



# Salvation History

## Session 1

RCIA at St. Sylvester Church

Segment 6

# Opening Prayer



Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in  
heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Amen

# Tonight & Next Week

- Overview of Salvation History
- Mankind's Fall From Grace
- God's Plan to Save Mankind
- Fulfillment of God's Plan
- Your Place in God's Plan



# Overview of Salvation History

- We were made for intimate friendship with God
  - Mankind's fall from grace has broken that intimacy for all of us
- God has been pursuing each of us ever since to bring us home
- God has approached us through several covenant relationships
  - What is a covenant relationship?
- Understanding of salvation unfolds over thousands of years
  - God revealed Himself to specific people in history in the context of the culture of their time
  - The Bible is God's story of salvation history
- Forgiveness and mercy central to God's Plan

# Timeline of Salvific Eras & Covenants

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Pre-history: Creation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Great Flood</li><li>▪ Tower of Babel</li></ul></li><li>➤ 2000-1850 BC, Patriarchs</li><li>➤ 1450-1410 BC, Exodus</li><li>➤ 1400-1050 BC, Judges</li><li>➤ 1050 - 930 BC, United Kingdom</li><li>➤ 930 - 722 BC, Divided Kingdom</li><li>➤ 722 - 538 BC, Exile</li><li>➤ 538 - 167 BC, Return</li><li>➤ 167 - 4 BC, Greek &amp; Roman Era</li><li>➤ 4 BC - 33 AD, Messianic Era</li><li>➤ 33 AD – Present, The Church</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <u>1<sup>st</sup> Covenant</u> - marriage of Adam &amp; Eve</li><li>- <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Covenant</u> with Noah's family to preserve mankind</li><li>- God confuses human language &amp; disburses people</li><li>- <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Covenant</u> with Abraham, 3 great promises</li><li>- <u>4<sup>th</sup> Covenant</u> with Israel, God's people; Moses' Law</li><li>- Israel surviving in the Promised Land</li><li>- <u>5<sup>th</sup> Covenant</u> with King David – a dynasty forever</li><li>- The 12 tribes split into two kingdoms</li><li>- Northern tribes wiped out; Southern tribes exiled</li><li>- Persia releases Jews to return to Promised Land</li><li>- Jews struggle to maintain their culture</li><li>- Jesus fulfills all promises with <u>6<sup>th</sup> Covenant</u></li><li>- Christianity spreads throughout the entire world</li></ul> |
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# Mankind's Fall From Grace



- Adam & Eve created in God's image
  - Created out of love and for love; gifted with power to love freely (free will)
- God entered into covenant relationship with them
  - Term "covenant" not used in Genesis, but is implied in His creating them
- The symbol of this covenant is the institution of "marriage"
  - God made them husband and wife; told them to be fruitful and multiply
- This covenant makes them children of God
  - Living in the Garden of Eden; God provides for them fully

# Mankind's Fall From Grace

- God only gave them one law to obey
  - *“Do not eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge...or you will die”*
  - Satan tempts them; says they won't die...they'll be like God
  - Adam & Eve disobey God; they turn away from God out of fear and shame
  - Fear & shame exile them from Eden, separating them from Him
- Things get worse...their children are impacted by evil
  - Cain kills his brother Abel out of jealousy—the first murder
  - Cain doesn't repent; is exiled from the land.
  - What happens to him?
- His brother Seth is born...glimmer of hope for humanity
  - Some of Seth's descendants “walked with God”



# Noah

- In Noah's time, evil had taken over the world
- God decided to destroy evil with a flood
- But he saw that Noah was a righteous man
  - God decided not to kill off mankind completely
- Instructed Noah to build the Ark and save his family
  - Also preserved at least two of every creature of the land and air





# Noah

- Noah was obedient to God
- It rained for 40 days/40 nights flooding the earth
  - Every person and animal not on the Ark perished
- God then entered into a covenant relationship with Noah's family
  - Gave them the commandment to go forth and multiply
- God promised never again to flood the earth & wipe out life on earth
  - Established the rainbow as the sign for his eternal promise



