

The Creation Epic in Genesis

An Advent, Lenten and Post-Easter Scripture Series in Three Parts

Presented by Fr. Michael T. Buttner and hosted by St Mark Church
Sessions will be held in the auditorium of the Msgr. McCall Center
2407 Laurel Brook Road - Fallston, MD 21047

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This Series will be developed in three parts as follows:

Part I will be offered in five classes meeting on Monday evenings (7:00 to 9:00 PM) on Nov 7, 14, 28, Dec 5 and 12. The goal for this part of the series will be to discover a deeper appreciation for and understanding of the First Creation Story as told in Genesis 1: 2 to 2:4a.

Part II will also be offered in five classes meeting on Monday evenings (7:00 to 9:00 PM) on Feb 27, Mar 5, 12, 19, 26. The goal for this part of the series will be to gain insight into the Second Creation Story (Genesis 2:4b - 3:24), often called the "Fall Story, which makes up a large part of it. Father will show how the "Fall" and "Correction" is a creation Story.

Part III will be offered in four classes meeting on 3 Monday evenings and 1 Tuesday evening (7:00 to 9:00 PM) on May 21, 29 (*Tue*), June 4, 11. The goal for this part of the series will be to look at both stories as a Creation Epic in Genesis and see how it points toward the Christ Event.

Note: The parts of this series will build one on another, such that, one would expect to derive the most benefit by attending the entire series. However, anyone unable to attend the full series can expect to derive significant benefit from each individual part.

DETAILED GOALS FOR PART I (Nov, Dec, 2011):

1. Develop an understanding of the terms in common usage in scripture study that apply to the issues to be discussed in this course.
2. Deepen an understanding of the concepts of "Inspiration" and "Revelation".
3. Deepen an understanding of and appreciation for the development of the Book of Genesis.
4. Deepen an understanding of the *literary bones* of the First Creation Story - its plot, movement, structure, character development, themes, literary tools, etc. so it can speak on its own and tell its story and be appreciated as fine literature.

5. Deepen an appreciation for the story's ability to convey complex theology.
6. Deepen an understanding of, and appreciation for, the story's traditions, creation theology and some basic connection to the Incarnation.

OVERALL GOALS FOR THE FULL SERIES:

1. Deepen appreciation for each story's literary richness and the manner in which it conveys a treasure of theological understanding.
2. Deepen an understanding of each story's roots in older ancient Near East (ANE) creation stories.
3. Deepen an understanding of the Hebrew Scriptures' development as a building block for a deeper appreciation of the Christ Event.
4. Develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for a "Creation Theology" that is the foundation for Christian Soteriology and Christology.
5. Present a proper Scriptural theory of a "Covenant Document" in which the Book of Genesis plays an important part as the pre-history of Israel's covenant relationship with Yahweh.

MATERIALS:

All materials necessary for the course will be provided, including copies of specific portions of references that will be cited in the classes or needed for homework. A bible will not be provided; however having one available will be important for class and homework. For anyone who would need to borrow a bible, a limited number of 'loaners' can be arranged for use during each part of the series.

REFERENCES:

1. The New American Bible. Wichita, Kan; Fireside Bible Publishers, 1987. This revised edition has a copy of the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation at the front of the Bible. It also has a history of the Bible, an Encyclopedic Dictionary, notes and charts.
2. Miller, John W., How the Bible Came to Be. NY; Paulist Press, 2004, pps: 1-46

3. Loning, Karl, and Zenger, Eric, To Begin with God Created..., Collegetown, MN; The Liturgical Press, 2000.
4. The New Jerome Biblical Commentary (NJBC). Raymond Brown, Joseph Fitzmeyer and Roland Murphy, eds., NJ: Prentice Hall, 1990. Especially "Introduction to the Pentateuch, pps. 3-7; "Genesis", pps 8-43; "Introduction to Wisdom Literature:", pps. 447-452; "Inspiration", pps.1023-1033; "Canonicity", pps1034-1054; "Modern Old Testament Criticism", pps. 1113-1129; "A History of Israel", pps. 1219-1252; and "Aspects of Old Testament Thought", pps. 1284-1315.
5. Buttner, Rev Michael T., The Creation Epic of Genesis. Unpublished, but on electronic media.

COST: \$30.00 for the full series; \$12.00 for individual parts.

WHERE: The auditorium of the Msgr. McCall Center at St. Mark Roman Catholic Church; 2407 Laurel Brook Road - Fallston, MD 21047

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Fr. Michael T. Buttner is a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He was ordained in 1975 and served in several parishes throughout the Archdiocese. He has been an Associate Pastor, Administrator and Pastor. In addition, he was a member of the Society of St. Sulpice and on the faculty of Theological College at Catholic University. Father holds degrees in Education, English Literature and Sacred Theology - with specialties in Liturgy, Spirituality, Initiation Theology and Scripture Studies. He is the author of three books: one on the baptismal theology of St. Basil; one on why Jesus was both God and a human, and one on the creation stories in Genesis as a "Creation Epic"

REGISTRATION FORM:

To register, please send this completed form and check to:
St. Mark Church – Scripture Series; 2407 Laurel Brook Road, Fallston, MD 21047

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Church/Parish Name: _____

Complete Series:____ or Part I _____ and/or Part II _____ and/or Part III _____

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Register Early – Space may need to be Limited.