

My Notes

Saturday, February 16, 2008
10:42 AM

- Opening Prayer
- Introduction stuff
 - The book is \$5.50
 - We are done with the books
- Read 1 Peter 3:15-16a
- Genesis - General
 - Two accounts of creation
 - Pope John Paul II called the first account the objective account
 - How an outside observer would describe the events of creation
 - Just the facts; scientific like
 - Pope John Paul II called the second account the subjective account
 - How did creation unfold from the view point of Adam and Eve?
 - What were the thoughts and emotions they experienced as the events unfolded around them?
- Genesis 1
 - Verse 1
 - God created the heavens and the earth
 - God is separate from His creation
 - ◆ This is different from some eastern religions where all of creation is part of god that is trying to become one again
 - God existed before His creation
 - God created out of nothing
 - God does not need to create; he did it freely
 - ◆ Not emanation
 - Everything created is good
 - ◆ Against Manichaeism dualism
 - ◇ Spirit good; body bad
 - ◇ Similar to Yin and Yan
 - He creates out of love, out of a complete gift of self
 - Verse 2
 - Trinity
 - Place Ruah next to John 1:1-9
 - ◆ Describe e-Sword
 - ◇ Web site: <http://www.e-sword.net>
 - ◇ It describes itself as: "The Sword of the Lord with an electronic edge."
 - ◇ Has search tools and other useful information such as Greek and Hebrew references
 - ◇ It's free!
 - ◆ Ruah is described as:
 - ◇ From H7306; wind; by resemblance breath, that is, a sensible (or even violent) exhalation; figuratively life, anger, unsubstantiality; by extension a region of the sky; by resemblance spirit, but only of a rational being (including its expression and functions): - air, anger, blast, breath, X cool, courage, mind, X quarter, X side, spirit ([-ual]), tempest, X vain, ([whirl-]) wind (-y).
- ◆ Read John 1:1-9

- ◇ The Word here is the second person of the Trinity
 - ▶ "The Word was God." - end of John 1:1
 - ◇ All things were made through Him
 - ◆ Trinity is there from the beginning
 - ◇ Look at Trinity sheet from Bishop Quinn
- Everything is formless
- Verse 3-26
 - Look at the Chart
 - Scott Hahn's interpretation
 - Verse 3-5: Day 1
 - God creates the realm for time
 - Time now has form; before it was formless
 - Verse 6-8: Day 2
 - God creates the realm of space
 - Space was formless; now it has form
 - Verse 9-13: Day 3
 - God creates life
 - Life did not exist; now it does
 - Verse 14-19: Day 4
 - God creates the sun, the moon, and the stars to be rules of time; to fill up time
 - Verse 20-23: Day 5
 - God creates the birds and fish to rule space, the sea below and the heavens above
 - Verse 24-25: Day 6
 - God creates the animals and especially man to rule life
- Verse 26
 - "Us"
 - Royal we
 - Christian - sees the Trinity
 - "man"
 - Man here is generic human being
 - There is no real distinction between male and female until the woman is about to appear on the scene in the second chapter
 - This is why even though the Hebrew word here is "adam," the translation is man, as in generic human being, not male or female
 - "in our image, after our likeness"
 - Boethius
 - ◆ Late 5th century, early 6th century
 - ◆ Defined person as: "an individual substance of rational nature"
 - Using this definition, each individual images God in his or her ability to use reason to freely choose (or not choose) the good over the evil
 - Our dignity comes from being made in the image and likeness of God and not anything we do or say
 - In the Fall, our image of God remains, but our likeness of God is forfeited
 - The second part of the verse shows we have dominion over the animal kingdom
 - I believe this verse means that though we shouldn't torture animals, they are put on this earth for our benefit
- Verse 27
 - The Catholic Church, with a small tweak (which we don't need to get into), has accepted Boethius' definition of a person

