




RCIA

Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults
Salvation History – Part 2

Opening Prayer



Coming of the Messiah (4 BC – 30 AD)

- Main characters: Jesus, Mary, John the Baptist, Peter and the Apostles, the Pharisees and others
- Scripture: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- Events:
 - Birth of Jesus
 - Public Ministry
 - His Passion
 - Resurrection


“Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.”
Malachi 4:5

“Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”
Luke 1:13.17

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; ... and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come.”
Matthew 11:11.14

(see also Matthew 17:12-13)

“When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’ ”
Luke 4:16-21, quoting Isaiah 16:1 and Isaiah 58:6



Jesus the Saviour


- De-creation:
 - Sin came in this world through the disobedience of one man.
 - Adam and Eve were denied the fruit from the Tree of Life (Genesis 3:22-23)
- Re-creation:
 - The human race is reconciled to God through the obedience of one man.
 - Christ is the new Adam. Through him, humankind gains eternal life (the new Tree of Life).

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned.
Roman 5:12

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all.
Roman 5:18



Feeding of Five Thousand

- Read Luke 9:10-17 
- Take note of the following:
 - Jesus "spoke to them about the kingdom of God" (v11)
 - 'You give them something to eat.' (v13)
 - "groups of about fifty each" (v14)
 - The miracle
 - Twelve baskets (v17)
- Jesus provided us a model for building his Church.
- "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church."
Matthew 16:18

Luke 9:10-17

10 On their return the apostles told Jesus all they had done. He took them with him and withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida. 11 When the crowds found out about it, they followed him; and he welcomed them, and **spoke to them about the kingdom of God**, and healed those who needed to be cured. 12 The day was drawing to a close, and the twelve came to him and said, 'Send the crowd away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside, to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a deserted place.' 13 But he said to them, '**You give them something to eat.**' They said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.' 14 For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, 'Make them sit down in **groups of about fifty each.**' 15 They did so and made them all sit down. 16 And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. 17 And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Exodus Events in context of Christ

Event: Burning Bush

- And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? He is God not of the dead, but of the living.' (Matthew 22:31-32) (see also Mark 12:26-27, Luke 20:37-38)
- Life after death

Exodus Events in context of Christ

Event: The First Passover

- The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!' (John 1:29) (see also John 1:36)
- I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. (Luke 23:14)

Exodus Events in context of Christ

Event: Crossing of the Red Sea

- The people given a new life through water
- Sacrament of Baptism

Event: Manna from Heaven / Water from Rock

- Heavenly food and drink
- Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.' (Luke 22:19-20)

Exodus Events in context of Christ

Event: Bronze Serpent

- OT community: God, Moses (the intercessor), the people
- Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. (John 19:25-27)
- NT community: God, Mary (the intercessor), the people

Exodus Events in context of Christ

Event: Joshua led the people into the Promised Land

- A saviour (Joshua means "saviour") leading the people to their final resting place.
- "Joshua" and "Jesus" are the same Jewish name
- Jesus leads the people into the New Promised Land.



The Early Church (30-70 AD)

- Main characters: Peter, Paul
- Scripture: Acts
- Events:
 - Jesus taken up into Heaven
 - Pentecost
 - Paul's conversion
 - Paul's Ministry



Spread of the Gospel

- Upper room
- → Jerusalem
- → Holy Land
 - Samaria
 - Judea
 - Galilee
- → Mediterranean
 - Thessalonica
 - Athens
 - Corinth
 - Ephesus
 - Rome
 - etc

Acts 15:1-29 (Council of Jerusalem)

1 Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' 2 And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. ... 6 The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. ... 22 Then the apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church, decided to choose men from among their members and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

Contrasting OT and NT (Heb 12:18-24)

Old Testament

- Moses' Old Covenant
- Mt Sinai
- God's subjects "tremble with fear"
- Relationship with God is dominated by fear

New Testament

- Jesus' New Covenant
- Mt Zion (Heaven)
- God's "firstborn"
- Relationship with God is dominated by love



The Limitation of OT Theology

- Image of God
 - Jealous
 - Vengeful
- Marriage
 - Polygamy
 - Divorce
 - Adultery
- Killing
 - Unbelievers
 - Sinners

Matthew 9:16-17 (Accept Jesus with a new mindset)

16 No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. 17 Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.

Matthew 5:17 (Jesus did not abolish the "old" teachings)

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

"You have heard that ... But I say to you that ..."

– a figure of speech used often in Matthew



Interpreting Scripture

- Literal Sense (CCC 116)
- Spiritual Sense (CCC 117)
 - Allegorical Sense: "Understanding of events by recognizing their significance in Christ." E.g. crossing the Red Sea.
 - Moral Sense: "The events ... lead us to act justly" E.g. St Paul's teaching.
 - Anagogical Sense: "View realities and events in terms of their eternal significance" E.g. the homeland of Jerusalem.



