

## Lesson 1

### Genesis 1 – 2

#### Question 1

Read chapter one of Genesis, listening to these first words of the Sacred Text as if you are hearing them for the first time. What are we given to understand from divine revelation about the origin and order of creation?

**Readings:** 2Mc 7:28; Ps 19, 104; Ws 13:1-9; Ac 17:22-31; Rm 1:20; CCC 36, 295-99, 316-20, 337-44, 353, 703-04, 1217-18, 2415-18.

#### Question 2

What does Genesis 1:26-31 reveal concerning the creation of man and the commands which God gives man? (Is work presented as something positive or negative? Explain your answer.)

**Readings:** Ws 9:1-12, 11:24; Si 17:1-8; 1Co 1:9, 3:9, 12:6; 2Th 3:10-12; CCC 222, 225, 302, 306-08, 355-61, 373, 380-81, 2427-28, 2501.

#### Question 3

Read Genesis 2:1-4a. Using the readings below, explain how these verses ‘complete’ all that is said in chapter one.

**Readings:** Ex 20:8-11; Ec 3:10-11; Si 16:24-30 [16:22-28, NAB], 18:1-7; Mk 2:27-28; Jn 1:1-4; Ep 1:3-12; Col 1:15-20; Hb 4:1-11, 12:18-19, 22-24; Rv 21:1-3; CCC 280, 287-92, 315, 345-48, 2172, 2184-88, 2190.

#### Question 4

Genesis 2:4b-25 presents another account of the creation of man and woman. What do we learn from this second account?

**Readings:** Tb 8:6; Mt 19:3-6; 1Co 11:8; Ep 5:29-33; Rv 19:7-9; CCC 362-67, 369-72, 382-84, 1601-05, 1625, 1652, 1660, 2331-36, 2393.

## Lesson 2

### Genesis 3 – 10

#### Question 1

Read Genesis 3. How does the Fall come about, and how does God respond? What does He say to the serpent, the woman, and the man? Describe the effects of Adam and Eve's fall from grace, what we call *original sin*. How are the hopes and prayers of mankind connected to what is announced in Genesis 3:15, what Sacred Tradition refers to as the "first gospel"?

**Readings:** Ws 2:23-24, 11:21-26; Jr 31:35-37, 33:19-26; Rm 5:12,14,18-19; 1Co 15:21-22; 1Tm 2:13-15; Hb 11:1-4; Rv 12:13-14,17; CCC 54-55, 68-70, 354, 374-79, 390, 396-400, 410-12, 416, 1744, 1748, 1850, 2566-68, 2809.

#### Question 2

Genesis 4 and 5 tell us about the children of Adam and Eve. What kinds of things do we learn from the account of Cain and Abel? Does Scripture tell us why Cain kills his brother? In view of what the text goes on to say, are we to conclude that the descendants of Adam and Eve are God-fearing or sinful? Explain your answer. In what way is Enoch (5:21-24) different from the other patriarchs?

**Readings:** Si 44:16, 49:14-16; Lk 3:23-38; Hb 11:1-6, 12:23b-25; 1Jn 3:11-12,15; Ju 1:11,14-19; CCC 386-89, 401-06, 409, 417-20, 1736, 1867, 2258-62, 2268-69.

#### Question 3

Read Genesis 6-10. What does the sacred text say with regard to the human race as time passes? Describe God's revelation to Noah, Noah's response, and the events that follow. From apostolic times to the present, this story in salvation history is understood as a prefigurement of God's plan of salvation through Christ and His Church. Using the below readings, explain the meaning of this narrative.

**Readings:** Ps 14; Ws 10:1-4, 14:5-7; Si 16:7, 44:17-18; Is 54:8-10; Ba 3:24-38; Ez 14:13-14,19-20; Mt 24:37-39; Lk 17:26-30; Hb 11:7; 1Pt 3:20-22; 2Pt 2:5, 3:3-7; CCC 56-58, 71, 701, 845, 1080, 1094, 1219-20, 2569.

## Lesson 3

### Genesis 11 – 18:15

#### Question 1

Following the accounting of peoples in Genesis 10, what are we told in Genesis 11:1 about the situation in the world? What does man subsequently set out to do, what results from his efforts, and what is God's reaction? How does the remainder of chapter eleven make known the fact that God is already working to restore man's unity? How is His plan fulfilled?

**Readings:** Js 24:1-3; Ps 127:1; Prv 11:2; Ws 10:4-5; Is 2:2-3, 14:13-15; Lk 14:28; Ac 2:1-13; Rv 7:9-10; CCC 56-58, 702, 760-62, 775, 777, 781, 791, 807, 809-10, 1045.

#### Question 2

Read Genesis 12-14. What does the sacred text reveal following the account of Babel? What kinds of things do we learn from God's choice of Abram, Abram's response, and the events that touch the lives of Abram's family? Who is Melchizedek and how is he connected to what God will accomplish through His choice of Abram?

