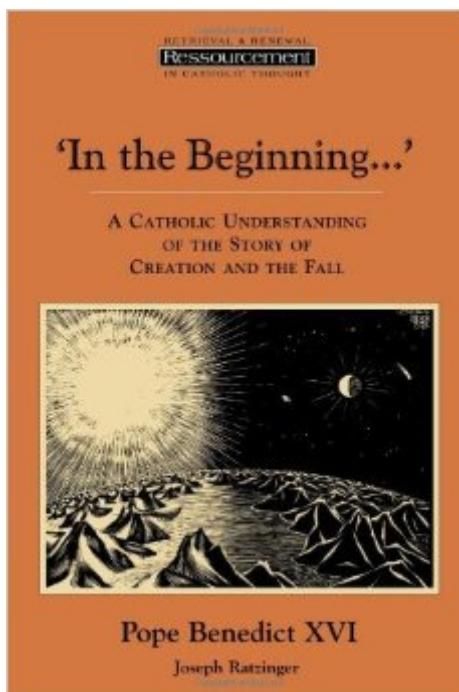


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In The Beginning...': A Catholic Understanding Of The Story Of Creation And The Fall (Ressourcement: Retrieval And Renewal In Catholic Thought (RRRCT))



Synopsis

In four superb homilies and a concluding essay, Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, provides a clear and inspiring exploration of the Genesis creation narratives. While the stories of the worldâ™s creation and the fall of humankind have often been subjected to reductionism of one sort or another • literalists treat the Bible as a science textbook whereas rationalists divorce God from creation • Ratzinger presents a rich, balanced Catholic understanding of these early biblical writings and attests to their enduring vitality. Beginning each homily with a text selected from the first three chapters of Genesis, Ratzinger discusses, in turn, God the creator, the meaning of the biblical creation accounts, the creation of human beings, and sin and salvation; in the appendix he unpacks the beneficial consequences of faith in creation. Expertly translated from German, these reflections set out a reasonable and biblical approach to creation. â™In the Beginning . . .â™ also serves as an excellent homiletic resource for priests and pastors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a collection of four homilies that were given by Cardinal Ratzinger on the creation account in Genesis. It gives a Catholic understanding of the theological implications from the teachings of creation found in Genesis. Cardinal Ratzinger starts with the importance about the necessity of properly understanding this, and the problems with ignoring the creation account. He shows how you cannot answer the question of "What we do" without first addressing the question of "What we are". From this he proceeds to give a brilliant understanding of what it means to be a

human being. What kind of creature we are and our place in creation. His first homily is based on "God the Creator" and its relevance to the differences between our view of God creating the world and other religions views. He then goes to his second homily "The Meaning of the Biblical Account", which gives a more balanced understanding of creation, and its cultural significance at the time. His third homily, "The creation of the Human Being" gives an understanding of what it means to be human and our place and reasons for being. His fourth, and final homily, "Sin and Salvation" gives an understanding of our nature, and our responsibility in our decision-making. Also touches upon the resurrection and the way it addresses our innate struggles. The book ends with an appendix that briefly goes into certain other semi related topics. It should also be mentioned that Cardinal Ratzinger addresses the scientific implications of the creation account very little in this book. He addresses the problem in proving that the creation account was never meant to be a strict fundamentalist scientific view of how the world was created.

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