

2023-2024 RCIA #3

9/25/23

Part I: The Creed (Chapter 2)

God and His Perfections

- Who Is God?

Questions

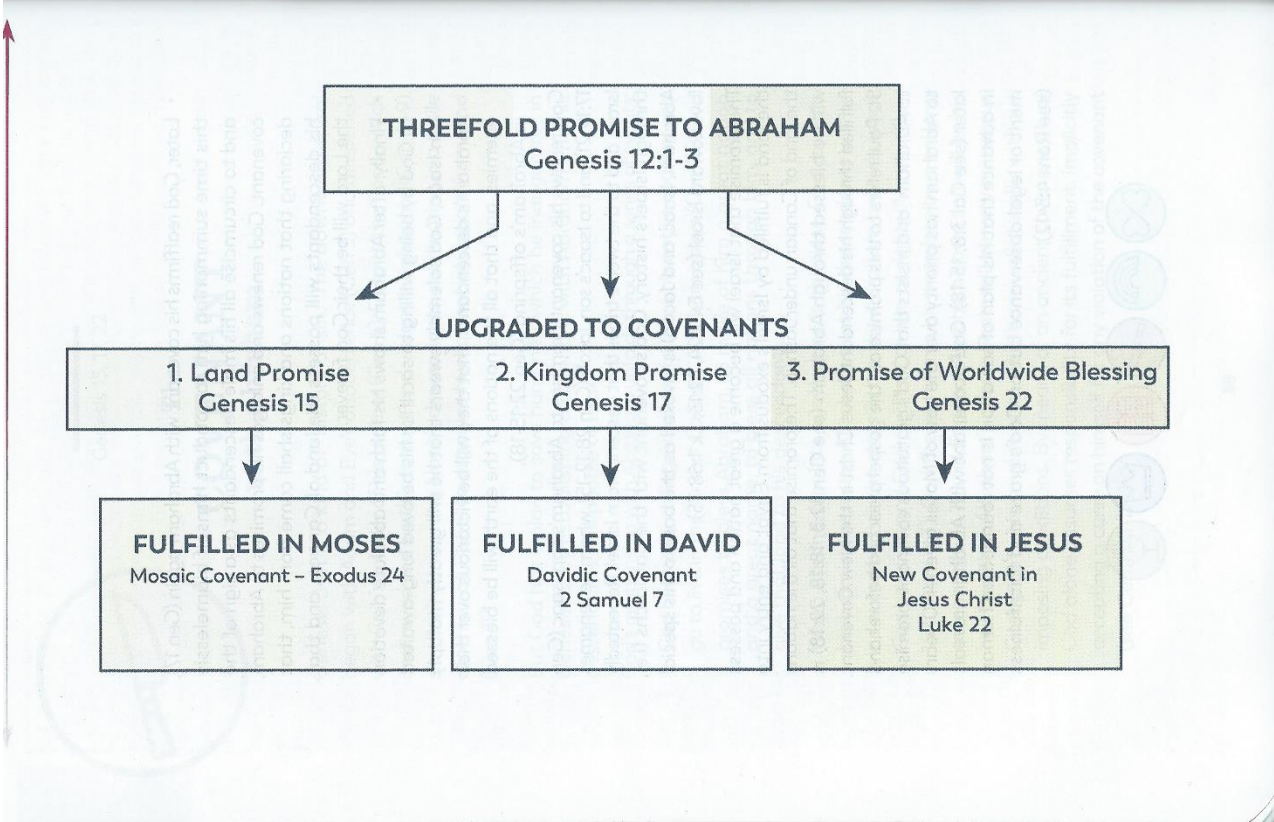
- Is there a God?
 - The fundamental option
 - No
 - Yes
- How would you describe God?
- Can I know God?
 - One way to know God is to look at His creation
 - Another way to know about God is to study His Word (the Revelation)
 - Sacred Scripture
 - Sacred Tradition
- Who can tell me about him?
 - Jesus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

God and His Perfections (Cont)

- A brief overview of the God of the Old Testament

What a 1st 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 1st 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 1st 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 1st 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 1st 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 1st 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 1st Century Jew would know and believe (Cont)

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

What was the 1st 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 class please read Chapter 3 – The Unity and Trinity of God