**Readings:** Ps 110; Ac 3:25, 7:2-4; Ga 3:6-9,16; Hb 7:1-10; CCC 59-61, 72-73, 144-46, 705-06, 1333, 1544-45, 2570, 2591-92.

#### Question 3

Describe the covenant God makes with Abram in Genesis 15, and Abram's response. What does Genesis 16 relate in view of Abram's and Sarai's desire to see God's promise fulfilled? Genesis 17 speaks again of God's making a covenant with Abram. What is new in this narrative, and what does God command in view of His covenant? (Does this command remain to the present day? Explain.) What important thing happens in Genesis 18:1-15, and what can we learn from this event?

**Readings:** Ne 9:7-8; Jr 34:18; Mk 10:27; Lk 1:13-20,28-38, 2:21; Jn 7:21-24; Ac 7:5-8; Rm 4:1-3,9-13,16-19; Ga 4:4-7,22-24,28; Col 2:11-13; Hb 11:8-16; CCC 148, 276, 489, 527, 580, 2571.

## Lesson 4

### Genesis 18:16 – 24

#### Question 1

Read the account of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18:16-19:38. Who are the men mentioned in verse 16? Who intercedes on behalf of the people about to be destroyed, and what argument does the intercessor present to God? What grave sin are the Sodomites guilty of? (Does the New Testament speak of Sodom or the sin of the Sodomites?) What becomes of Lot and his family?

**Readings:** Lv 20:13; Ws 10:6-8; Is 1:9; Jr 5:1; Mt 10:11-15, 11:20,23-24; Lk 9:62, 17:28-33; Rm 1:24-32, 9:29; 1Co 6:9-10; 1Tm 1:9-10; Ja 5:16b; 2Pt 2:6-10; Ju 1:7; CCC 332, 1867, 2357-59, 2395-96, 2571, 2635.

#### Question 2

What can we learn from the story of Abraham and Sarah's encounter with Abimelech in Genesis 20 and 21:22-34? What important event occurs at the beginning of chapter 21, and what narrative immediately follows (cf. Gn 21:8-21)? In Genesis 22 what sacrifice does God ask of Abraham, and what does God declare after Abraham proves himself faithful? How are these words and this story fulfilled in the Person of Christ?

**Readings:** Si 44:19-23; Is 53:7b; Mt 3:17; Jn 1:29, 7:37-39, 8:31-40,56-58; Rm 4:20-25, 8:32, 9:4-9; Ga 4:21-31; Hb 6:13-15, 11:17-19; Ja 2:21-23; 1Jn 4:16-18; CCC 146-47, 1819, 2572.

#### Question 3

Of what significance is the field of Machpelah in the land of Canaan in view of the story of Abraham (Gn 23)? In chapter 24, before Abraham dies what does he will his servant to do regarding his son, and why is this so important a matter for those God calls to be His own People? What sign is the servant looking for in a bride worthy of the father's son, and why is the sacred author careful to point out Rebekah's personal consent to the marriage?

**Readings:** Tb 4:3-6,12; CCC 1601-02, 1612-13, 1617, 1626-37, 1641-42, 1657, 1832.

## Lesson 5

### Genesis 25 – 30

#### Question 1

Describe the content of chapter 25. What purpose do verses 1-18 serve in relation to the rest of the chapter? Why does Esau sell his birthright, and of what importance is this to the story of salvation history? What do we learn from the narratives comprising chapter 26? Finally, in chapter 27 we read how Jacob secures his father Isaac's blessing. What is Esau's reaction, and what can we learn about God's plan of salvation from this narrative?

**Readings:** Ps 105:1-15; Mt 1:1-3; Mt 22:31-32; Lk 1:32-33, 3:34, 20:37; Rm 9:10-13; Hb 12:16-17.

#### Question 2

Read chapter 28. What blessing and charge does Isaac give to Jacob, and what does Esau subsequently do? What does God show Jacob in a prophetic dream? Explain how Jesus Christ is the fulfillment and meaning of this Old Testament revelation.

**Readings:** Jn 1:49-51, 3:13-15; Ep 4:4-10, Hb 1:5-8, 13-14, 2:5-9; CCC 661-62, 2795.

#### Question 3

Genesis 29 and 30 recount Jacob's time in the household of Laban (Rebekah's brother), and his marriage to Leah and then to Rachel. Describe the seemingly odd events that transpire. Which wife is the bride of Jacob's heart, and at what point in the story does she bear a child? What does Jacob announce to Laban following the birth of this son (cf. Gn 30:25), and what seems to be the point of the remainder of chapter 30?