- And thus we image God individually in our ability to use reason to freely choose (or not choose) the good over the bad
 - However, Pope John Paul II, in his Theology of the Body, proposes something radical, almost outrageous
 - The Pope addresses the public almost every Wednesday
 - Between September 5, 1979 and November 28, 1984, he used 129 of these Wednesday to talk and reflect how our experiences of being male and female can give us insight into the deepest questions man asks:
 - ◆ What is the meaning of life?
 - ◆ Why are we here?
 - ◆ What is love?
 - ◆ Why are we willing to go to such great lengths to get it?
 - ◆ What is the meaning of sex?
 - ◆ Why do we seem to be so obsessed with sex?
 - ◆ What is our deepest desire?
 - ◆ What do all of these things have to do with God and our relationship with Him?
 - These talks have been compiled and compilation given the name: The Theology of the Body
 - This title hints at the radical nature of Pope John Paul II's reflection
 - ◆ "ology" means study of
 - ◆ "theo" means God
 - ◆ So theology means "study of God"
 - ◆ So put it all together we get "The study of God of the Body"
 - ◆ Pope John Paul II is proposing we can learn more about God by reflecting on our experience as being embodied beings that are either male or female
 - ◇ Not studying as a biologist would study the human body
 - ◇ But our experiences as human beings with either a male body or a female body
 - In order to do this, Pope John Paul II looked at human beings at three different time periods
 - ◆ Pre-history
 - ◇ Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden before the Fall
 - ▶ God's original plan for humanity
 - ▶ What were Adam and Eve's experiences being sexual beings before the Fall?
 - ▶ Can get a glimpse of this by contrasting it to our own experiences
 - ▶ We are looking at some of this tonight
 - ◆ History
 - ◇ What is human beings like when he is in a fallen state?
 - ◇ Are there vestiges or echoes of God's original plan, of Adam and Eve's experience before the Fall in our experiences?
 - ▶ Yes
 - ◆ Post-History
 - ◇ What will human beings' experiences be in Heaven?
- Verse 28a
 - Here we have God's first command to humanity
 - There is no concern here for over population
 - Thanks to modern crop technology, there is more than enough food to feed the whole world and then some, but is a now a matter of distribution
- Verse 28b-30

- Verse 26 - dominion over the animals
 - Now in 28 - subdue the earth
 - ◆ It says subdue, not abuse
- The Catholic Church believes that human beings isn't just a part of creation, but that all of creation was created for us because he loves us
 - Including the star that is hundreds of thousands of light years away
 - The universe is our playground, created for our enjoyment - but not abuse
 - This belief does not rule out that there could be intelligent life out there
 - ◆ It is reasonable to believe that God could have created other rational beings that are capable of love and appreciating the beauty of God's creation
 - Maybe it would be more accurate to say the universe was created for all beings that have the capacity to be free, have reason, and thus capable of love
- Verse 31
 - Notice how all the previous days God looked and saw that all was good, but after God creates humanity, God looks and sees that it is VERY good
- Genesis 2
 - Verse 1-4
 - God is God
 - He is not tired - He does not need a rest
 - God instituted the idea of a Sabbath day for our sake, not for His own - He has no need of it
 - This is confirmed in Mark 2:27
 - My parents' rule of family day on Sunday - no friends
 - Verse 7
 - Breathed in his nostrils - spirit - different from the animals
 - He is clay like the animals, but unlike the animals, he has the breath of God in him; he has a soul
 - The Catholic Church does not see these chapters in an overly strict literal way
 - Evolution is not ruled out
 - ◆ If human beings did evolve from a previous species, when the first human being arrived on the scene, God breathed in him and gave him an eternal soul, something no animal until then or since has had
 - ◆ Even if evolution did happen, the Church has said there must have been a first man and woman who begin their lives without sin and later sinned
 - ◆ The Church also has declared that multiple Adams and Eves in different parts of the world due to evolution is incompatible with the Truth revealed in Genesis
 - So in some ways, the evolution versus creation question is a non-issue
 - God's hand in creation can be seen in pure creation or evolution
 - It is a non-issue for me personally, but I think it is easier to believe that God just created things than to think that somehow things miraculously got more complicated and complex
 - Verse 8-9
 - Eden means "fertile plain"
 - Garden
 - Place where things grow
 - Place of beauty
 - Place of delight and food
 - Tree of life
 - ◆ Human beings are meant to live forever as body and soul
 - ◆ If Adam and Eve hadn't sinned they would have lived forever on earth

