

### **Story of Creation-Recap.**

- God created the heavens, earth, seas, vegetation, animals and on the 6th day, in His own image, God created Man & then woman to share in His divine life of holiness.
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- There was perfect harmony between God, man, and all of creation.
- On the 7th day God created the Sabbath so that man could rest with Him in the beauty of all God had created.
- Evil entered the garden.... Death entered the world.
- After the fall Adam and Eve had a distorted image of God, fearing him and hiding from him. "Their eyes were opened and they were afraid" **Sin makes it hard to know and follow God.**
- God created us out of love and wanted us to freely love him in return.
- After our first parents sinned, God had a plan to redeem us.

There is a foreshadowing of this immediately after the Fall in Genesis 3:15

#### - GENESIS 3:15 - THE PROTO EVANGELIUM

- God's action to set right what had gone wrong has been unfolding since Gen. 3:15
- God's response to our first parents' sin (and ours today) is tempered with His love, and mercy. (Because he loves us: to will the good of another)
- God did not abandon man after the Fall...instead, in a mysterious way He heralds the coming victory over evil and restoration from the Fall. A veiled (mysterious) promise of a redeemer who would destroy satan. (Ccc 411)

Gen 3:15. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; they will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel.

- Christ did crush the serpent's head and was struck himself by the serpent during his suffering, death on the cross

God’s plan for our salvation progressed throughout history with His establishment of covenants with various righteous men noted in scripture.

**Covenant**

vs.

**Contract**

**Opportunity:** willingly entered into by the parties.

**Personal:** says “I am yours, you are mine”

**Unconditional:** I will do my part whether you do yours or not.

**Loyalty:** looking out for each others best interest

**Trust:** parties trust each other to do their part

**Parties will do whatever it takes to keep the covenant**

**Requires sacrifice;** parties each give 100%

**Permanent:** I will continue to do this as long as I live

**Obligation:** something you have to do.

**Impersonal;** involves *something* you have that someone else wants.

**Conditional:** If you do your part, I’ll do mine

**Leverage:** looking out for my best interest

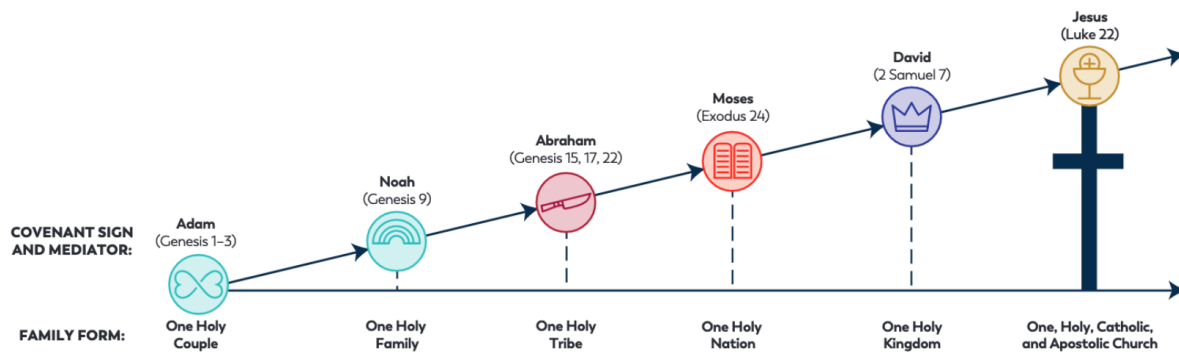
**Suspicion;** I want assurance that you will do your part.

**Parties decide what will it take to end it (businesslike)**

**Only requires compromise:** parties meet each other halfway

**Temporary:** Once conditions are met, contract is over.

**Old Testament Covenants**



**ADAM and EVE - ONE HOLY COUPLE**

God's promise: Eternal life in paradise with God and dominion over all the earth if they obeyed his commandments (including not eating of the tree knowledge or you shall die)

- Adam & Eve's part: Love, Trust and Obey God
- Gen 6:5. The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil... The Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth and it grieved him to his heart.
- Gen 6:9 Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation.

**NOAH - ONE HOLY FAMILY**

- Covenant between God and Noah and his 3 sons (**Shem**, Ham, Japeth) and their wives (eight people) who passed through the waters of the flood to salvation on the ark to be a new creation.
- God's promise: Regardless of man's disobedience, God would never again destroy all of earth's creations as he had with the flood.
- Noah and his family's promise: Obey, love and trust God.
- Sign of the covenant: Rainbow (set his bow in the cloud)

**ABRAHAM - ONE HOLY TRIBE**

- Abram trusted God and when God called him left everything behind so God could create through him a Holy Tribe.
- God's covenant promise to Abraham was that *his descendants* (tribe) would be as numerous as the stars.
- Abraham's promise: Love, trust and obey God. (Not pagan gods)
- Sign of the covenant: Circumcision (outward sign of inward faith)

God goes on to make a three-fold covenant with Abraham AND his descendants:

- 1) LAND PROMISE: to make of them a great nation (Gen. 15),
- 2) KINGDOM PROMISE: to make of them a great kingdom (Gen. 17),
- 3) WORLDWIDE BLESSING: to make of them a universal blessing (Gen. 22), i.e., one meant to impact all nations,

## **MOSES - ONE HOLY NATION**

When Moses comes into the picture, the descendants of Abraham\_ Isaac\_Jacob:Israel (Israelites) and his 12 Sons have been in Egypt for 4 centuries and are enslaved by a wicked pharaoh.