# Noah

- After the flood Noah subsisted as a farmer
  - He planted a vineyard and got drunk on the wine
- Noah's son Ham "saw" his drunken and naked father passed out
- Noah cursed Ham's son Canaan to a life of slavery
- Parallels mankind's fall in creation story
  - Path of sin is through consuming illicit fruit
  - Sin is realized in nakedness
  - Sin is ultimately a form of slavery
- Despite purging flood, sin & evil still gripped humanity



# Tower of Babel

- Noah's family populated the earth establishing cities over many generations
- Eventually many migrated to the Shinar valley in Mesopotamia
- The people decided to build a tower to the heavens
  - Maybe did not trust God to keep them safe from another flood
  - The people wanted to control their own fate without God's help
- God could not allow this; *They (God)* confused the peoples' language and scattered them throughout the lands



# Consequences of Sin for Humanity

- Fallen from grace; no longer in harmony with God (**CCC 399-400**)
- The world is held in the power of Satan
- Sin becomes rampant in the world
- There is difficulty for mankind in knowing God
- Original sin is the “death of the soul” (**CCC 400**)



# God's Plan to Save Humanity

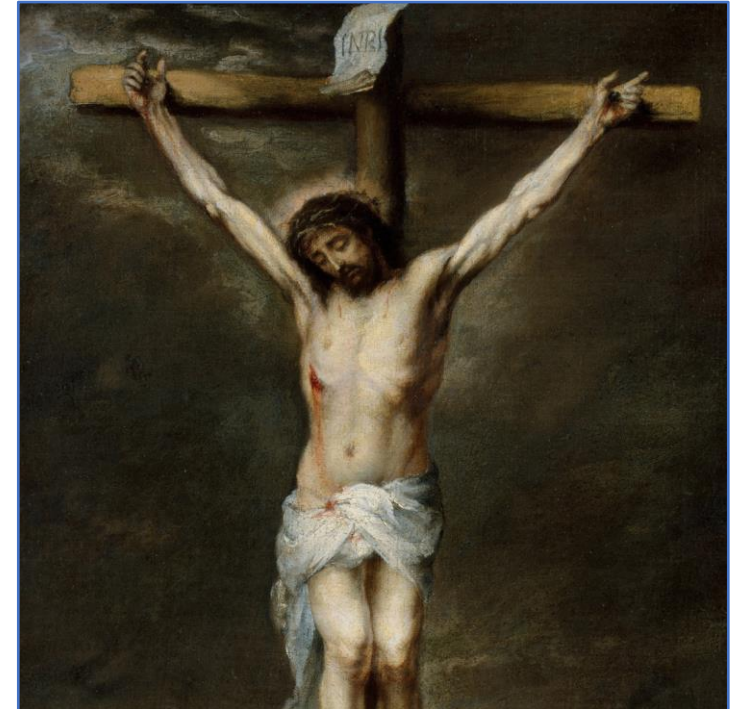


- God does not want to lose souls to sin
- As sin erupted, He initiated a plan for salvation
- Plan unfolded through the Jewish people over thousands of years
- God has saved mankind through His own loving sacrifice

# God's Plan to Save Humanity

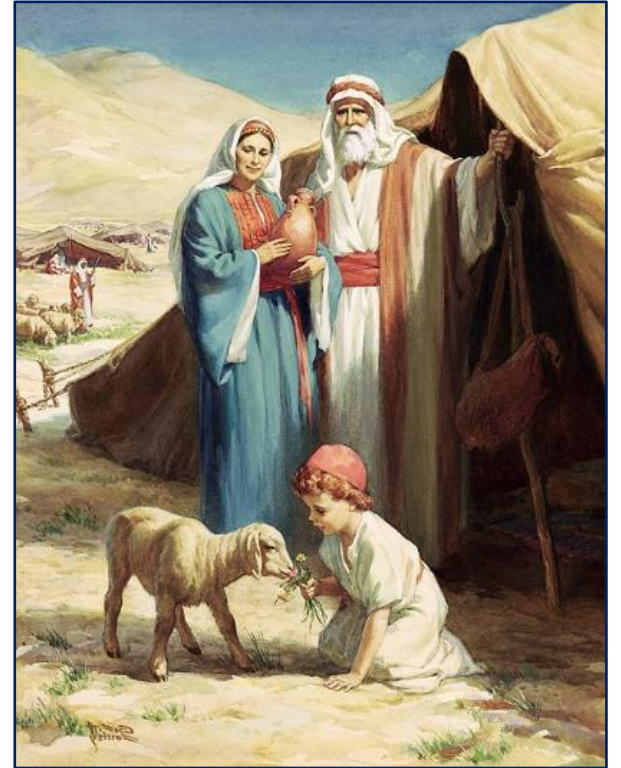
God's plan entails:

- Revealing Himself to humanity as the only true God
  - Has revealed Himself through many angels, priests & prophets
- Teaching His people to:
  - Obey His laws
  - Trust in Him
  - Die to ego and self determination
- Being reborn through water and spirit
- Extending mercy and forgiveness to sinners
- Resurrection to new life after physical death



# Starts With Abraham

- God called Abram's family out of Ur to [Canaan](#)
  - Abram's father, Terah, settles in Haran instead
  - After Terah dies, Abram leaves Haran for Canaan
- God makes three promises to Abram
  - Land encompassing Canaan given to his descendents
  - A great nation will come from his heirs
  - The world will be blessed through his name
- Abram asks God how this will happen as he has no heirs
  - Abram's wife, Sarai, is barren and they are both old
  - Sarai gives her maidservant, Hagar, to bear Abram a child (Ishmael)
- Sarai becomes jealous of Hagar so she and Ishmael are sent away



# Abraham

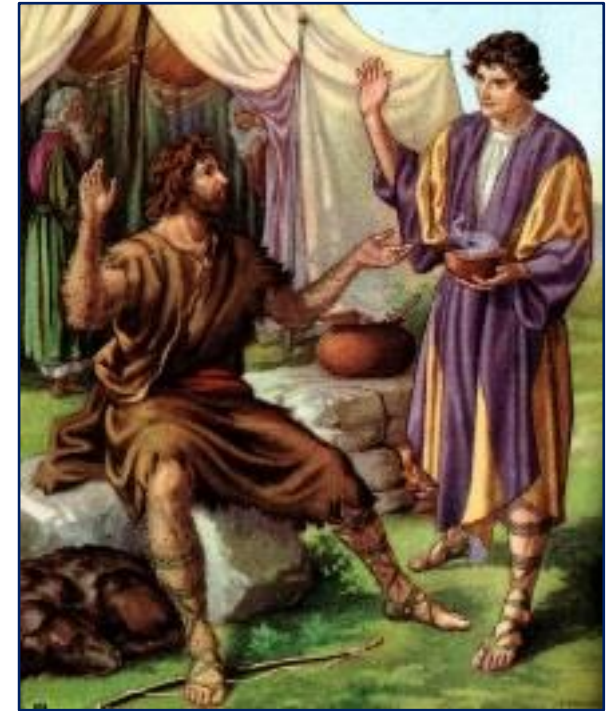
- God tells Abram that Sarai will bear him a son
  - Sarai gives birth to Isaac when Abram is 100 years old
- God entered into a covenant with Abram
  - Renewed His promises to make Abram the father of a great nation
- God changes his name to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah
- Requires Abraham to circumcise himself as a sign of the covenant
  - Requires all males of his community to also be circumcised
- God tests Abraham's faith telling him to kill Isaac as a sacrifice
  - Abraham is obedient, but God stops him just before the knife falls
  - God renews his promise to bless all nations of the world through Abraham





# Abraham's Descendents

- Isaac married and had two sons (twins)
  - Esau was born first (birth right as primary heir to Isaac)
  - Jacob born second and was favored by his mother
  - Esau traded his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew
  - Isaac tricked into giving Jacob the anointing blessing
  - Jacob flees from Esau's anger to Haran
- Jacob marries and has 12 sons by 2 wives and 2 maidservants
  - Jacob's sons each initiate one of the 12 tribes of Israel
  - Jacob wrestles with an angel of God; God renames him Israel
- Jacob favors his 11<sup>th</sup> son Joseph
  - The other brothers are jealous and sell him into slavery
  - Joseph is taken to Egypt where he ends up working for Pharaoh



# Abraham's Descendents

- Joseph gifted as interpreter of dreams
  - He saves Egypt from famine and Egypt prospers
  - He rises to great power as Pharaoh's right hand
- Israel and his sons migrate to Egypt to escape the famine
  - They reunite with Joseph who shows them mercy and supports them
- The son's of Israel flourish in Egypt and each tribe grows
  - The families of Israel are initially treated well in Egypt
  - As new Pharaohs take power, they begin to mistrust the people of Israel
  - Eventually, the people of Israel are made slaves in Egypt