- Verses 10-14
 - Rivers, water is source of life
- Verse 15
 - I want you to notice that work ("cultivate," "work it," "dress it") are a part of man's life in the garden even before the Fall
 - The man is told to "care for," "keep" the garden
 - The Greek word is "shamar"
 - ◆ Strong's concordance describes "shamar" this way: A primitive root; properly to hedge about (as with thorns), that is, guard; generally to protect, attend to, etc.: - beware, be circumspect, take heed (to self), keep (-er, self), mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save (self), sure, (that lay) wait (for), watch (-man).
 - ◆ So there must be someone or something to guard the garden from
 - ◆ Sounds like old-fashioned chivalry
 - ◇ Totus Tuus experience with this word
 - ◇ Maybe the garden and the woman are somehow tied together? We shall see
- Verses 16-17
 - Notice how God gives the command to the man in the positive
 - Notice the woman is not yet on the scene when God gives this command to the man
 - "surely doomed to die"
 - Does not sound immediate
- Verses 18-20
 - The man is alone at this time
 - To name something means you know it and have power over it, which fits with 1:28
 - Does not find a suitable partner among the animals
 - The man realizes that he is radically different from all the animals
 - Pope John Paul II calls this the original solitude
 - ◆ Even after the woman is created, she shares in this solitude
 - ◆ They are alone in the world as beings who have the capacity to reason and love
 - ◇ I realize some biologist would disagree with me
- Verses 21-23
 - The man is able, just by looking at her, that this being that is not exactly like him, is his companion and equal not just physically, but spiritually
 - She too has the breath or spirit of God in her that the animals don't have
 - Purity of heart enables us to see our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit, a manifestation of divine beauty
 - ◆ This is how Adam looked at Eve because sin had not entered the world
 - ◆ This is ideally how we should look at each other, especially spouses in their complete nakedness in front of each other
 - This is very different than the heresy that the spirit is good and the body is bad
 - The body and it alone is capable of making visible the invisible, the spiritual mystery of God - Ephesians 5:32
 - ◆ The body is a sign of God, who is love
 - ◆ He stamped His image right in our bodies
- Verse 24
 - "Two shall become one flesh"
 - Like the three Persons of the Trinity, we are called to be a gift to another
 - ◆ Gadium Spes 24 says, a person "cannot fully find himself except through the sincere

gift of himself."

- ◇ Thus a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh
- ◇ Copulation of animals is not at all the same as procreation of human beings, because human beings have the freedom to love

- An annulment by tribunal is assured the union was not consummated (the couple has not had sexual intercourse since taking the marriage vows)

○ Verse 25

- JP II sees something profound here

- In his TOB, he says there is:

- ◆ There is good shame
 - ◇ Shower; cover up distinctly male or female
- ◆ Protect from being used
- ◆ Opposite of love is use
 - ◇ People are such beings and have such dignity that they should never be used merely as a means to an end
- ◆ In a fallen world, people use other people
 - ◇ We lust without loving the whole person
 - ◇ This is why we need fig leaves or clothes
- ◆ However, in the beginning it was not so
- ◆ The body communicated the whole being of the person (soul and body, the unique unrepeatability of the person: talents, gifts, character, personality, etc) to the other
- ◆ Nakedness reveals the nuptial (or marital) meaning of the body
 - ◇ This is the body's capacity of expressing love
- ◆ Adam and Eve didn't look at each other and see a body to be used for pleasure, but a person to be loved
- ◆ This call to love, to unity, to communion is stamped right in our bodies
 - ◇ Man's body does not make sense by itself
 - ◇ Woman's body does not make sense by itself
- ◆ [Do I need more here now or do I say it later? Sign of Trinity, meaning of life - unity with Trinity, why relationships and sex are not just an attribute but central to who we are, second only to our experience of being human is our experience of being male or female (what is all our music, art, and movies about), lust can happen in marriage, only safe place is in the gaze of one who really knows us and has promised to be there to the end]

• Genesis 3

○ Verse 1

- Other talking animals in the Bible
 - Numbers 22:21-33
 - ◆ Obviously not an American capitalist
- Christopher West - speaks on TOB
 - Has theory of why Satan approached the woman
 - ◆ Eve is never faulted for the fall, but in 1 Tim 2:13-15, she is said to have been deceived and Adam was not
 - 1 John 4:19 - God first loved us
 - ◆ We will look at this more next week
 - ◆ Man images God and woman images humanity
 - ◇ See this in the marital act

