

Catholic Bible Studies: Genesis (The Book of Beginnings)

[In Memoriam: **Bruce Vawter, CM** (1921-86), *Preeminent Catholic Genesis Scholar of Recent Times*]

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Center: 215 Lomita St., El Segundo, CA 90245-4148

Fall - Winter 2012/13: October - January Mondays, 7 p.m.

Thaddeus Noel G. Laput, CM

Course Description:

This course aims at introducing the committed learner (parishioner or non-parishioner) to the first book of the Bible, of Tanakh (Hebrew Bible/Old Testament), and of the Torah (Pentateuch). This study will take up some of the most beautiful and well-known stories in the Bible: the Creation, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the Flood, the Tower of Babel, Sodom and Gomorrah, the patriarchs and matriarchs, Joseph and his brothers. It will investigate the narrative that frames God's relationship with creation and humanity which is the foundation to understanding all else in the Bible. As a series of lectures it will consist in the exegesis and exposition of the Book of Genesis from the historical, literary, theological, and ethical perspectives. In its exploration, each unit of the text under study is examined with the following guide questions: *What is its contextual meaning? What does it say and teach? How was it received and interpreted in Judaism, the Church, society, culture, and the arts through the centuries? What does the Catholic Church teach about it today?* and, *What should I do and how do I apply it in life?* Leading biblical literacy flow into biblical spirituality, it is the objective of this course to let the participants encounter, know, love, and serve more deeply the God of creation, of the patriarchs and matriarchs, and of Jesus Christ.

Course Schedule / Book of Genesis Outline:

1. Introduction to the Book of Genesis

Part One: The Primeval History (Gen 1-11)

2. God Makes Time for Us (Gen 1)
3. Breath of God (Gen 2)
4. Falling from Grace (Gen 3)
5. Life & Death (Gen 4)
6. A Flood of Immorality (Gen 5-7)
7. God's Covenant of Peace (Gen 8-10)
8. The Temple Tower (Gen 11)

Part Two: The Patriarchal-Matriarchal Narratives (Gen 12-36)

9. God Calls Abram (Gen 12-14)
10. The Covenant of Faith (Gen 15-17)
11. The Hospitality of Abraham (Gen 18-20)
12. Abraham's Test (Gen 21-23)
13. Love at First Sight (Gen 24-25)
14. Work & Blessing (Gen 26-27)
15. Jacob's Journey (Gen 28-30)
16. Jacob's Flight (Gen 31-33)

17. Return to Bethel (Gen 34-36)

Part Three: The Joseph Story (Gen 37-50)

18. Brothers (Gen 37)

19. Temptations (Gen 38-39)

20. Dreams (Gen 40-41)

21. Joseph's Brothers (Gen 42-44)

22. Truth Revealed (Gen 45-47)

23. Blessings (Gen 48-50)

24. The Book of Genesis for Today's Catholic Christian

Required Texts (Primary Bible Text and Secondary Resource Texts / References):

The Catholic Study Bible: The New American Bible, Revised Edition (2011); or,

J. Cook, *Genesis. New Collegeville Bible Commentary* (2011).

Bruce Vawter, CM, *God's Story of Creation (1969/2001); Some Lessons from Genesis (1969/2001).*

Recommended Texts / Other References / Resources for Further Reading:

C. Evans, et al., eds., *The Book of Genesis: Composition, Reception, & Interpretation* (2012).

R. Hendel, *The Book of Genesis: A Biography* (2012).

M. De la Torre, *Genesis. Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible* (2011).

A. Zornberg, *The Beginning of Desire: Reflections on Genesis* (1995/2011).

W. Brueggemann, *Genesis. Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching & Preaching* (1982/2010).

J. Goldingay, *Genesis for Everyone*, 2 vols. (2010).

R.W.L. Moberly, *The Theology of the Book of Genesis* (2009).

J. Ponessa & L. Manhardt, *Genesis. Come & See Catholic Bible Study* (2009).

J. McKeown, *Genesis. Two Horizons Old Testament Commentary* (2008).

S. Greidanus, *Preaching Christ from Genesis: Foundations for Expository Sermons* (2007).

T. Longman, *How to Read Genesis* (2005).

N. Sarna, *Genesis. JPS Torah Commentary* (1989/2001).

B. Moyers, *Genesis: A Living Conversation* (1996).

J. Ratzinger, 'In the Beginning...': *A Catholic Understanding of the Story of Creation & the Fall* (1995).

C. Westermann, *Genesis: A Practical Commentary* (1987).

Bruce Vawter, CM, *On Genesis: A New Reading (1977); A Path Through Genesis (1956).*

Highly Recommended Video (DVD or other media, like Youtube, etc.):

Lux Vide, *Genesis: The Creation & the Flood* [Omero Antonutti] (1996).

Lux Vide, *Joseph* [Paul Mercurio] (1995).

Lux Vide, *Jacob* [Matthew Modine] (1994).

Lux Vide, *Abraham* [Richard Harris] (1993).

