

Wyoming Men's Retreat Talk outlines:

Talk 1 - 1 Hour - Friday Evening @ 7:30 PM

The Dawn of Time!

- CCC 338 "*Nothing exists that does not owe its existence to God the Creator.* The world began when God's word drew it out of nothingness; all existent beings, all of nature, and all human history are rooted in this primordial event, the very genesis by which the world was constituted and time begun. [207](#)"
- **If you have only read the first 3 chapters of Genesis... you have read all of Salvation History!**
- **Genesis 1:**
 - [1] In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
 - [2] The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.
 - [3] And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
 - [4] And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.
 - God is creator
 - There are 2 realms
 - Heavens & Earth
 - There are 2 major problems
 - without form - tohu
 - Void - wabohu
 - Notice the key players and furniture...
 - The Holy Spirit
 - Hovering over the waters
 - God's word spoken
 - Light comes forth and separates the darkness
- **God solves the 2 problems**
 - The earth is formless... covered in the murky waters
 - The earth has no rulers to inhabit the land...
 - What will God do...?
 - In the first 3 days God forms the land... creating the realms...
 - Vs. 3-5 Day 1 - Day & Night
 - Vs. 6-8 Day 2 - Sea & Sky
 - Vs. 9-13 Day 3 - Land & Vegetation
 - In the second 3 days God sets the rulers over those realms...
 - Vs. 14-19 Day 4 Sun, Moon & Stars
 - Vs. 20-23 Day 5 Birds & Fish
 - Vs. 24-31 Day 6 Man & Animals
 - God declares all to be GOOD! & manifests the 7th day as a **Covenant** between himself, man and creation!
 - The root of the Hebrew word for 7 is "Sheba" which literally means to swear an oath... or to Seven oneself... in other words to form a Covenant.
 - A covenant is NOT a contract:

- the exchange of goods and services for the sake of economy.
- Rather, a covenant IS a
 - the exchange of persons for the sake of building up family bonds... or kinship.
 - As Scott Hahn likes to say... “Contract is to Covenant as prostitution is to marriage”.
- **St. Mark 2:[27]** And he said to them, "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath;
 - Why?
 - *“This is why God gave the Sabbath to his people, and why they had to ‘remember’ and ‘keep’ it (see Ex. 20:8); for it was the sign of the covenant between God and creation that God’s people were called to mediate. This role as covenant mediator involved two tasks: **exercising royal dominion** (see Gn 1:26-29) **and attaining to priestly holiness** (see Ex 31:16-17). Our work and worship were thus meant to go hand in hand.” (Dr. Scott Hahn, A Father Who Keeps His Promises, pg. 49, Servant Publications, 1998)*
 - **CCC 347** Creation was fashioned with a view to the sabbath and therefore for the worship and adoration of God. Worship is inscribed in the order of creation. [215](#) As the rule of St. Benedict says, nothing should take precedence over "the work of God", that is, solemn worship. [216](#) This indicates the right order of human concerns.
- Through the 7 fold sign of creation God enters into a family bond with man and creation...
 - Vs. 1:26 - 31 Man is created in the image & likeness of God!
 - **[26]** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."
 - **[27]** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
 - **[28]** And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the

sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

- [29] And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.
 - [30] And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.
 - [31] And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.
 - Male & Female
 - Equals - indicating that it is in the two as one that make up the image & likeness of God.
 - Given dominion over creation.
 - Royalty
 - Given charge to bear the image of God to the world and to fill it.
 - Priestly
 - Prophet
 - Man is created in a state of Grace to live in the beatitude of God's presence!
- **So... In the first creation...**
 - God tackles the 2 major problems
 - formlessness
 - Void
 - He **speaks** light into existence while His spirit hovers over the waters of creation!
 - **In the NEW Creation...**
 - **St. John 1:**
 - [1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, **and the Word was God.**
 - [2] He was in the beginning with God;
 - [3] all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.
 - [4] In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
 - [5] The **light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
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- [14] And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.
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- [32] And John bore witness, "I **saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him.**
- [33] I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'
- [34] And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."
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- Greater than just the image of God... the very Word of God was,,
 - Spoken, took on flesh and Tabernacles among us.
 - Is truly the LIGHT that has come to separate the darkness
 - The NEW creation with the NEW Adam coming up from the waters again!
- **CCC 458:** The Word became flesh so *that thus we might know God's love*: "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
 - **Moving on to Genesis chapter 2..... If I could have written Genesis 2 & 3 over again... I would have started with...**
 - John 15: [12]** "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
 - **It's the LAW of Love.... gift of self!**

SALVIFICI DOLORIS: Apostolic letter on the "Saving Mystery of Suffering" - John Paul II 1984 Page. 92

The Answer is found in the Garden!

