

God's Story, Our Story

An Introduction to Christianity

Lesson 2: The Story of Salvation



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. (CCC 1)

CCC 200

CCC 293, 325-26

CCC 328-30

CCC 337-342, Gen
1:31

CCC 343, 27, 356
Gen 1:26-27

CCC 391

CCC 397-400

Gen 3:15

Gen 1:26-2:3; 3:15

Gen 9:8-17

Gen 12:1-3,
22:16-18

Ex 19:5-6

1. God exists. He is eternal and infinite, one, Spirit, transcendent and immanent, and personal. He knows and loves; he is a communion of persons which we call the Trinity.
2. God is Creator of the invisible and visible world.
3. The invisible world: God created angels to be his servants and messengers.
4. The visible world reflects the beauty of the Creator.
5. Man is the crown of creation, called to share in God's life and love.
6. At the dawn of creation, God made a covenant with Adam and Eve and adopted them as his son and daughter who would form God's human family.
7. One third of the angels, led by Satan, rejected God and his reign.
8. Tempted by the devil, Adam and Eve sinned against God and so lost God's life. With sin, death entered the world. Mankind was expelled from paradise.
9. Sin is a refusal to live according to God's love because of the sacrifices that it demands.
10. God did not abandon man but used the fall for our salvation and divinization.
11. God revealed himself gradually to mankind through a series of covenants. A contract is an exchange of property; a covenant is an exchange of persons.
12. God called **Adam** to the covenant of marriage with Eve and promised to deliver them from sin through the seed who would crush the head of the serpent.
13. God kept **Noah** and his family safe from the flood and renewed his covenant with mankind with the sign of the rainbow.
14. God promised to **Abraham** the Promised Land; to make of his descendants a great nation, and to bless through him all the families of the earth.
15. God used **Moses** to deliver Israel out of bondage in Egypt and to make of them a holy nation.

<p>2 Sam 7:8-19</p>	<p>16. God promised to David to build a worldwide kingdom that would rule in justice over all nations. The divine rule in the Davidic kingdom was made up of prophets (the word of God), priests (the Temple liturgy), and the king (ruler of the people).</p>
<p>Lk 1:28-38</p>	<p>17. Because of Israel's sins, the Babylonians destroyed the Temple and the city of Jerusalem in 586 BCE, and took the population into exile.</p>
<p>Mt 1:21</p>	<p>18. After 70 years, the people returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the Temple. But the kingdom was not restored. At that time there were high Messianic expectations in Israel.</p>
<p>Mt 4:19, Lk 10:16</p>	<p>19. Our salvation began when Mary said yes to God and allowed the Messiah to be conceived in her by the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>Mt 26:28, CCC 1337</p>	<p>20. In Bethlehem, the second person of the Trinity became man.</p>
<p>Mt 26:35</p>	<p>21. Jesus the Messiah has come to reveal the love of the Father, proclaiming the kingdom of God.</p>
<p>Acts 2:38</p>	<p>22. Jesus chose 12 apostles to continue his mission.</p>
<p>CCC 771-776, 790-797, 804, 813-815, 823, 831, 861</p>	<p>23. At the last supper, Jesus instituted a new covenant with Israel.</p>
<p>CCC 827</p>	<p>24. Jesus offered his life as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind.</p>
<p>CCC 1023-1037</p>	<p>25. Jesus accomplished our redemption through the Paschal Mystery: his passion, death, resurrection and ascension.</p>
<p>CCC 671, 678, 989, 1024</p>	<p>26. At Pentecost, the apostles received the Holy Spirit and so the Church was born, the mystery of men's union with God.</p>
<p></p>	<p>27. The Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic, and led by the successor of Peter, the bishop of Rome.</p>
<p></p>	<p>28. God has given the Church the 3 roles of prophet (Sacred Scripture), priest (Sacred Tradition), and king (the pope and Magisterium).</p>
<p></p>	<p>29. The Church is holy, yet made of sinners. The Church provides all the means to make us saints. We are part of God's story.</p>
<p></p>	<p>30. The last things: at death, each person will go through a particular judgment. He will either go to heaven (directly or after purification in purgatory) or to hell forever.</p>
<p></p>	<p>31. At the end of times, Jesus will come again to judge the world. Our bodies will be resurrected and the kingdom of God will come in its fullness.</p>

God's Covenants with Mankind

Mediator:	Adam	Noah	Abraham	Moses	David	Jesus
Role:	Husband	Father	Chieftain	Judge	King	Royal High Priest
Form:	Marriage	Household	Tribe	Nation	Kingdom	Catholic Church
Sign:	Sabbath	Rainbow	Circumcision	Passover	Throne	Eucharist

Questions for Discussion

1. Do you ever think about where you come from and where you are going? Does your answer to this question make a difference in how you make your everyday decisions?
2. What is a covenant? Can you think of examples of covenants in your own life or in our society? What is the role of God's people in each of His covenants?
3. How does God's story of salvation affect your answer to the first question? Are you aware of the fact that you are part of God's story? Does it make a difference in your life? How could you become more aware that you have a unique role to play in God's story?
4. How often do you think about the spiritual world around you (God, angels, demons)? Do you feel the influence of good and evil in your life? How do you respond to these influences?
5. How is Jesus the center of the Story of Salvation? How does he connect past, present, and future? Earth and Heaven? Time and eternity? You and God?
6. Is God's story all planned in advance, or can we influence its development and outcome?
7. What difference do **you** make in God's story of salvation?

Recommended Reading

Scott Hahn, ***A Father Who Keeps His Promises: God's Covenant Love in Scripture***. Ann Arbor: Charis, 1998.