

2023-2024 RCIA #5

10/16/23

Part I: The Creed (Chapter 4)

Creation and Angels

- How Did Creation Begin?
- Is the Devil Real?

The Nicene Creed

Our belief in “God the Father” is expressed as:

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

God and Creation

- How did creation begin?
 - God created everything out of nothing (*ex nihilo*)
 - He wills and it is done (**Genesis 1**)
 - He keeps everything in existence

God As Creator

- The Book of Genesis begins with the two stories of creation
 - **Genesis 1:1- 2:3**
 - **Genesis 2:4-24**

He Creates Everything Out of Nothing

- The Seven Days of Creation
 - “And God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.”
 - God spoke (*debar* - Hebrew) and it came to be
- The “Word of God” was understood in the Old Testament to be the “*sophia*” - Greek for “wisdom”

First Six Days of Creation

From the Void

- Day One
 - Day/night
- Day Two
 - Sea/Sky
- Day Three
 - Land/Vegetation

Filled the Void

- Day Four
 - Sun/Moon/Stars
- Day Five
 - Birds/Fish
- Day Six
 - Animals/Man

The Seventh Day of Creation

- God Rested on the 7th Day:
 - Sabbath
 - A day to praise, adore, glorify and worship God

Hierarchy of Beings

- Divine Life – God in the Trinity – pure uncreated spirit with infinite intelligence and will
- Angelic Life – Pure created spirits with intellect and will
- Human Life – A spiritual soul w/ intellect and will
- Animal Life – Existence, growth, and feelings
- Plant Life – Existence and growth
- No Life – Existence

Creation and Angels

- What did God create before man?
 - **The Angels**
 - Messengers
 - Persons of pure spirit with intellects and wills
 - Possess great power
 - Capable of loving God
 - The word angel or angels appears 332 times in Holy Scriptures

Creation and Angels (Cont)

- **Nine choirs of Angels**

- Seraphim
- Cherubim
- Thrones
- Dominations
- Virtues
- Powers
- Principalities
- Archangels
- Angels

Creation of Spiritual Beings - Angels

- How would you describe an angel?
 - Valentine cupid
 - Winged man/woman
 - Pure spirit

Creation and Angels (Cont)

- Three Archangels named in Scripture
 - **Gabriel** – Hero of God (Luke 1:26-38)
 - **Michael** – Who is like God (Revelation 12:7)
 - **Raphael** – God hath healed (Tobit 5)
 - ***Feast Day of Archangels is September 29***
- Every person is assigned a Guardian Angel
 - ***Memorial of Guardian angels is October 2***

Prayer to Saint Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel

Defend us in battle

Be our protection against the
wickedness and snares of the devil;

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;

And so then, O Prince of the heavenly host,

By the power of God, thrust into hell Satan

and all evil spirits

Who wander through the world seeking the ruin
of souls

Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God,
My guardian dear
To whom God's love
Commits me here;
Ever this day be at my side
To light and guard,
To rule and guide.
Amen

Creation and the Devil

- Do you believe that the devil exists?

Jesus and the devil

- Right after Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17) he spent 40 days in the desert fasting and praying
- At the conclusion of this time the devil presented Jesus with three temptations (tests)

Matthew 4:3-11(Cont)

- Jesus' defeat of the devil:
 - Sets the tone for the rest of Jesus' public ministry
 - Cause all of his subsequent actions to be seen as repercussions of His initial triumph over the devil
 - Allows Jesus to take this victory to all whose lives he touches in his travels

Matthew 4:3-11

- Jesus's **first** test was in response to hunger
 - Jesus fasted for 40 days/nights and was hungry
 - The devil challenged Jesus to turn stones into bread
 - Jesus replied **“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’”**
 - Jesus' reply was based on **Deuteronomy 8:1-3**

Matthew 4:3-11 (Cont)

- Jesus quoted from **Deuteronomy** 8:1-3 while he in fact was the word of God
- Every time he quoted **Deuteronomy** to the devil he was actually pointing to his own divinity

Matthew 4:3-11(Cont)

- Jesus' **second** test was in response to putting God to the test (Matthew 4:5-7):
 - The devil took Jesus to the pinnacle of the Temple and challenged him to prove that he was the son of God by throwing himself down
 - Psalm 91:11-12 (13)
 - Genesis 3:15
 - Jesus replied: **“Again it is written, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”**
 - Jesus’ reply was based on **Deuteronomy 6:16**

Matthew 4:3-11 (Cont)

- **The passage continues with “lest you strike your foot against a stone” (Matthew 4:6):**
 - Here the devil:
 - Was quoting from **Psalm 91:11-12**
 - Stopped at **Psalm 91:12** because **Psalm 91:13** says: “You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot”

Matthew 4:3-11(Cont)

- Jesus' **third** test was in response to worshiping false gods (Matthew 4:5-7):
 - The devil took Jesus to a high mountain and promised that if he would worship him he would give him all the nations of the world
 - Jesus replied: "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve'"
 - Jesus' reply is based on **Deuteronomy 6:13**

Creation and the Fallen Angels

The Devil

- What is the devil?
 - A fallen angel
 - A tempter
 - A snake

Creation and the Devil

- Lucifer, the Seraphim, leader of the fallen angels
 - Was a light bearer –a *Seraphim*
 - Angels due to superior intellect were given one choice
 - Cast to the earth by St. Michael (Revelations)
 - Became an enemy of mankind and ruler over hell
 - Names for the devil:
 - The devil, the tempter, the adversary

Creation and the Devil (Cont)

- Is the devil real?
 - Yes and he is 100% evil and filled with hatred; a liar
 - He can tempt us to sin but can never cause us to sin
 - Temptations are from the devil, and the world
 - We can overcome temptation via grace especially from Confession and Eucharist
- People can become possessed by the Devil
 - The Church counters with exorcisms

Transition

- Next class we continue to look at:
 - Chapter 5 - The Creation and Fall of Man
 - Chapter 6 - Actual Sin