

Radiant and Unfading

Take-Home • Session 10: The Unnamed Heroes

What We Found

Chapter 9 claimed that men were saved by wisdom; chapter 10 proved it with the strangest chapter in the Old Testament: salvation history from Eden to the Red Sea with every name removed. We put them back: Adam, the first-formed father whom Wisdom delivered even from his own transgression, the hope the Church preaches every Holy Saturday as Christ takes Adam by the hand: I order you, O sleeper, to awake. Cain, who refused the rescue at his own door. Noah, steered through the flood by a paltry piece of wood, and we found St. Peter reading that scene as ours: eight persons saved through water, and Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you (1 Peter 3:20-21). Abraham, kept strong at Moriah, where the Father who stopped his knife would not spare his own Son (Romans 8:32). Lot, pulled from the fire, while his wife looked back and became the pillar of salt that Wisdom 10:7 calls a monument to an unbelieving soul: a body led out of the city with a heart still inside it. Jacob the fugitive, shown the kingdom at Bethel on the ladder Jesus later claims as himself (John 1:51). Joseph, sold, sunk, raised, and feeding the nations with bread. And Israel at the sea, whose crossing St. Paul calls our Baptism, and whose first act as a free people was singing.

Then the question under the hunt: why remove the names? Because the subject of nearly every sentence is Wisdom: she protected, delivered, steered, rescued, guided, saved. History has one hero, and it is not any of us. And an unnamed list is an open list: there was one whom Wisdom rescued, the next verse could say, and it would be about you. Your name qualifies for this chapter precisely by not appearing in it.

Voices of the Church

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

An Ancient Homily for Holy Saturday • Author unknown, ancient; read yearly in the Office of Readings

Christ descends to the dead, finds Adam, and takes him by the hand: I order you, O sleeper, to awake, rise from the dead (CCC 635); the fuller Office text continues, I am your God, who for your sake have become your son; rise, let us leave this place. What Wisdom 10:1 dared to say plainly, the Church would one day preach over the tomb itself.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Justin Martyr • Dialogue with Trypho, ch. 138 (2nd century)

In Noah, saved with his household by water and wood, Justin saw the mystery of the cross and of Baptism sketched in advance; water, and faith, and wood is his formula for the regeneration Christians now pass through (Dialogue with Trypho 138).

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

The Syriac tradition on Joseph • Aphrahat, Demonstration 21.9, with St. Ephrem's Commentary

on Genesis and hymns (4th century)

Aphrahat's Demonstration 21.9 sets Joseph beside Jesus point by point; Ephrem's poetry is filled with the same types and symbols of Christ, and the Syriac tradition, of which he is the best-loved voice, reads Joseph naturally within that method: the beloved son rejected, sold, brought low, later exalted, and made the means by which the nations are kept alive. To read Genesis without seeing Christ, we might say, is to read the road signs and never guess there is a city.

Live It This Week

- **Read ahead, slowly.** Read Wisdom 11 and 12 with a pencil. Mark every verse about how God treats his enemies; you may be surprised who gets mercy.
- **Write your unnamed verse.** Third person, no name, Wisdom as subject: There was one whom Wisdom rescued when... Keep it in your Bible at chapter 10.
- **Collect a family rescue.** Ask a parent, grandparent, or elder in faith for one story of a rescue in their life, and receive it the way you received this chapter.
- **Pray for someone mid-rescue.** Someone you know is between the pit and the scepter right now. Pray for them daily this week, by name.

Memory Verse

| *"Wisdom rescued from troubles those who served her."* (**Wisdom 10:9**)

Before next session: read Wisdom 11 and 12.

Catechism references: CCC 1094, CCC 635.

Scripture We Opened

- Tonight's text: Wisdom 10:1-21
- Tonight's text: Genesis 2-3 (Adam); Genesis 4 (Cain); Genesis 6-9 (Noah); Genesis 11-12 and 22 (Abraham); Genesis 19 (Lot); Genesis 27-28 and 32 (Jacob); Genesis 37-41 and 50:20 (Joseph); Exodus 14-15 (Moses, the sea, the song)
- Tonight's text: 1 Peter 3:20-21 (Baptism, the antitype of the flood)
- Genesis 3:15, 21 (the promise and the clothing); Genesis 4:7 (sin crouching at Cain's door)
- Luke 17:32 (remember Lot's wife)
- John 1:51 (the ladder claimed)
- Romans 8:32 and John 3:16
- Wisdom 9:18 (men were saved by wisdom; the claim tonight proves)
- Wisdom 7:27 (she passes into holy souls)
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 11 (typoi, RSV2CE warnings; the Exodus as pattern)
- Luke 24:27 (Emmaus: all the Scriptures concerning himself)
- Psalm 8:2 and Matthew 21:16 (out of the mouths of babes)
- Psalms 105, 106, 136 (history retold as praise)