

Session I: Genesis 1-3

According to Tradition, what are the fundamental Church teachings pertaining to Origins?

- God symbolically portrays Himself as a **Master Carpenter**, Who works on six days, building a royal house (temple) for His sons and daughters, then resting on the 7th day. By resting on the 7th day, He establishes by **oath** (*sheba*) a **covenant**. This covenant **with Creation** was ratified upon **Mt. Eden** through **Adam**, who is **covenant mediator** of the **Adamic Covenant (Creation Covenant)**, with the **sign of the covenant** being the **7th day**, which is the **Sabbath**.
- **Macro-evolutionary theory**, which posits that a lower species becomes a higher, from molecules to man, **must not be taught as fact**, though investigation of evolution is permitted by qualified scholars, to examine evidence for and against it (*Humani generis*).
- God created out of the superabundance of His Goodness (Council of Florence; Vatican I).
- God alone created **all things in the beginning of time** (Lateran IV; Vatican I; PBC 1909; Mk 10:6; Rom 1:20).

“But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female’ (Mk 10:6).”

“Ever since the creation of the world, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made (Rom 1:20).”

- God created **all things simul**, which means that beings both heavenly (Angels) and earthly (man and beasts) were created simultaneously, or not long after each other in succession (Lateran IV).
- The three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity are **one principle of creation**, as all was created **from** the Father **through** the Son **in** the Holy Spirit (Gen 1:1-3; Gen 1:26; Council of Florence).
- Genesis does not contain purified myths but **real history** (PBC 1909; *Humani generis*).
- Adam was specially created by God, and Eve was specially created from the side of Adam’s body (PBC 1909).
- Adam and Eve were the **first parents of all mankind** (*Humani generis*). Belief in **polygenism**, which is belief in first parents other than Adam and Eve, so-called pre-Adamites, contradicts both Tradition and Scripture, and therefore is condemned (*Humani generis*; CCC 360; Acts 17:26; Tobit 8:6).
- Adam and Eve were created in a state of **justice** (right relationship with God), **integrity** (perfect harmony of body and soul), and **immortality** (no death) (PBC 1909).
- There was a command given by God to Adam to prove his obedience, but this command was transgressed through Satan’s persuasion under the guise of a serpent (PBC 1909).
- Adam, as king or vice-regent of the universe, and as its representative head, rebelled against the Creator by the Original Sin. And thus, his sin affected not only himself and his descendants, **causing suffering, disease, deformity, death, the inclination to sin, and the loss of right relationship with God** (Council of Trent), but also **causing the universe itself to be fallen, with its perfect harmony shattered, suffering in travail ever since** (Romans 8; Vatican I).
- The **promise of a future Restorer/Redeemer** (Gen 3:16; PBC 1909).

- The traditional teaching of the Church is **fiat Creation**, with the word “**fiat**” meaning “**command**” or “**decree**”, by which **the Eternal Father creates through the Word of God**.

For example, “In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with and towards God,
and the word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
**All things were made through him,
and without him was not anything that was made** (Jn 1:1-3).

For example, “It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father most holy,
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
your Word through whom you made all things... (Preface of Eucharistic Prayer II)”

For example, “He *spoke*, and it came to be.
He *commanded*, and it sprang into being (Psalm 33:9).”

For example, “Let your every creature serve you.
For you *spoke*, and they were made.
You sent forth your spirit, and they were created.
No one can resist your word (Judith 16: 14-15).”

For example, “They deliberately ignored this **fact**, that **by the word of God** heavens existed long ago,
and earth formed out of water and by means of water,
through which the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished (2 Peter 3:6).”

- God speaks in **performative language**, which means that He speaks, and it happens. This is true in His act of creation, it is true when He walked the earth as the Incarnate Word, and it is true when the Incarnate Word continues His priestly ministry through the *alter Christus* in Confession and at the Consecration of the Eucharistic Liturgy.

What recommended sources about the natural science support the traditional teaching about Origins?

- five-star recommended book is **Censored Science: The Suppressed Evidence**
- five-star recommended website is **Kolbe Center for the Study of Creation (kolbecenter.org)**

Other points pertaining to Origins...

- The two creation accounts, that of Gen 1-2:4 and Gen 2:4-25, are **complimentary accounts** of the same event, though the first is a **panoramic view**, while the second is **zoom lense**.
- The dynamic of the Original Sin is that Adam and Eve, by **disobedience spurred by pride**, which is disordered self-trust, **fail to trust in the Goodness of their heavenly Father**. Significantly, this is the dynamic and pattern of every sin ever committed.