

## Chapter 2

### Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What is meant by the phrase used in the Easter Vigil, “O happy fault”?*

“O happy fault” refers to how Original Sin allowed us to come to know the Son of God Incarnate. Adam’s sin was a “happy fault” because without it, we would have never known Jesus Christ, “so glorious a Redeemer!” Saint Paul explains that “where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more” (Romans 5:20).

2. *Why did God the Father wait to send Jesus Christ to save us?*

Humans are not able to immediately grasp the fullness of God’s truth, so God communicates himself to humanity gradually.

3. *After the Fall (see Genesis, chapter 3), what is the sign that shows God still cares about Adam and Eve?*

God saw that his children were suffering from the shame of being naked, so God made garments to clothe them.

4. *What does the word Protoevangelium mean, and what is it?*

*Protoevangelium* means “the earliest form of the good news.” It refers to Genesis 3:15, which describes the snake’s head being crushed by the offspring of the woman. This very symbolic verse (woman = Mary, offspring = Jesus, snake = Satan) foreshadows Christ’s victory over evil and our restoration from the Fall.

5. *What does the Hebrew word *berit* mean? For what kind of relationship was it often used?*

The Hebrew term *berit* means “shackle” or “chain.” *Berit* was the word most often used to express a covenant.

6. *How do covenants act as a remedy to sin?*

Because sin creates a separation from God, covenants are the ties that bind us to God. The first sin of disobedience to God disrupted our natural state of grace and justice. Because God establishes his Law through the covenants, they help restore a proper relationship between humanity and God.

7. *How is the narrative about Noah similar to the first Creation account?*

Dry land appears from the water that covered the Earth, the Lord tells the first humans and later Noah to be fertile and multiply, God commands the first humans and Noah to care for the animals, and there is a reminder in both accounts that humans are made in the image of God.

8. *Why was God’s covenant with Abraham so significant?*

First, believers in most of the gods and goddesses worshipped at this time thought they had very little to do with human affairs, unless it was to use and manipulate their human subjects. A god who treated human beings with dignity and even entered into a binding covenant to care for them was unheard of! Second, the exclusive relationship God was establishing with Abraham would eventually lead to the realization that there was only one true God.



9. *Why does the Hebrew word hesed best describe God's covenantal relationship with Israel?*

The Hebrew word *hesed* is translated as "love," but it can also be translated as mercy, compassion, kindness, and faithfulness. It is not just an idea or feeling, but the source of active involvement in a relationship. The term also contains an element of endurance in its meaning. So God's *hesed* is an active and involved love that is always faithful, no matter what the circumstances are.

10. *What purpose did the Mosaic Law fulfill?*

The Mosaic Law encouraged the Israelites to avoid sin, and in doing so, prepared them to receive the one living and true Son of God, Jesus Christ. Embedded in God's covenants were the hopes of uniting God and humanity, so the people of ancient Israel were entrusted with the knowledge of God's promise. Jesus Christ, who was truly human and truly divine, is the fulfillment of those promises.

11. *What does God promise King David?*

God promises to establish a kingdom from his descendants that will last forever.

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