**Readings:** Dt 21:15-17; Ws 10:9-12; Rm 9:14-16.

## Lesson 6

### Genesis 31 – 37:1

#### Question 1

Read Genesis 31. What are the circumstances of Jacob's leaving Laban? (How does this situation parallel other departures of God's chosen people from their oppressor?) Where is Jacob headed and what is Laban's response when he realizes Jacob's departure? What is God's warning to Laban, and does Laban heed those words? How does chapter 31 conclude? According to the opening verses of chapter 32 (vv. 1-2), who accompanies Jacob on his sojourn?

**Readings:** Gn 15:14; Ex 3:16-17,21-22, 12:35-38, 33:19-20; Pss 72:8-11, 91:10-11; Ws 3:1-4, 4:13-16, 10:12, 19:1-2; Is 60:5; Hb 12:14-15; Rv 21:26.

#### Question 2

In returning to his own country, whom does Jacob dread encountering and how does he prepare for the encounter (32:3-20)? Chapter 32 ends by relating that Jacob wrestles all night with the angel of the Lord. What important lessons does this mysterious event teach us? At daybreak Jacob goes to meet Esau; what does Genesis 33 reveal concerning this meeting, and how does the episode end?

**Readings:** Pss 7, 57, 70; Ws 10:12b; Ho 12:4-6; Hb 10:35-38, 12:5-7,10-13; CCC 2573, 2591, 2752-57.

#### Question 3

What do we learn from the incident recounted in chapter 34? How is Genesis 35:1-15 connected to the events of the chapter before it? Genesis 35:16—37:1 is comprised of a sequence of pronouncements. What information is contained in this section, and what seems to be its purpose in view of God's plan in the unfolding of salvation history?

**Readings:** Gn 22:18, 26:4-5, 49:1-7; CCC 2302-03, 2356.

**Lesson 7**  
**Genesis 37:2 – 41**

**Question 1**

Chapter 37 begins the final section of Genesis (ending with chapter 50). What does the sacred author announce in verse 2? Explain how the events of this chapter point to Jesus Christ, Who gives definitive meaning to all the key figures in salvation history.

**Readings: Ws 10:13-14; Mk 12:6-12; Lk 1:31-33, 2:19,51-52;  
Ac 7:9; CCC 596, 2259-60, 2538-40.**

**Question 2**

Why is the sacred author careful to include the narrative of Judah and his daughter-in-law Tamar (chapter 38) in the history of Joseph, and what is to be learned from this rather strange story? (Why does Onan die?) What things are revealed about Joseph in chapter 39?

**Readings: Dt 25:5-10; Ru 4:12-13; Ps 128; Prv 17:6; Mt 1:3,  
22:24; Lk 3:32-33; CCC 1776, 1786, 1796-1802, 2370.**

**Question 3**

What do we learn in chapters 40 and 41 about Joseph's abilities and knowledge? Explain the eventual success and authority given him; in other words, explain why Joseph's 'knowledge' is critical for anyone wishing to serve God in the place where He has placed him.

**Readings: Prv 8:12-36; Ws 1:1-5, 6:1-21; Dn 5:5-17,29; Lk  
2:47,51-52; CCC 321, 909, 912, 940, 1831, 1880-82, 1884,  
1891, 1894-95, 1897-99, 1901, 1905, 1918-27, 1954, 1978,  
2419, 2426, 2441-42, 2456, 2459-60, 2690.**

**Lesson 8**  
**Genesis 42 – 50**

**Question 1**

Read chapters 42 through 45 relating how Jacob sends his sons to Egypt to buy grain during the time of famine and how Joseph—whom they do not recognize—deals with his brothers. We have already learned that Joseph is a prefigurement of Jesus Christ. With this in mind, explain what we can learn from the events of this story. After Joseph's brothers finally realize who he is, how does Joseph explain his being sold into exile by them and the famine that brought his brothers to him?

**Readings:** Ps 105:16-25; Ac 7:9-16; Rm 11:11-15,25-29,33-36; CCC 122, 303, 312-14, 599-600, 702.

**Question 2**

Chapters 46 through 50 explain how the whole household of Jacob (Israel) went into Egypt, where Joseph provides for them. What do we learn from Jacob's last wishes and final blessings before he dies, and how does his beloved son Joseph fulfill his will? (Describe the blessings which Jacob announces to his twelve sons in chapter 49. Why do they vary so much, particularly among the first sons, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah?) Why do Joseph's brothers become fearful after the death of their father (Genesis 50), and how does Joseph respond? What oath does Joseph make before his death, and in what way do the events and words of these final chapters regarding the patriarchs point to Jesus Christ, Who fulfills them in His Person?

**Readings:** Ex 1:1-7, 13:19; Nb 24:17-19; Dt 10:22; Js 24:32; Ps 78:65-72, 80; Si 49:15; Ez 37:15-28; Mi 5:1-3; Zc 10:6; Mt 2:13-15; Lk 2:29-32; Hb 7:13-14, 11:21-22; Rv 5:5; CCC 992-93, 1005, 1011, 1015-17, 1680-81.