

## Week 2: Session 2: Early World Part 1

First 11 chapters of Genesis are poetry, Hebrew poetry, and we have to approach it as a Hebrew poetry. It says in the Catechism in paragraph 390, something that's really important to remember as we read these first 11 chapters, particularly chapter three. MAJOR MISTAKE: more interested in **HOW**, than **WHY**. The Hebrew poetry reveals to us *The Why*.

**MYTH vs Anti-Myth:** Many people call Genesis MYTH but if you understand it as Hebrew poetry it really is **anti-myth**, and uses a *symbolic language* to reveal profound truths about God and about the origins of humanity. NOT fictional or *made up*; **real primeval events using figurative language in poetry**.

**ANTI-MYTH:** Mesopotamia: Enuma Elish – many gods struggling for power; two major gods, Marduk and Tiamat. Marduk kills Tiamat and divides her body to create heavens with one part and earth from other part and then enslaves all rest of gods. PANTEHON (near Eastern) gods ID by nature and universe

**Genesis creation story** runs against the grain of its rival pagan narratives. But if you don't understand that, you will lump it in with just pagan narratives, which it's not. **Mankind is created in the image and likeness of God**. In the creation story, and that is key understanding and interpreting the text, this insight reveals how the Hebrew story is subtly subverting the classical story of Near Eastern kingship on two levels.

- **First**, the creation account subverts other myths of the time by saying that **God alone is king**. Earthly kings set up their images in the lifeless statues; God created man and woman, living, breathing loving beings in his image. **Second**, Hebrew **God desires to relate to his creatures, not as a master to a slave, but as far as sons and daughter: radically different**.

**ask not how but why is God telling us this?** God is building a dwelling place where He can dwell with us.

**The first three days of creation deals with FORMLESSNESS.**

**DAY 1:** God separates the light from the darkness- creates **TIME**. (no sun yet-Hebrew poetry)

**DAY 2:** Separates water from firmament- creates **SPACE**

**Day 3:** Creates **LAND**

Next four days, fills the **VOID**

DAY 4: Creates sun, moon, stars

DAY 5: Creates fish, birds

DAY 6: Creates animals and humans

DAY 7: Day of Rest for US not for God; **it's the Shabbat** the seventh day has no beginning NOR no end. **It is wholly different and has a different order six days of work**

**we were created to enter into a place where we can receive the divine life that God has ordained us to receive, His blessing, His holiness.**

How we are different from animals

**-Made in images and likeness of God:** have intellect, can reason, have a will; **have capacity to love!**- We have **dominion**

Paul II said, "It has been said in a beautiful and profound way

that our God in His deepest mystery is **not a solitude, but a family**, since He has in Himself fatherhood, sonship, and the essence of the family, which is love. \

**It's not good to be alone. God brought them together in marriage; God is author of marriage.**

The first creation story is a majestic poem that paints in **broad strokes**, the creation of the entire world with God's saving his best work for last creating man and woman.

**CAMERA:** that can use one lens for a panoramic big picture and another lens to zoom in for a close up shot.

**Elohim called the cosmos into existence, but Yahweh granted that personal intimate relationship** Elohim in chapter one, Yahweh in chapter two, , and it's different than all other days; one day that stands apart is the seventh day. Far from reading this as a seven-day 24-hour time frame, the reader with an eye for detail will notice that although the first six days all have their evening and morning and a clear ending, the seventh day breaks from the six-fold pattern of repetition. I don't know if you notice that really carefully. But the point is clear, **The seventh day is holy and represents divine rest.**

**Number 6:** connotes negative events/happenings; **Number 7:** associated with covenant: sworn oath, kinship **the number seven is oftentimes associated with covenant**. He's calling us to enter into a **relationship as sons and daughters**, where we can not **only know him, but love him and partake of his divine light**. And **God ultimately calls us to be divinized.** (CCC) paragraph 51

TEMPTATION: Why was Adam so silent? I don't know that we're ever going to have a satisfying answer on that. **But it's something to take note of that Adam was silent.** What was Satan's *lure*?

1. **Satan twisted God's words**, his attempt to get them to fall. And **sin**

involves twisting God's words.

2. **He tempted them with creative things.** He tempted them with something that looks beautiful and tasted wonderful and would give you wisdom.

3. **He tempts them with power.** Notice what he said. He said, "You won't die for God knows that when you eat of it, your eyes will be open and you'll be like God, knowing good and evil." There's power to be had.

4. **Put yourself first.** Satan attempted to prefer selves or God is tempting them to prefer themselves over what God has said. Another part of his tactic. But the one that I think really drives this home is number five.

5. **God is holding out (on you).** *You won't die.* **That's the key to temptation.**  
**That's the key: pride and losing trust. Do you trust God?**

This is what man's first sin and all subsequent sin would be disobedience toward God and **lack of trust in His goodness.**

**Results of the fall:** 1. Knew they were *naked* (SHAME), 2. **ruptured relationships.** 2. original justice is gone, human being is different. Death enters in and suddenly now the intellect is dark, and the will is weakened, "concupiscent" (CCC 405).

Eve chose a lesser good, she chose a lesser good, **she chose the fruit rather than choosing the greater good, which was God and obedience to God.** And **so, any lesser good that takes the place of God can become an idol or can become sin in our life.**

We must **go to confession and we must do penance, we must repair that damage.** Well, a habit forms and then we face God's punishment which is the attraction that sin exercises upon us,

## HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS TRUE?

### HAP:

**History** -Never has anyone been able to ID one historical mistake anywhere in the Bible

**Archeology** – out of all the 25,000+ archeological finds relating to the people, places and events in the Bible, not 1 has been able to disprove any detail in biblical record. If can believe the historical and the archaeological evidence for the Bibles, we have great support to believe the *spiritual accuracy*.

**Prophecy:** Fulfilled prophecy is unique to the Bible alone. Contains 100s of very detailed prophecies that cannot be rivaled by the Koran or the Hindu writings.

OT has over 2000 specific prophecies that have been fulfilled already. 333 predicting the Messiah and all have been fulfilled and those remaining have to do with His second coming  
25% of Bible predicts future events; all others have been fulfilled

***Fulfilled prophecy is not only proof for the veracity of the Bible, but proof for the existence of God***

***The reasonable explanation is that the Bible is a supernatural book written under the supernatural direction of God Himself.***