- ▶ Man first gives and the woman first receives
- ◆ Satan doesn't want us to be receptive to God's love so he goes after the image of receptivity in the union of man and woman (which is the woman - this is imaged in the sperm going out from the man and enters the woman)
- ◆ Satan can't invent anything
 - ◇ God created all things good
 - ◇ All Satan can do is twist the good, the truth
 - ◇ If you want to know what is most important in the world, just look at what is most profaned
- Back up and explain economy of signs
 - ◆ We are made in God's image, not the other way around
 - ◆ God is not sexual, male or female
 - ◆ However, the analogy of the marital embrace is maybe, shall we say the least inadequate for understanding who God is as Love
- Trinity
 - ◆ Draw triangles
- Verse 2-3
 - Notice Eve's phrasing of God's command is not as positive sounding as the way God said it to Adam (2:16-17)
 - Also Eve adds the part about not being able to touch it
 - She makes the command more restrictive than it actually is
 - ◆ Whose fault is this?
 - ◇ Don't know
 - ◇ It could even be Adam's fault for not communicating it correctly (since Eve was not there when God gave the command to Adam)
 - Here the death sounds immediate whereas in 2:17, it does not sound immediate
 - It's true she doesn't die an immediate bodily death, but she does die a spiritual death
- Verses 4-5
 - When God is perceived as a tyrant, we slip into a mode of doing battle with God so as not to be enslaved
 - This is why we get people who are angry with God and rebel
 - However, faith leads to "receptivity" before God
 - Remember how we just talked about how the woman in the marital act is a sign of the whole human race
 - We are to be receptive before God; receptive to His love for us
 - When we deny God's gifts, we lose our capacity to be a gift to one another
- Verse 6
 - Key phrase - "who was with her"
 - The man was right there beside her
 - Adam didn't guard the garden
 - Adam didn't guard the woman
 - ◆ A woman is like a garden enclosed
 - ◇ Song of Songs 4:12
- Verse 7
 - What is the first thing they do after they eat the fruit?
 - Lust
 - ◆ No longer see in each other's body the whole person to be loved, but a body to be used, to be lusted after

- ◆ To protect themselves from the lusting look of the other, they cover themselves
 - Verses 8-10
 - What is the second effect of the Fall?
 - Fear of God
 - So the Fall ruptures their relationship with God and with one another
 - Verses 11-13
 - Now there is disunity and discord between the sexes
 - The other is no longer someone to love, but someone to blame
 - Verses 14-15
 - God talks to the serpent, Satan
 - "enmity" - complete separation
 - Can't be Eve - she now has "contact" (worked in cooperation) with Satan
 - Must be Mary and Jesus
 - ◆ Proto-gospel
 - ◆ This passage is read on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the feast that celebrates that Mary was conceived without sin
 - ◇ Mary is the pure (without sin) vessel to contain God inside her - Jesus, God, in her womb
 - ▶ She is the ark of the New Covenant
- Verse 16
 - Does not justify woman being a slave of the man
 - This is a result of sin
 - We only need to look back through history to see that this has been true
- Verses 17-18
 - Remember work was part of the plan before the Fall
 - Now to get food, the work will be much labored
- Verse 19
 - Man will now die
 - He won't live forever on earth
- Verses 22-24
 - Why would God expel them from the Garden of Eden?
 - The Tree of Life was there
 - Out of love and mercy God didn't want them to have to live in a Fallen world forever, so he let them die
 - ◆ Genesis 3:19b
 - You might have heard the Fall referred to as the "Oh Happy Fault"
 - ◆ Because of the Fall, Jesus our Savior came to save us
 - Proof that some theologians have too much time on their hands, some have asked if Jesus would have come even if the Fall hadn't happened
 - ◆ Some have said yes - for similar reasons as those who call the Fall the "Oh Happy Fault"
 - ◆ Before the Fall, Adam and Eve had eternal earthly life
 - ◆ Because of Jesus, we now can have eternal heavenly life
 - ◆ So these theologians say even if the Fall hadn't happened, God would have come in the flesh so that we can join God in Heaven (but He wouldn't have had to die on the Cross)
- Small groups
 - Do you think the creation versus evolution is an important debate? Why or why not? How do

you think was God's role in bring the universe into being?

- Did you know there were two creation stories in the Bible? Would you agree that the first is more objective and the second one more subjective? Why or why not?

- Do you think the organizing of the six days into realms and thing rules of the realms makes sense? Why or why not?

- What do you think of Pope John Paul II's proposal that we image God not just in our individual capacities of free will, love, and reason, but also as a couple, as husband and wife?

- Do you think we are radically different than the animals? Why or why not?

- Do you think there is any need for chivalry in our modern society? Or do you think chivalry should die?

- Do you agree that Genesis 3:15 is a reference to Mary and Jesus? Why or why not?

- What sorts of things are you doing or could you do to keep the Sabbath holy?
- Closing prayer