Interpreting The OT

- Distinguish between the following:
 - The prevailing morals of the culture
 - The inspired message




Timeline

- B.C.
 - 1900-1700: Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph)
 - 1700-1500: Prosperity in Egypt
 - 1500-1300: Oppression in Egypt
 - 1300-1200: Left Egypt under Moses, conquered Palestine
 - 1200-1000: Judges
 - 1000-900: United Hebrew Kingdom (Saul, David, Solomon)




Timeline

- B.C.
 - 900: Kingdom on Judah (south) and Israel (north)
 - 721: Israel conquered by Assyrians
 - 586: Jerusalem destroyed. Exiled to Babylon.
 - 539: Returned from Babylon under Persian rule
 - 333: Conquered by Alexander the Great
 - 142: Maccabean revolt
 - 63: Under Roman rule




Timeline

- A.D. (*anno domini*)
 - 4 BC: Birth of Christ
 - 26-36: Pontius Pilate
 - 30: Crucifixion of Jesus
 - 35: St Paul's conversion
 - 50-64: Persecution in Rome
 - 66-70: Jewish rebellion against Rome
 - 70: Titus destroyed Jerusalem and Temple
 - 51-100: New Testament Writings




History of Salvation

- Tells the story of how God redeem humankind.
- By the Sacrament of Baptism and Eucharist, **you** become part of the story.




Tea Break




Discussion

- Does reading the Old Testament helps us the understand the New Testament? Why?
- Can you see yourself as part of the Salvation Story? Discuss.




Recap

- Salvation Story – the storyline of the Bible.
 - Creation
 - Noel's Ark
 - Patriarchs
 - Exodus
 - Return / Judges
 - Kingdom
 - Israel & Judah
 - Exile & Return
 - Maccabean Revolt
 - Coming of the Messiah
 - Early Church




Q&A




Further Readings

- *At Home With God's People*
(ISBN 0-947282-13-0)
Chapter 3, 4
- *Path Through Catholicism*
(ISBN 0-7829-0971-X)
Chapter 3
- *A Catholic Guide to the Bible*
(ISBN 978-0-7648-0201-0)
- *The Great Adventure Bible Timeline (DVD)*
Ascension Press



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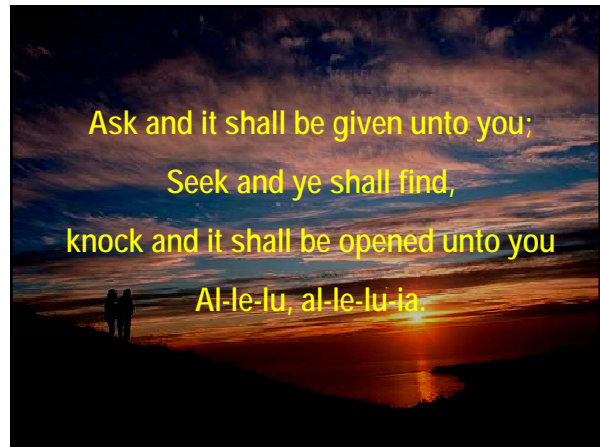


SEEK YE FIRST

(Karen Lafferty)

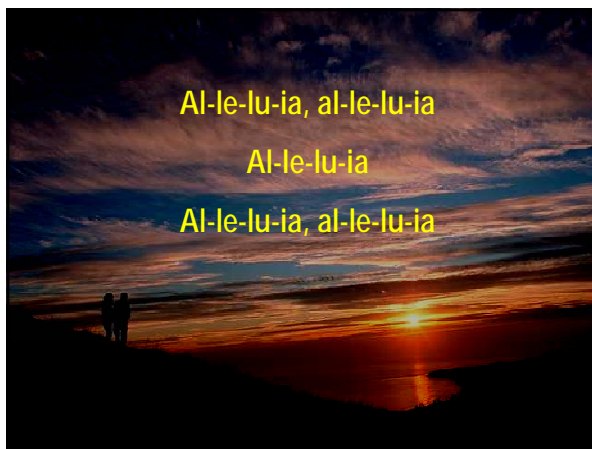
Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you

Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia.

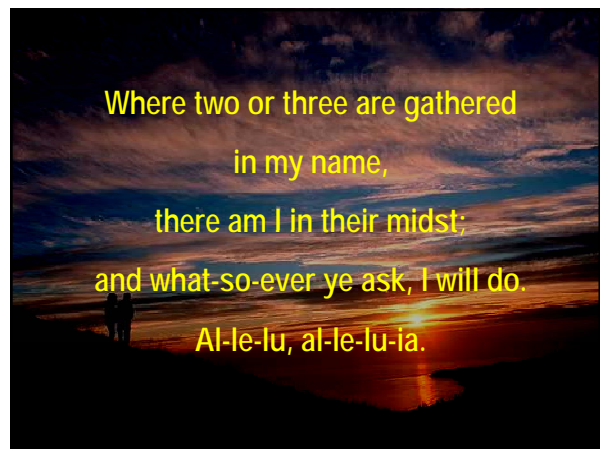


Ask and it shall be given unto you;
Seek and ye shall find,
knock and it shall be opened unto you

Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia
Al-le-lu-ia
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia



Where two or three are gathered
in my name,
there am I in their midst;
and what-so-ever ye ask, I will do.

Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia
Al-le-lu-ia
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia



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