

OCIA – SALVATION HISTORY REVIEW / WHO IS JESUS

-Creation: God, while dwelling in perfection in Himself, chose to create creatures to share His love with & magnify His glory.

- Angelic Spirits: created angelic spirits & gave them the freedom to choose Him or not.

- God then created the entire universe & all that is...

- Peak of creation is man: Adam & Eve.

 - They are created in real communion with God, with each other, with themselves, and with nature.

 - “The man and his wife were both naked, yet they felt no shame” (Gen 2:25).

 - Man was created “in the image & likeness of God” (Gen. 1:26).

-The Fall: Man rebels against God & loses real communion with Him.

- The devil comes to the Garden to tempt Adam & Eve to choose against God. He sows distrust in their heart towards God & encourages them to choose something which will break the communion they have with Him.

- Adam & Eve choose to disobey God, and immediately they are thrust into shame & darkness...

 - “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked...the man & his wife hid themselves from the Lord God among the trees of the garden” (Gen 3:7-8).

- Consequences of sin: death & the chasm of broken relationship (between God, other, self, and earth).

 - Adam & Eve are cast from the Garden & sent to roam the earth as perpetual exiles.

- And yet, there is hope: God tells Satan that one day the children of Adam will defeat the children of Satan. He also casts Adam & Eve out of the Garden lest they remain permanently in a broken state.

-Multiplication of Sin: from the place of communion / perfect, humanity spirals deeper & deeper into sin & brokenness.

- Adam & Eve have 2 children (Cain & Abel), and Cain kills Abel.

- All the earth became corrupt & covered in sin, and God decided to spare man through Noah & cleanse the earth through a massive flood, delivering Noah through an ark.

 - Establishment of a Covenant: God establishes an “everlasting covenant” with man (Gen 9:16) – a perpetual promise to be with us.

 - In the midst of so much sin, God is still pursuing a plan for humanity.

-Abraham – a Chosen People

- God singles out a man named Abraham & promises to be with him & his descendants through all generations...that He will bring salvation through Abraham.

 - Very important: God chooses a people – Israelites (Hebrews).

 - All other peoples will be called “Gentiles.”

-Deliverance

-The Hebrews are enslaved by the Egyptians for hundreds of years. God, through Moses, delivers them & leads them 40 years through the wilderness to the Promised Land – a place where they can worship Him in peace.

-2 keys to this deliverance:

1) God reveals His name to the people.

-Important: in the midst of slavery, God reveals Himself more.

2) The 10 Commandments & the Law.

-This is how the Israelites will stay in relationship with God.

-Kingdom of God

-The Israelites desire a king, and God reluctantly grants their wish: Saul, David, Solomon.

-The people of God are all united under a single banner & a king.

-The Kingdom breaks apart through sin, and splits into 2 major sections...

-North: Israel.

-South: Judah.

-Destruction

-Through continued infidelity to God (idol worship), these 2 kingdoms will continually reject the Lord and be destroyed.

-North: in 722 BC, the Assyrians will wipe them out.

-South: in 587 BC, the Babylonians will destroy Jerusalem & lead them into exile.

-This will be the core wound of the Jews moving forward.

-During this time of destruction, the great prophets come forward preaching both repentance and salvation: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel...

-Restoration & Awaiting Salvation

-The Jews are returned to Jerusalem & spend the next 400 years in disunity, sadness, and occupation (Greeks, then Romans).

-They are longing for God's promised salvation, but confused on why things are continually going bad.

-There are divisions on how to best follow God, especially in the midst of a hostile world that is absolutely dominating them.

-In many ways, it seems as if God is gone and He's not coming back.

-Emmanuel – “God With Us” - JESUS

-Context: the world is more connected than ever before through the Greek Empires, then the Roman Empire.

-Despite thousands of years of infidelity, betrayals, atrocities, and rejections of God... God remembered His promise to save His people. He still longed to restore to them that communion they had in the beginning.

-How God brought this about was completely unforeseen: He became a man.

-Why this is important: the “problem” was a divide (chasm) between us & God. We needed a bridge. Jesus is able to perfectly fulfill this by being both perfectly

God and perfectly human. He can reconcile the break because He is a full part of both sides.

-Jesus (God) walks with His people, shares their life, heals them, teaches them.

-Sacrifice & New Creation

-The penalty for sin was death: because of sin, we must die.

-Jesus takes this penalty full-on, and because He actually didn't deserve it, He fully paid the price for our sinfulness.

-He is the New Adam because a New Creation is taking place...

-Total obedience to God.

-Resisted the temptation of Satan in a Garden.

-Nailed to a Tree.

-Welcomed home (Resurrection).

-Salvation

-How do we participate in Jesus' sacrifice & His victory? By becoming Him – by being adopted as a child of God.

-Before the Fall, we were beloved creatures of God. Now, we become children of God... "O, Happy Fault!"

-We become children of God by being incorporated into His Body, the Church, which He has given us.

-Baptism.

-The End of All Things

-The goal of it all is Heaven. That, united as the family of God, we will reign with Him forever.

Objectively, Who is Jesus?

a) The Second Person of the Trinity, the Son.

- He is God!
- Consubstantial with the Father.
 - This means He is just as much “God” as God the Father.
 - Jesus is not a “sub-God” (Arianism)
- Jesus says multiple times: “I and the Father are one...”

b) A Divine Person with both a Human & Divine Nature

- 1 Person, 2 Natures
 - Person: who you are
 - Nature: what you are
- Trinity
 - 1 Divine Being
 - 1 Divine Nature
 - Not 33% God.
 - 3 Divine Persons

c) Completely without sin, the One who conquered sin.

- Jesus was without original sin & never committed sin.
- His human will was perfectly aligned with his Divine will.

Subjectively, who is Jesus?

- Kind: Woman caught in adultery
- Humble: Though God, He served others
- Authoritative: Spoke deep truth into peoples’ lives
- Wise / Providential: Knowing when to attend to Lazarus
- Emmanuel: God with us
- Identifies with the broken: Francis of Assisi & Martin de Tours

Jesus is a Son, Brother, Bridegroom, and Father