

# 2021-2022 RCIA #3

9/27/21

# Part I: The Creed (Chapter 2)

## God and His Perfections

- Who Is God?

# Questions

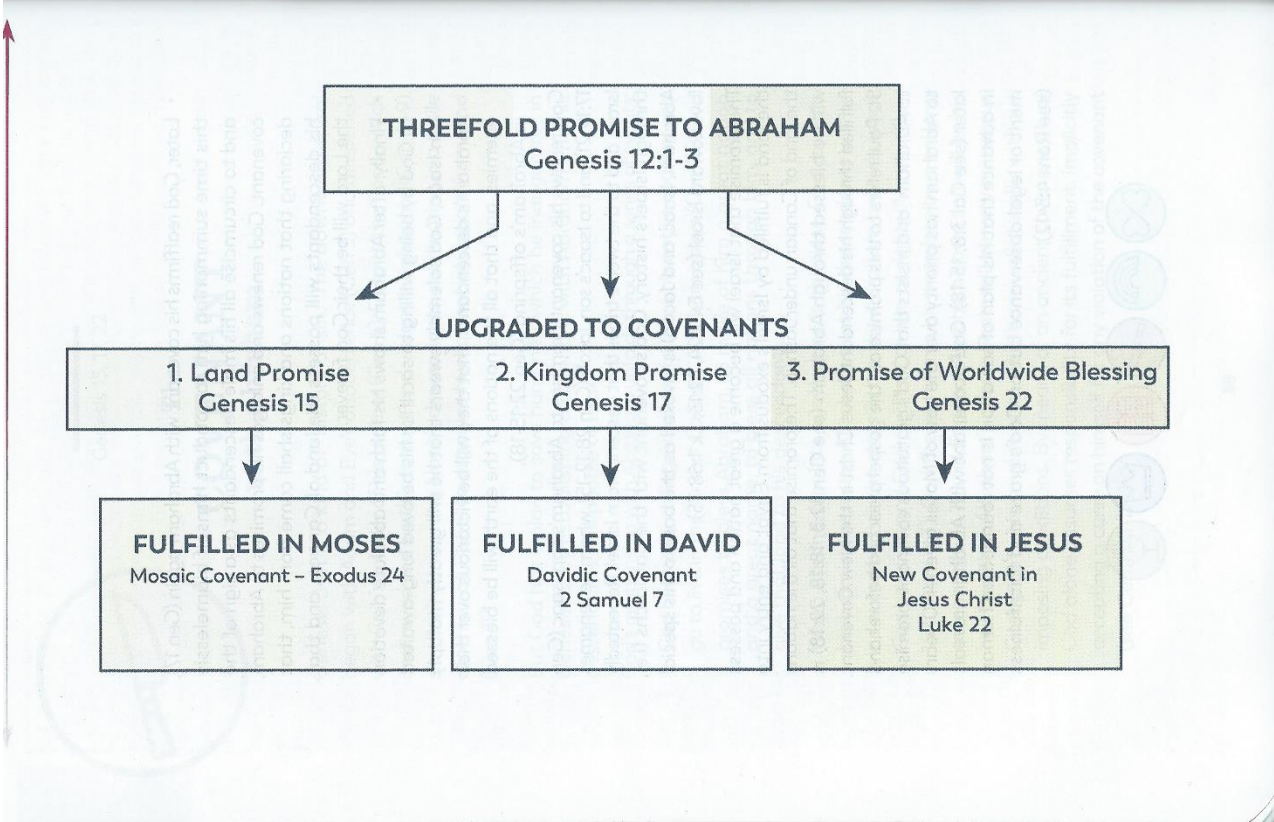
- Is there a God?
  - The fundamental option
    - No
    - Yes
- How would you describe God?
- Can I know God?
  - One way to know God is to look at His creation
  - Another way to know about God is to study His Word (the Revelation)
    - Sacred Scripture
    - Sacred Tradition
- Who can tell me about him?
  - Jesus and His Church

# God and His Perfections (Cont)

- A brief overview of the God of the Old Testament

# What a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jew would know and believe

- Abraham and the Patriarchs – 2000 – 1700 B.C.
  - Circumcision
  - Three Promises
    - Land
    - Kingdom
    - Worldwide Blessing
- Moses the Law and the Exodus - 1700 – 1280 B.C.
  - Calling of Moses
  - **Yahweh - Name of God**
  - 10 Plagues



