

spiritual council notes 2025-06-03

We started off with a prayer for Patricia Fazzone who is dealing with some health issue.

We had a discussion on why the Nicene Council was held. It was because of the heresy of Arianism which stated that Jesus was begotten by God at a point in time, distinct and subordinate to the Father.

That got us into a lively discussion about heresies and heretics and was it right to call Arius a heretic since some thought the "church" at the time did not have a written document on this subject. It was discussed that in the Bible it does state that in the beginning was the WORD and the WORD was with God, and it is our belief the JESUS is the WORD so he was always in existence with his Father.

This led to a discussion about was there a formal "church" structure in the first few centuries. The early church did have Bishops, deacons, priest, altars, councils and hierarchy and so it was a "formal" structure.

Getting into our discussion about chapter 2- "Jesus the Son of God", Bishop Barron points out *"that Jesus is the center of our beliefs, the Christian faith begins and ends with recognizing a particular person, Jesus from Nazareth, recognized to be the Son of God."*

Did Adam and Eve have free will? God told them not to eat the forbidden fruit, but they made the choice to disobey God, so they must have had the free will to decide their actions.

We started to talk about the trinity and Alex mentions that "The Space Trilogy: series (also known as The Cosmic Trilogy or The Ransom Trilogy) which are science fiction novels by British writer C. S. Lewis. The trilogy consists of Out of the Silent Planet (1938), Perelandra (1943), and That Hideous Strength (1945). Specifically, In Perelandra (1943). Also known as Voyage to Venus. Here, Dr. Ransom journeys to an unspoiled Venus (Perelandra), where he participates in a good vs. evil battle. The concept of free will and choices. Perelandra (Venus), a newly created world in its Eden-like innocence., and the main character must prevent a second "Fall" of Man. He physically and spiritually battles evil to preserve this unfallen world. Themes of the book: Temptation, obedience, spiritual warfare, the nature of evil.

Getting back to when was the world created, we got into a discussion about the concept of time. Was there time before the world was created and how was that time if it did exist different from linear time that we understand.

We discussed the lineage of Jesus back to David who was considered the “anointed” one, the greatest of Israel's kings., but his frequent moral failures led the people to wait for the real Messiah that would come from David's line. Note: If you get a chance, watch the House of David series on Amazon.

As usual there were many deep discussions, and I probably haven't given justice to all the topics that were covered.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 17 at 5:30 pm in the church hall. We will read pgs 34-41 “Begotten not made” section.

Thanks to all each person in the group. You each bring a special gift and knowledge to our discussions.

Norbert