- In Genesis 1 God is Elohim - what God does... He creates
- In Genesis 2 God is Yahweh - who God is... He is Father
- God notices there is NO ONE to keep the garden..
 - Brings water upon the earth - baptismal water
 - Brings forth man from the clay & water mixture... (John 9 - Man born blind)
 - John 9: [1]** As he passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth.
 - [2] And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

- [3] Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him.
 - [4] We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work.
 - [5] As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
 - [6] As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay,
 - [7] saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Silo'am" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.
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- God **breaths** the breath of life into Man... the Ru-ah
 - Man is placed in the Garden and given dominion over it
 - John 20:20-23 - Jesus breaths on the Disciples and THEY are given dominion over His Church.
- Adam is **placed** in the Garden... in the East on the mountain!
 - Given a guardian protector - Cherubim
 - Gold, precious stones
 - Living water
 - Every food which is GOOD
 - Illusions to Ez. 28
- Adam is **given** his marching orders....
 - Genesis 2: [15]** The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.
 - [16] And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;
 - [17] but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the **day that you eat of it you shall die.**"
 - **Notice...** in the Hebrew... God says,,, on the day you eat of it you shall "Die the Death"!
 - It is repeated.... why? We shall see in a moment.
- It is **NOT Good** that man should be alone...
 - Notice the contrast... not good from and it was good!
 - Adam finds NO equal amongst the creatures...
 - Man hangs in the balance between the Angels and the creatures...
 - rational soul & Corporal body
 - Higharachy in creation
 - Adam is placed in a deep sleep and from his side comes forth his bride...
 - Woman is fashioned from man.... and man from dust.
 - Woman is brought to the man by the Father!
 - **Vs. [23]** Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones
 - and flesh of my flesh;
 - she shall be called Woman,

- because she was taken out of Man."
- **On the 7th Day... a wedding feast!**
 - This is the culmination of the creation account...
 - The covenant between God , Man and creation... AND
 - The wedding between Adam & Eve... ON the 7th Day!
 - **In the New Creation....**
 - Jn 1:5 Day 1 - Light shines in the darkness
 - Jn 1:32 Day 2 - The Spirit Descends from the heavens like a dove over the waters
 - Jn 1:42 Day 3 - Peter is declared to be the ROCK
 - Jn 1:51 Day 4 - The Heavens are opened
 - Jn 2:1 Day 7 - Weeding feast at Cana
 - Its both the 3rd day & the 7th day
 - Numbers 19... Cleansing from the encounter with the dead
 - 6 stone water jars for cleansing... filled to the brim and turned into the choicest wine held for last!
 - The NEW Adam & the NEW Eve stand in the NEW creation Wedding Feast...
 - Pointing towards the HOUR... when Christ will in deed offer the Choicest wine... HIS Blood, poured forth, with the living water, from His SIDE to bring forth His bride... the Church!
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- **The Garden**
 - Inner Sanctuary of the Cosmic Temple
 - Entered from the East
 - Gold, silver, jewels
 - Rivers run through them
 - God WALKS & Dwells there
 - Compare the creation account to the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness by Moses and the building of the Temple in Jerusalem by Solomon...
 - All built in a 7 fold process
 - All was GOOD
 - All occupied by God's presence
- **The Two Trees**
 - Knowledge of Good & Evil
 - How does one know they have faith if it is never tested?
 - Can Adam be truly free if there was NO WAY for him to commit personal sin? Without the potential for disobedience... Adam would have just been a slave of God.
 - The tree of Life!
 - They should NOT eat lest they live forever in their sins!
 - The Menora in the Tabernacle & Temple....
 - Protected by sword wielding Levites
 - The Cross of Calvary

- Peter is told to put his sword away in the Garden of Gethsemane in John 18.
- **Adam as Priest, Prophet, and King!**
 - in Gen. 2 given the CMD to "Keep & Protect" the garden
 - Abodah & Shamar
 - Same Priests in Numbers 3:7-8 & following
 - Like Aaron.... Adam is CLOTHED with garments
 - Adam ministers in the sanitary like the High Priest in the Temple and Tabernacle
 - Like sword wielding Priests protecting the Tabernacle in Numbers 17... Adam too is tasked with "Shamar" or protecting the Garden Sanctuary
 - He's a king in that he was given DOMINION in Gen. 1:26&27
 - Bearing the image of God to the world... taming the wilderness to make it inhabitable for mankind... he is a prophet!
 - GK. Beal Quote....
- **Eve as Temple, Queen & Mother!**
 - Like the Temple which is *banah - she is MADE - built*
 - *Temple - Banah - is built*
 - *The CROWN JEWEL of creation!*
 - Like the veil in the Temple... so is the woman valid
 - Scott Hahn: "That which is veiled is that which is Holy"
 - Mother of all the LIVING... mother of the Kings!
 - Ge. 3:15 - HER seed will redeem the world!
- **A state of bliss... a state of communion with each other & God:**
 - Vs. [24] Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh.
 - [25] And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.
- **And then....**
 - Genesis 3: [1] Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden'?"
 - First notice WHEN the serpent invades the Garden sanctuary...
 - When they were both naked and NOT ashamed.... Vs. 2:25
 - They encounter the snake... eat the fruit and...
 - Now... just a few verses later and they are both naked... ashamed and hide themselves... Vs. 7
 - What just happened!