# What a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jew would know and believe (Cont)

- Exodus to Mt Sinai
  - Water from the Rock
  - **Manna**
  - Quail
- Catechesis given on Mt. Sinai
  - Creation
  - Adam and Eve
  - The Fall
  - Tower of Babel
  - Noah and the Flood

# What a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jew would know and believe (Cont)

- The Torah – (The Law)
  - **10 Commandments (613 rules)**
  - **Three annual feasts**
    - Passover
    - Pentecost
    - Booths
  - Two other feasts
    - Hanukkah
    - Yom Kippur



# What a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jew would know and believe (Cont)

- Six day work week - Sunday until sunset on Friday
- **Sabbath** – sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday
  - **Sacrifices**
  - **The Tabernacle**
- **Golden Calf Incident**
- Reconnoitering of Promised Land

# What a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jew would know and believe (Cont)

- Desert Wandering – 1280 – 1240 B.C.
- Conquest and Judges – 1240 – 1050 B.C.
- Royal Kingdom – 1050 – 930 B.C.
  - Saul/David/Solomon
  - **Psalms (150)**
- Divided Kingdom – 930 – 722 B.C.
  - 20 Kings of Israel
  - 20 Kings of Judah
    - **Prophets**
    - Assyrian assimilation – 722 B.C.
- Exile – 587 – 538 B.C.
  - Babylon captivity - 587
    - Nebuchadnezzar's dream - statue
    - Daniel's dream – 4 beasts
- Return – 538 – 167 B.C.

# What a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jew would know and believe (Cont)

- Dynasties
  - Babylonian - 586-338 B.C.
  - Medo-Persian – 338-322 B.C.
  - Greek – 322-63 B.C.
    - Maccabean Revolt – 167 – 0 B.C.
  - Roman – 63 B.C.-330 A.D.

# What a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jew would know and believe (Cont)

- Jewish Covenants with Yahweh
  - Adam – 7<sup>th</sup> day
  - Noah - rainbow
  - Abraham – circumcision
  - Moses – the Law
  - David - throne
- Final and New Covenant
  - Jesus - Eucharist

# What was the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Jew waiting for?

- The arrival of the Messiah
- The return of the Ark of the Covenant
- The return of the Glory Cloud to the Temple?

# God and His Perfections

- What is unique to the God of Israel
  - Monotheism – “one God” as affirmed by Jesus
  - He has reveals His name to Moses
    - The burning bush
    - YAHWEH – “I am who am” (Ex 3:13-15) a perpetual mystery beyond words
    - He who is - is truth and love and always faithful to His people
    - This leads us to turn to him as our first origin and ultimate goal

# God and His Perfections

- **Who is God?**

- A being whom we can reason to by looking at His creation
  - St. Thomas Aquinas – 1225-1274 AD
  - 5 proofs for the existence of God
    - **Change or Motion** - Everything in the process of change is being changed by something else
    - **Cause and effect** – There must be an efficient cause to begin the process
    - **Necessary Being** – Since beings cannot exist alone there must be at least one necessary being
    - **Goodness, truth, nobility** – The degrees of these must come from one perfect likeness
    - **Goal directed (Final causality)** – Everything in nature is directed toward its goal

# God and His Perfections (Cont)

- The *Catechism* (CCC 214-221) says that God, “He Who Is,” is:
  - Truth
  - Love
- What are some of the attributes of God, and how do we come to understand these attributes?
  - We determine what He would **Not** be like



# God and His Perfections (Cont)

- God's Divine Attributes include:
  - **Oneness** – He exists and there is only one God
  - **Truth** – His words cannot deceive or be deceived
  - **Life** – He is alive, a pure being, a living God
  - **Omnipotence** – He is almighty (in creed)
  - **Eternal** – Divine being without beginning or end

# God and His Perfections (Cont)

- **Immensity** – He is beyond all special dimensions
- **Incomprehensibility** – His presence cannot be limited
- **Infinity** – He is without limitations of any kind
- **Simplicity** – He has no parts or components
- **Immutability** – He cannot change

# Transition

- For next week's discussion please read: **Chapter 3: The Unity and Trinity of God, and**