Christianity 101: Session Four

TIMELINE OF SALVATION (PART 1)
I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY,
CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH;
AND IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD:
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY;
sUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,
WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED AND WAS BURIED.
HE DESCENDED INTO HELL;
ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD;
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD
THE FATHER ALMIGHTY; FROM THERE HE WILL COME
TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.
I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH,
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS,
THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY, AND LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN.
Presentation of Ponderings

Reminders:
- “Jesus” is “Yeshuah” which means “Yahweh saves”
- Jesus gives His title to HIMSELF (“I Am”)
- The Jesus Question

Pondering Prompt: Why is it important for salvation that God became man?
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I know that Jesus gives us salvation, so is there anything else I really need to know?
IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE CRUD SALVATION ACTUALLY IS, WE HAVE TO KNOW WHY
(A BUNCH OF PEOPLE DOING DUMB OR EPIC THINGS)
“FJ, NOW IS WHEN YOU SHOULD PROBABLY PREFACE THE VIDEO!”
-Nora
The Fall of Humanity

Read Genesis 3: 1-7, 8-13, and 14-19
The Fall of Humanity

- Genesis 3: 1-7, 8-13, and 14-19
- Adam and Eve are tempted by the serpent in the Garden of Eden
- The tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil
  - The one tree of which you may not eat.
  - “You will be like gods who know good and evil.” -devil
This sin had very little to do with fruit.

- It was a way to opt out of God’s gift.

**Pride**
- Humanity wishes to become “like” God.
- We decide for ourselves what is good and evil, but don’t have the proper information to do this.

**Selfishness**
- Notice our nakedness: Human vulnerability without God
- Fear
The Snake is Cursed:
- Crawl on your belly and eat dust.
- Enmity between the snake and the woman and her offspring

The Woman is Cursed:
- Intensify the pain of childbirth
- Urge for husband and husband will rule over you.
  - God isn’t establishing a rule, he is stating a consequence.

The Man is Cursed:
- The ground is cursed
- Toil for food.
- Shall return to the dust from which you were made.
Original Sin

- Original, from the “origin” or “starting point”
- Original sin is passed on to all descendants of Adam and Eve
  - It is removed by Baptism, but the effects remain
  - As such, even a baptized person passes Original Sin on to their children.
It's very nice...
...dunk her under the water
Important Elements of the Garden of Eden...

God promises to send a redeemer

- A woman brings the fruit of the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil to Man (humanity).
  - This is not to blame Eve, but to note an important historical point.
- Adam and Eve choose to go against God out of Pride.
Adam and Eve have two sons, Cain and Able.
- They offer sacrifices to God
  - Cain offers his left overs
  - Able offers his best
- God praises Able, Cain gets jealous and kills Able
- Sin compounds: small sins grow into bigger ones.
- Cain is cursed and banished
- Adam and Eve have another son named “Seth”
Noah

- **Meaning:** God washes away sin
  - Prefigures Baptism
  - God preserves the righteous
  - Covenant to not destroy the world again
- *(Story of Noah, What likely happened historically)*
The Chosen People

God wants to prepare the way for the salvation of humanity

- Abram (b. circa 2000BC) is called to leave his home (probably in modern Iraq)

Wanders for a while and is settled in the Holy Land.

- Sarah laughs at the Messenger (Angel) when he says she will have a child.
  - The child that is born is “Issac” (“laughter”)
Covenant with Abram:

“No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I am making you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fertile; I will make nations of you; kings will stem from you.” -Gen. 17:5-6
The Test of Abraham:

- God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son.
  - God does not want him to do this, but wants Abraham to prove his love for God.
- Nothing should be above God.
Issac has a son named Jacob
Jacob’s name is changed to Israel
Israel has twelve sons, they become the “Twelve Tribes of Israel”:
- Reuben
- Simeon
- Levi
- Dan
- Judah
- Benjamin
- Naphtali
- Gad
- Asher
- Issachar
- Zebulun
- Joseph
FJ, DO WE HAVE TO MEMORIZE those names?
Slavery in Egypt:

- Israel goes with sons to Egypt to survive famine
- They stay for several hundred years and are enslaved. (no archeological evidence)
- Moses (b. circa 1592BC) is called by God to lead Israel out of slavery in Egypt
- Burning bush
- Ten plagues
- Parting the Red Sea
Covenant of Sinai

- Moses receives the ten commandments from God
Snakes in the Desert

- Snakes come into the Israelite camp and bite people.

- God orders Moses to raise up a bronze snake on an ensign

- “Make a seraph and mount it on a pole, and everyone who has been bitten will look at it and recover.” -Numbers 21:8
Crossing the Jordan back into the Promised Land
Breaking and Renewing the Covenant

- Kings Saul, David, and Solomon (970-931BC)
- Division of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah (931BC)
- Israel conquered by Assyria in 722BC
- Judah conquered by Babylon in 587BC
The Pattern Repeats

- Rebuilding of Jerusalem (begins around 537BC)
- Conquered by Greece (around 332BC)
- Maccabean Revolt (167-160BC)
- Conquered by Rome (63BC)
"I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, “make straight the way of the Lord.”’” as Isaiah the prophet said."

-John 1:23
Out of humility, Mary agrees to conform her will to God’s.

Through this act of humility, Mary (the new Eve) brings the fruit of her womb to the world.
The Word becomes Man

The first Eve leads humanity into sin through pride, the new Eve leads humanity back into unity with God through humility.
The Contrast of the New Adam and Eve

**Adam and Eve**
- Sin of Pride
- Chose what is right and wrong for themselves.
- Fruit is taken from the Tree and causes sin and death

**Mary and Jesus**
- Virtue of humility
- Accepted God’s will
- Fruit of Mary’s womb is lifted up on the dead wood of the cross, becoming the tree of life.
The Contrast of the New Adam and Eve

Adam and Eve
- Chose Selfishness
- Denied their humanity in attempt to become “like God”

Mary and Jesus
- Chose sacrificial love
- Jesus lowers himself to becoming human and embraces the humanity
Why did the Word become Flesh?

- “...in order to save us by reconciling us with God.”
- “…so that we might know God’s love.”
- “…to be our model of holiness.” (way, truth, life)
- “…to make us partakers of the divine nature.”
- “The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods.” –St. Thomas A.
It's so beautiful.
TO BE CONTINUED...
PONDERING QUESTION:

How many turkeys did Jesus save?