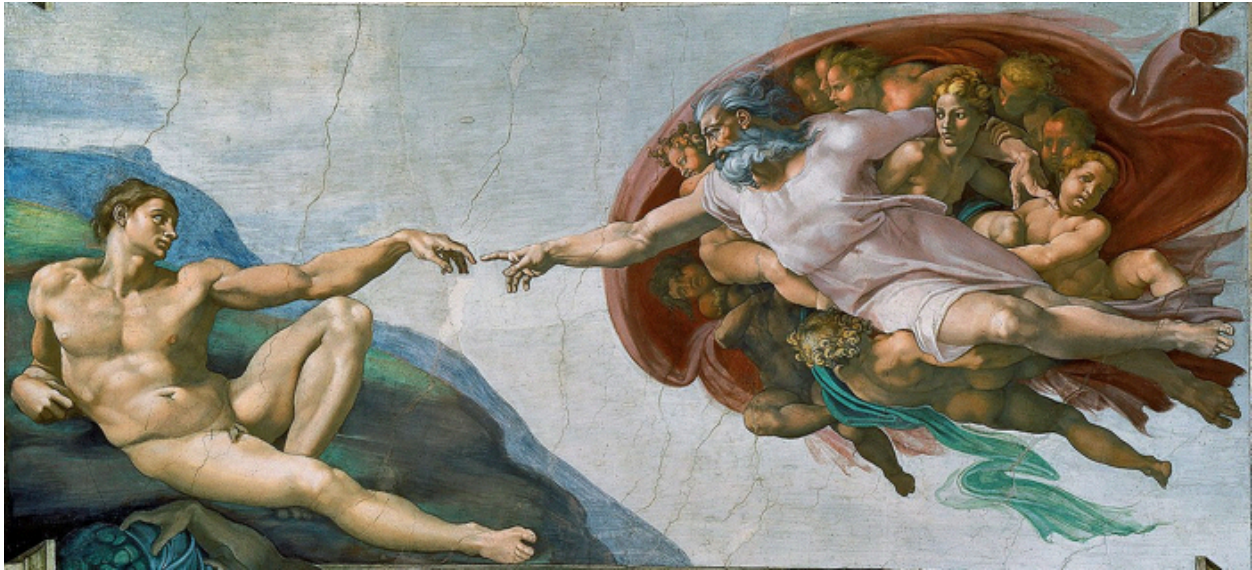


THE OLD TESTAMENT

2

Lesson 2 | The Fall and The Exodus



THE EFFECTS OF THE FALL

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 400

The harmony in which they had found themselves, thanks to original justice, is now destroyed:

1. the control of the soul's spiritual faculties over the body is shattered;
2. the union of man and woman becomes subject to tensions, their relations henceforth marked by lust and domination.
3. Harmony with creation is broken: visible creation has become alien and hostile to man. Because of man, creation is now subject "to its bondage to decay".
4. Finally, the consequence explicitly foretold for this disobedience will come true: man will "return to the ground", for out of it he was taken. Death makes its entrance into human history.

OUR EXPERIENCE OF EVIL AND SUFFERING

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 385

God is infinitely good and all his works are good. Yet no one can escape the experience of suffering or the evils in nature which seem to be linked to the limitations proper to creatures: and above all to the question of moral evil. Where does evil come from? "I sought whence evil comes and there was no solution", said St. Augustine, and his own painful quest would only be resolved by his conversion to the living God. For "the mystery of lawlessness" is clarified only in the light of the "mystery of our religion". The revelation of divine love in Christ manifested at the same time the extent of evil and the superabundance of grace. We must therefore approach the question of the origin of evil by fixing the eyes of our faith on him who alone is its conqueror.