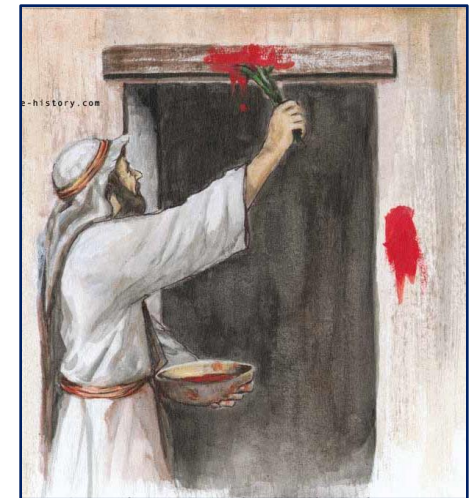
# Moses

- King of Egypt feared growing Jewish population
  - Ordered all newborn males to be killed
  - Moses' mother placed him in a basket in the Nile
- Moses is found/adopted by Pharaoh's daughter
- Moses grows up and learns of his heritage
  - He kills an Egyptian and flees the country going to Midian
- God calls to Moses and tells him to lead his people out of Egypt
  - God talks to Moses in a burning bush to give him his mission
  - God appoints Moses' brother, Aaron, to aid him as priest
  - Moses asks God's name; He replies "I Am Who Am"
  - Moses obeys God and goes back to Egypt to confront Pharaoh



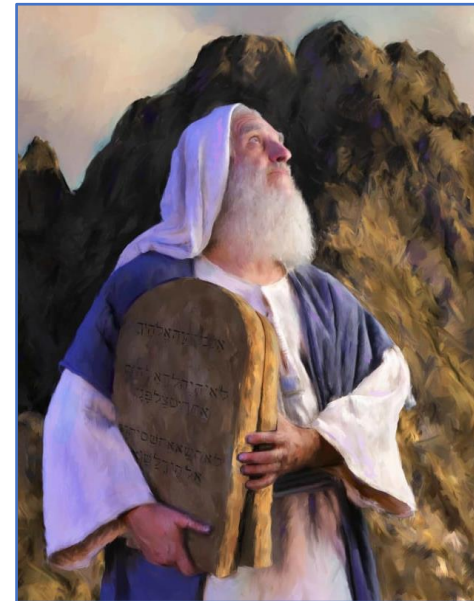
# Moses

- Moses asks Pharaoh to let his people go
  - Pharaoh refuses and God visits 10 plagues on Egypt
  - The last plague kills all first born males of men and beasts
- God instructs Moses to allow plague to pass over Jews
  - God commands an annual memorial Jewish Passover Feast
  - God also requires all first born males to be consecrated to him
- Plague kills all first born Egyptian males (Pharaoh's son)
  - Pharaoh lets the Jewish people go after 400 years of captivity
- Departure from Egypt & slavery is called the Exodus
  - Comprised of 600,000 men plus women, children & animals



# Moses

- Pharaoh changes his mind and pursues the Jews
  - Moses parts the Red Sea and they escape into the desert
- Moses leads Jewish people back to Promised Land
  - Difficult journey—the people grumble against God & Moses
  - God feeds them heavenly manna; provides water from rock
- God gives Moses commandments on Mount Sinai
  - God instructs him to build Ark of the Covenant
  - People rebel in Moses' absence and worship golden calf
  - God enters into a covenant with people of Israel
- Israel disobeys God numerous times in their journey
  - God extends their wandering in the desert for 40 years
  - All but two of Moses' generation dies in the desert



# Intermission

If time permits, read some of this history in:

Genesis: Chapters 1 – 5, The Creation Stories

Chapters 6 – 10, Noah

Chapter 11 – Tower of Babel

Chapters 12 – 35, Abraham, Isaac & Jacob

Chapters 37 – 50, Joseph

Exodus:

Chapters 1 – 20, Moses through the 10 Commandments

# Closing Prayer



O God, You instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit. Grant that by the gift of the same Spirit, we may be always truly wise, and ever rejoice in His consolation.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen