

Worksheet 2

Bible Intro and Adam & Eve

Answer Sheet

Who are the main figures and what are the major events in Genesis 1–11?

- The principal figures in these chapters are:
 - Adam and Eve
 - Cain and Abel
 - Noah and his family
 - The people of Babel
- Adam and Eve are presented as the first human beings in sacred history and as the first to live in an original communion with God.
 - They represent humanity at its beginning.
 - They are created in the image and likeness of God.
 - This means that human beings are given a unique dignity and are capable of knowing and loving God.
- The major events in Genesis 1–11 include:
 - Creation
 - The Fall
 - Cain’s murder of Abel
 - The Flood
 - The Tower of Babel
- The creation narratives teach that:
 - God created all things.
 - Creation is good, orderly, and purposeful.
 - Genesis is not written as a modern scientific report.
 - Its purpose is to reveal theological truth about God, the world, and the human person.
- These chapters also show:
 - The entrance of sin into human history
 - The spread of violence and pride
 - God’s judgment on sin
 - God’s continuing promise of redemption

How should Catholics understand the creation account?

- Catholics believe that Genesis teaches real truth.
- At the same time, the creation account is expressed in a sacred and symbolic form.
 - The “days” of creation should not be treated as if Genesis were giving a modern scientific explanation.
 - The text teaches theological truth rather than scientific mechanism.
- The main truths taught in Genesis 1 include:

- God created everything.
- Creation is not accidental.
- Creation is good.
- Human beings are uniquely willed by God.
- Human beings possess a spiritual soul.
- Catholics do not have to believe that creation occurred in six literal twenty-four-hour days.
- There is no necessary conflict between faith and sound science.
 - The Church allows legitimate scientific study of the age and development of the universe.
 - The Church insists, however, that God is the ultimate creator.
- It is better not to claim that Genesis exactly matches modern science in every detail.
 - Rather, Genesis presents creation in a theological and liturgical pattern.
 - It shows that God brings order out of chaos and life out of barrenness.

What choice were Adam and Eve given in the Garden of Eden?

- Adam and Eve were given the choice:
 - To trust God and obey his command
 - Or to reject God's wisdom and define good and evil for themselves
- Their temptation was not simply about eating forbidden fruit.
 - At its heart, it was a temptation to live independently of God.
 - It was a temptation to grasp at autonomy.
 - It was a temptation to "be like God" on their own terms.
- Their sin was therefore a refusal of trust.
 - They chose self-rule over obedience.
 - They chose pride over communion.
 - They chose suspicion over faith in God's goodness.
- This same basic choice still confronts every human person.
 - Will we live under God's loving rule?
 - Or will we try to place ourselves in God's place?

What happens after the Fall?

- After Adam and Eve sin, the harmony of creation begins to break down.
- Their relationship with God is damaged.
- This brokenness immediately affects every other relationship.
 - They experience shame.
 - They hide from God.
 - They blame one another.
 - Suffering and death enter human experience.
- The Church calls this wounded condition **original sin**.
 - Original sin does not mean that human nature is totally destroyed.
 - It means that human nature is fallen and deprived of original holiness.
 - It also means that human beings are inclined toward sin.
- Genesis shows how quickly sin spreads.

- Cain murders Abel.
- Violence grows in the world.
- Human pride deepens across generations.
- These chapters reveal that sin is not merely a private mistake.
 - It is a deep disorder affecting humanity's relationship with:
 - God
 - Neighbor
 - Self
 - Creation

What hope is found in Genesis 3:15?

- In Genesis 3:15, God gives a promise even in the midst of judgment.
- God declares that the offspring of the woman will ultimately triumph over the serpent.
- Christians have long understood this verse as the **Protoevangelium**, or the "first Gospel."
 - It is the first promise of a Redeemer.
 - It points forward to Jesus Christ.
- Jesus fulfills this promise by defeating:
 - Satan
 - Sin
 - Death
- In Catholic tradition, this verse is also connected with Mary.
 - She is the woman whose son brings about this victory.
- This means that from the very beginning:
 - God did not abandon humanity.
 - God's plan of salvation was already at work.

Why did God send the Flood, and did it solve the problem of sin?

- In the story of Noah, the Flood is presented as God's judgment upon a world filled with violence and corruption.
- The Flood shows that sin has serious consequences.
- Yet the Flood does not solve the deeper problem of sin.
 - Even after the Flood, humanity remains wounded.
 - Sin continues after this new beginning.
- Noah is described as righteous in comparison to his generation.
 - Even so, the human condition is still fallen.
 - A fresh start alone is not enough to heal the heart.
- The story teaches that humanity needs more than external cleansing.
 - Humanity needs interior renewal.
 - Humanity needs true redemption.
- Christian tradition also sees the Flood as a foreshadowing of baptism.
 - The waters symbolize both judgment and salvation.
 - But baptism has saving power because of Christ, who truly heals the wound of sin.

What is the spiritual condition of humanity at the end of Genesis 11?

- At Babel, humanity is united in pride rather than holiness.
- The people seek to “make a name” for themselves.
 - This expresses human self-exaltation.
 - It is another attempt to live apart from God.
- Babel repeats the same spiritual pattern seen in Eden.
 - Humanity seeks greatness on its own terms.
 - Humanity reaches upward in pride rather than receiving life humbly from God.
- As a result:
 - God confuses their language.
 - God scatters them across the earth.
- This scattering symbolizes the division caused by sin.
 - Pride does not produce true unity.
 - Pride leads to fragmentation and alienation.
- Babel also points forward to Pentecost.
 - At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descends upon the Apostles.
 - People from many nations hear the Gospel in their own languages.
 - What was fractured by sin begins to be healed by grace.
- Pentecost does not erase human diversity.
 - Rather, it unites diverse peoples in Christ.

What should we take away from Genesis 1–11?

- Genesis 1–11 lays the foundation for the whole story of salvation.
- These chapters teach that:
 - God created the world in goodness and wisdom.
 - Human beings were made in the image of God.
 - Human beings were created for communion with God.
 - Sin entered the world through disobedience.
 - Sin wounded human nature and human relationships.
 - Humanity cannot save itself.
 - God promised redemption from the beginning.
- These chapters are not just about the distant past.
 - They reveal who God is.
 - They reveal who we are.
 - They explain what went wrong.
 - They show why we need a Savior.
- Genesis 1–11 prepares the way for:
 - The call of Abraham
 - The history of Israel
 - The coming of Jesus Christ
- In Christ:

- Creation begins to be renewed.
- The wound of sin begins to be healed.
- God's promise is fulfilled.