Let's look at the test in more detail...

- The encounter with the Dragon!
 - The Nahash - Leviathan (Is. 27:1 & Job 26:13)
 - See also the Ancient Serpent - the Dragon in Rev. 12
 - NOT a garden snake...
- The fall of man
 - Cowardice of Adam
 - Its the woman's fault

- No, wait... God... you gave her to me... its YOUR fault!
- Integrity of Eve
 - I was beguiled and I ate...
 - no passing the buck!
- Disobedience of both Adam & Eve
 - Falling to the 3 fold concupiscence...
 - Lust of the flesh
 - [6] So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food,....
 - Lust of the eyes
 - [6] ... and that it was a delight to the eyes, ...
 - Pride of Life
 - [6] ...and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate
 - Compare this to the test Jesus faced,,, from the **SAME** tempter,,, **IN** the wilderness!
 - **Matthew 4: [1]** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
 - **[2]** And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry.
 - **[3]** And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of **God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.**"
 - **[4]** But he answered, "It is written, `Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"
 - **[5]** Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple,
 - **[6]** and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, `**He will give his angels charge of you,**'
 - **and `On their hands they will bear you up,**
 - **lest you strike your foot against a stone."**
 - **[7]** Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, `You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"
 - **[8]** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them;
 - **[9]** and he said to him, "**All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.**"
 - **[10]** Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! for it is written, `You shall worship the Lord your God
 - and him only shall you serve."
 - **[11]** Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.
- The threat of the serpent
 - Notice... when the Serpent says...

- **Genesis 3: [4]** But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die.
 - **[5]** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
- Die is NOT repeated this time... in Gen. 2:17 God said... "Die the Death" but here is just "Die"... What's the difference?
 - When God says it he means Adam's soul
 - When Satan says it, he means Adam's body
- The choice Adam faces...
 - "Save my soul"...
 - "OR... Save my flesh"... Choices choices!
- What does the Last Adam say....
 - **Matthew 10: [28]** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
- the death that enters into human history!
 - Adam chooses to allow his bride to do all the talking while HE is silent... in a garden!
 - Adam chooses NOT to trust in God to resurrect him from death but rather... chooses to save his skin and forgo his soul.
 - On that day... he surly did die... his the life of grace in his soul died and being defiled and self-excommunicated, he could not continue to dwell in the Garden with God.
 - **Romans 5:**
 - **[11]** Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.
 - **[12]** Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned --
 - **[13]** sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.
 - **[14]** Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.
 - **[15]** But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.
 - **[16]** And the free gift is not like the effect of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification.
 - **[17]** If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

- [18] Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men.
 - [19] For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.
 - [20] Law came in, to increase the trespass; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,
 - [21] so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- The encounter with God - Luke 15 - the Prodigal Son
 - The confession
 - The coa of the Lord....
 - Drawing them out of the bushes
 - Coaxing out their confessions
 - The penance
 - The woman bears children in pain & the equality relationship with her husband will be forever strained...
 - the confusing of roles...
 - the abuse of persons.
 - Mother of all the living... yet passing on the original sin of death!
 - The man will be forced out of the garden by the very guardian assigned to protect him... denied direct access to God and the tree of life.
 - Forced to toil... in sweat... in the thorns... breaking his back to bring forth the bread from the earth.
 - The snake will loose its legs... and eat the DUST of the earth while chasing after the coming Messiah
 - Is restrained from total freedom
 - Man is made of dust... snake is devouring man!
 - Ultimatly it is the seed of the woman... the NEW Adam who will defeat death, free us from Sin and crush its head!
 - The Promise
 - The day will come....
 - [15] I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 - and between your seed and her seed;
 - he shall bruise your head,
 - and you shall bruise his heel."
 - The Reconciliation
 - God restores their dignity... clothing their nakedness
 - They are sons & daughters of the Most High God!
 - [21] And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins, and clothed them.

Ezekiel 28:

[11] Moreover the word of the LORD came to me:

[12] "Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

[13] You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, carnelian, topaz, and jasper, chrysolite, beryl, and onyx, sapphire, carbuncle, and emerald; and wrought in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared.

[14] With an anointed guardian cherub I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.

[15] You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.

[16] In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and the guardian cherub drove you out from the midst of the stones of fire.

[17] Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.

[18] By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought forth fire from the midst of you; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you.

[19] All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more for ever."

Questions:

1. How do you bear the image of God to your environments? Are you cultivating the wilderness into a Garden Sanctuary to bring others into dwell with God?
2. How have you protected all those whom God has placed in your care and custody? Family, friends, children, parents, neighbors... those who can not defend themselves?