

Session three: Early World Part 2

Discussion of previous session questions: (TBT - Response from Ascension)

1. *Do Cain and Abel seem like the promised seed of Eve who will defeat Satan?*

There was a possibility, but all hope of being seed is broken when Cain fell to sin.

Remembered the story as being longer, many adaptations.

What made Abel good and Cain bad? intentions?

TBT - As Cain kills Abel, all hope of seed is lost, Cain is more a candidate of Satan's seed: selfish, murderous and more interested in self than God.

2. *What's wrong with Cain's offering as opposed to Abels?*

Not what is given but the heart behind the gift.

Cain's gift seems routine, giving gift and not getting attention makes him unhappy

Just because the Lord didn't give him regard, it is more selfish than giving

Cain is very human, just like us when we feel jealousy and frustration from not

having our prayers answered, it is not a transaction

TBT - Not what he brings, but what he gives of himself: Abel gives the best of his livestock the firstling vs Cain grabbing a handful of mundane crop on the way

3. *Compare Seth's bloodline vs Cain's, why is scripture focused on Seth*

Cain's bloodline uses the curse (mark) as a power of immunity, for selfish reasons.

They are also full of sin/ cardinal desire: two wives, built city, violent

TBT - Cain's son built a city, focused on lyre, music and other goods, similar to his father who focused on selfish indulgences. Seth's are described not by their accomplishments but by their character.

4. *Noah means rest, based on Genesis 6 what other relief is needed on earth?*

TBT - Cleansing, Relief from wickedness, Cain's style was the majority.

5. *God's solution to the problem?*

Cleansing, send great flood to destroy everything.

Ark built by Noah and saves pairs of unclean and clean animals

What are unclean animals? – ate filth, feces. Unclean and clean are just categories of animals.

Halal – process of killing in one fell stroke, ethical killing

TBT - Send a great flood to wipe out the flesh and saves one family Noah along with pair of unclean animals and seven pairs of clean animals

6. *New testament connection to the Ark.*

Jesus Christ and his saving.

TBT - Ark is the church, also baptism.

7. *a) What is God's promise following the great flood, what sign is his covenant?*

b) What does God demand of Noah?

You shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood – Halal

Discussion questions

In acts, God tells Peter to eat of anything that is created. (Why change his mind?)

Jesus decreed ideas that were different than God of the past. Seems like God changed after the flood, became more benevolent and also after Jesus Christ.

Rules (ie fast on Fridays, eucharist fasting – have exceptions) get added and revised all the time. How does the rules change with generations?

How does the church know who becomes a saint? People get researched after death, candidate -> canonization, who is the committee, how are they decided upon?

TBT - Promise not to destroy all the flesh like the great flood, the sign is a rainbow.

Asks Noah to be fruitful and multiply, also to not eat meat that still has blood nor kill man or creature. Every person is precious.

8. *a) Observing events after the flood, is there any change in man's behavior?*

Noah gets drunk immediately, selfish indulgence, son sees him in shame, relationship with God is still broken, people still move based on their own desires.

Why did Noah punish Canaan who discovered him? Shame, tradition?

TBT - No signs of change after the flood, people are focused on making a name for themselves and not walking with God, flood has failed to remove the evil within mankind

b) Why does God not reach down and kill all the bad guys? Why is the church and baptism a better solution?

TBT - Flood failed in intent, He tried wiping out the root of all evil, however the problem is more in human nature. Fall from the original sin. God is more merciful now, has hope, The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

9. What does the Tower of Babel suggest human's relationship with God?

Humans trying to conquer him, get to his level even though they are only human.

TBT - Tower of Babel builders intended to make a name for themselves, lost identity as the created in relationship with Creator

10. Connection to New Testament as the reversal of the Babel event?

TBT - Pentecost, gathering of earth's children in one language.

Video Summary:

"Root of fall is the failure to grasp God's fatherhood" - John Paul II

The inclination of selfishness and lost trust in God

Lost the original justice, original sin, chooses own judgment over God's

Bibie uses a literary tool - Toledot

Jumps from generations to generation to zoom into key figures (Noah) while still keeping the grand flow of history

Cain's offering was subpar, contrary to God's expectations

Cain kills Abel and when reprimanded, was only scared of when others come after him. Who are the others? Well Adam and Eve had other children. As the Bible is a Hebrew narrative - author assumes readers know they have a lot of children and the story only focuses on the main characters (main bloodline).

Looking at Cain's bloodline

Cain's line was violent, polygamous

At Seth's bloodline

Prior to flood: long life was not shocking, death is unnatural.

Term: The Nephilim (Nephil meaning to fall) - Some believe they are fallen angels marrying humans, or a myth to warn of inter-marriage, the fallen ones. Or it could refer to sons of God (Seth's line) wedding the daughters of man (Cain's line), where the mixing of the good and bad led to wickedness has spread to all the earth.

As a result - "sons of God wed daughters of man", life was limited to 120 years. And Noah was sent to cleanse the world of evil.

Flood draws a comparison to Genesis

re-creation, 7 days, new covenant.

Comparison between original couple vs Noah's family.

Fear is transferred to the animals, introduce capital punishment for killing

The ark is like the church, as a temple for Christ.

Covenant to never wipe out mankind, rainbow (set aside his bow - weapon)

Another fall after flood

Noah succumbs to alcohol from vineyard, Ham saw the nakedness of his father and had his brothers cover him and his son Canaan is cursed. Could be a Hebrew idiom - where nakedness of father refers to incest behavior. Ham took advantage of father and tried to get brothers involved but they instead chose to cover for father.

Shem - stays in modern day Iraq, Japheth, heads north (then east and west), Ham goes to North Africa. - The earth is divided.

Tower of Babel

Let us build a city and a tower to heaven and let us make a name for ourselves. (Shem in Hebrew is name). People were trying to build a new dynasty, In contrast with Abraham (next chapter) God promises "I will make your name great"

Readings for Next Session:

- Genesis 12, 15-18, 22