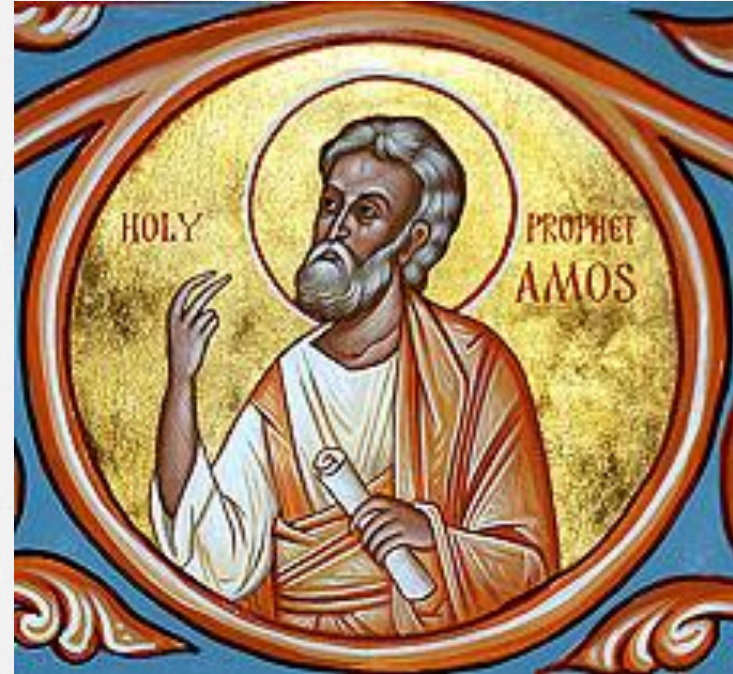
- Straight line of sin after the Fall, through David
- God then divides the kingdom, weakening it
- Both North (Israel) and South (Judah) were conquered by their neighboring enemies
- But once again ... God offers hope and consolation through prophets
- **Prophet** – *one chosen to speak for God*



- **Prophets** were unpopular because they challenged the status-quo
- **Modern day prophets????**

Amos

- **Where?** Northern Kingdom (Israel)
- **When?** 750 BC
- **Theme?** Social justice
- **Message?** Challenged the people to demonstrate their love for God by serving the least among them
- Seen as the ***prophet of social justice***



Jeremiah

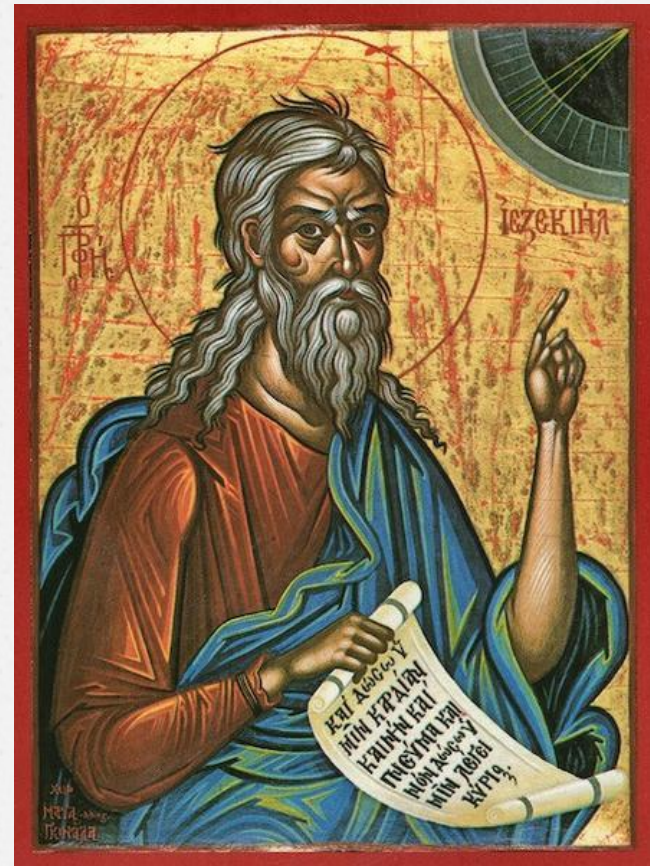
- **Where?** Southern Kingdom
- **When?** Babylonian assault on Israel
- **Theme?** Repentance, hope
- **Message?** Clean up your act or there will be consequences
- Paved the way for Jesus by encouraging people to turn away from sin out of love



The child prophet
The user of 'props'

Ezekiel

- **Where?** Southern kingdom (Judah)
- **Theme?** Repentance, hope
- **Message?** Warning about impending Babylonian exile, and need to repent of sin
- Also offered hope in the form of a shepherd king who would make a new covenant with his people and restore their nation



Isaiah

- **Where?** Preached to both kingdoms
- **Authorship?** Three
 - 1-39; 40-55; 56-66
 - *Deutero-Isaiah*
- **Message?** Repentance, hope, the coming of a Messiah
- ***Servant Songs*** - most predictive of Jesus (the servant) particularly his birth and his passion