- God heard the cries of his people in slavery. He sent Moses to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. (10 plagues/parting of the Red Sea)
- After many years of trial and testing, God lead his people to the Promised Land of Canaan
- God's covenant promise to One Holy Nation to bless and defend them as **his chosen people** and give them a land of their own.
- People's promise to God: Love, trust and obey the one true living God.
 

"Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God, the LORD is One."
- Sign of the covenant: Ten Commandments
- Israelites taking possession of Canaan promised land fulfilled God's first promise (Land Promise/Promised Land) to Abraham to make of his descendants a great nation.

## **DAVID - ONE HOLY KINGDOM**

While God should have been their one and only King....the Israelites begged for an earthly king like the other nations had. God allowed them this but gave them grave warnings of the dangers of having an earthly king who would lord over them, take their money-land-families

Saul became the first king and he was as corrupt as God had said, disobeys God and he loses God's favor.

Young David, son of Jesse enters the picture. Scripture describes David as "a man after God's own heart"

- God's people become One Holy Kingdom with King David taking the throne, unifying the 12 tribes of Israel
- God's promise to the One Holy Kingdom: An eternal King to rule the people forever would come from the line of David.
- People's promise: To love, trust and obey God.
- Sign of the covenant: The temple

**The final and everlasting covenant: God's most complete gift: Himself****Jesus: The final and everlasting covenant.****ULTIMATE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PLAN**

IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME, God gives us his Only Son whose perfect gift of love restores our relationship with God.

**Incarnation: (Jn 1:1-4, 9-14, 17-18)**

- God's plan for our salvation is centered on the second person of the Trinity.
- God took on human flesh and shared our humanity through the fiat of the Blessed Mother.
- Jesus Christ, is true God and true man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- He is like us in all things except sin.
- The Incarnation is foundational for understanding Jesus' life and the purpose of his redemptive mission, the purpose of his church and his second Coming.

**God lowered himself to gather to himself his rebellious children****Redemption: Jesus' saving actions that ransomed us from sin and reconciled us to the Father**

- Though not deserved or merited, it was God's prerogative to grant us a means of Salvation: (freedom from sin, reconciled to him.)
- Jesus did not suffer by chance or unfortunate coincidence.
- Out of love, Jesus willingly gave himself to God as a sacrificial offering so that we might be redeemed through his perfect sacrifice.
- The immensity of the suffering during Christ's **passion and death** reveals the terrible gravity of sin. What an offense it is to God.
- The punishment for our sin is death. Jesus' death paid the price for our sins, and for the sins of every human ever born or to be born.
- CCC 605 "There is not, never has been, and never will be a single human being for whom Christ did not suffer.
- In his **Resurrection**, Christ conquered death and opened the gates of Heaven that were closed since the Fall of Adam and Eve so that we might have the hope to live forever with God. (Icon in baptistry!)

- Was there an easier way to effect our salvation? In our minds maybe...but
- Ccc 420 The victory that Christ won over sin has given us greater blessings than those which sin had taken from us: "where sin increased, grace abounded all the more" (*Rom 5:20*). Now we are in a position to combat evil thru Christ
- At Easter Vigil, the ancient prayer of the Exultet is sung, we hear the words *O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a Redeemer!*
- God's plan gained for us a Divine Redeemer upon whom we rely for an abundance of grace to remain faithful, be obedient to and trust in God, and even to forgive our sins when we repent... and to help us to avoid future sin.

### **The Church:**

- Jesus died for our sins – yes. But he lived so that he could establish the Church – the Body of Christ. To build the kingdom and live as adopted children of God.
- Ccc 680 Christ the Lord already reigns through the Church, but all the things of this world are not yet subjected to him.
- Ccc 681 On Judgment Day at the end of the world, Christ will come in glory to achieve the definitive triumph of good over evil
- After Jesus' ascension, he sends the Holy Spirit, as an advocate to help us.
  - At baptism we receive this same Holy Spirit, and at confirmation His gifts are renewed in us
  - The Holy Spirit, beginning at Baptism, works in us to form us in the likeness of the Son to accomplish our mission.
  - Wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, piety, fortitude, fear of the
- God's plan for us through the church he established through the apostles is that we may live according to His word and spread the Good News of salvation to ***all the world*** – the 3rd promise to Abraham. (A blessing to all nations).
  - Catholic = cata Holikos – according to the whole: The whole of the Faith, for the whole world.

### **TYPOLOGY**

Ccc 128 The Church, as early as apostolic times, and then constantly in her Tradition, has illuminated the unity of the divine plan in the two Testaments through typology, which discerns in Gods works of the Old Covenant , prefigurations of what he accomplished in the fullness of time in the person of his incarnate son.

**The coming of Jesus is foretold in the OT. The NT is hidden in the OT and the OT is revealed in the New. Must consider both together – intimately related.**

The seeds of the NT being revealed in the OT come through *Typology*.

See [TYPOLOGY](#) [handout](#)