

Reading the Bible from Page One: Eden to Babel (Genesis 1-11)

Adult Education, 9:00-9:50 AM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Fall 2010

Fr. Michael Cover

Joel Dodson (Facilitator)

Our Sunday Morning Adult Study this fall will be devoted to a close reading of Genesis 1-11. We'll have two goals. First, our study will serve as an introduction for anyone interested in learning how to read the Bible better by starting from the very beginning – Genesis Chapter One, page one. Second, it will help us spend some time thinking, together, about the importance of “beginnings” for ourselves as individual believers and members of the Church. What do the accounts of God's creation, the rebellion of Adam and Eve, Noah and the flood, or the Tower of Babel have to do with our lives as Christians? How do we find meaning and theology in primitive stories? And what does the Biblical narrative of human origins – in the chapters before the formation of the Jewish covenant – have to tell us about the promise of God's Church on earth?

Father Michael Cover will be guiding us as we launch our study, with additional help from other lay instructors over the course of the fall. *All are welcome to attend at any point throughout the study, and no advance preparation is necessary (we will have Bibles and materials on hand each week).* Sunday morning sessions will gather in the undercroft and begin promptly after the 8:00 service at 9:05 am. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joel Dodson at 630.915.3623 (cell phone) or jdodson1@nd.edu (email).

Preliminary Schedule:

- 9/5** Session 1: **Gen 1:1**: Introduction
- 9/12** Session 2: **Gen 1:1–2:4**: The “Priestly” creation story
- 9/19** Session 3: **Gen 2:5–24**: The “Yahwistic” creation story
- 9/26** Session 4: **Gen 2:25–3:24**: Original Rebellion: Innocence and Shrewdness
- 10/3** Session 5: **Gen 4:1–16**: Fraternal Rebellion: Cain and Abel
- 10/10** Session 6: **Gen 4:17–5:32**: Two Genealogies (Cain to Enosh/Adam to Noah)
- 10/17** Session 7: **Gen 6:1–4**: The Rebellion of the Watchers: Enochic Tradition
- 10/24** Session 8: **Gen 6:5–22**: The Flood, Part 1: The Ark as Cosmic Temple
- 10/31** Session 9: **Gen 7:1–23**: The Flood, Part 2: The Unmaking of the World

11/7 Session 10: **Gen 7:24–8:19**: The Flood, Part 3: The Restoration of Creation

11/14 Session 11: **Gen 8:20–9:17**: God's Covenant with Noah

11/21 Session 12: **Gen 9:18–10:32**: The Origin of the Nations: Ham, Shem, and Japheth

11/28 Session 13: **Gen 11:1-32**: The Unholy City: Babel/Babylon