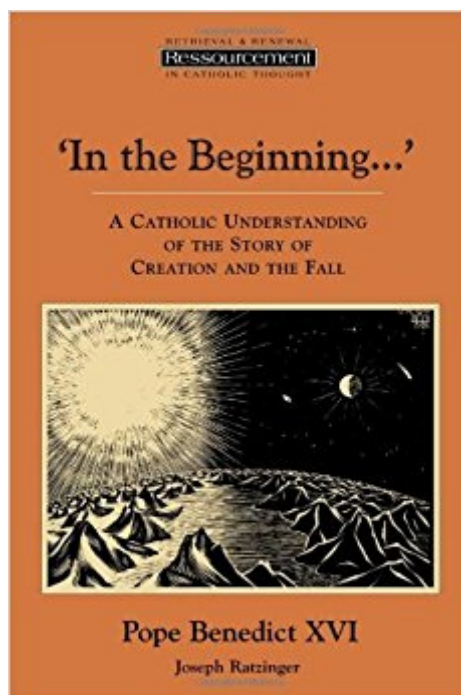


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# In The Beginning: A Catholic Understanding Of The Story Of Creation And The Fall (Ressourcement: Retrieval And Renewal In Catholic Thought (RRRCT))



## 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 world'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. In the Beginning . . . also serves as an excellent homiletic resource for priests and pastors.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As the Vatican's Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Cardinal Ratzinger is responsible for public orthodoxy in Catholic faith and morals. The first four of his five sermons included here, which have been published in English (Our Sunday Visitor, 1986), originated as 1981 Lenten homilies given in Munich's cathedral to counter a modern abandonment of creation doctrine based on scripture. A fifth homily by a different translator augments this edition. Ratzinger's sermons treat God the creator, biblical creation accounts, creation of human beings, sin

and salvation, and the consequences of faith on creation. The readable but challenging meditations attempt a balance between extremes of fundamentalism and rationalism and emphasize a unity between the Old and New Testaments. Notes are generally from German sources. Recommended for Catholic collections. Anna Donnelly, St. John's Univ. Lib., Jamaica, N.Y. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The readable but challenging meditations attempt a balance between extremes of fundamentalism and rationalism. -- Library Journal  
With penetrating insight, Ratzinger here treats the profoundly important and far-reaching doctrine of Genesis. -- New Oxford Review

Really helped me dive deeper into the subject matter. Difficult subject matter was clearly explained. It was a rather easy read and easy to explain to others.

Excellent! Very well written, highly readable, well documented. Understandable. For example, Cardinal Ratzinger's explanation of the basic purpose of the Bible -- ". . . the Bible is not a natural science textbook, nor does it intend to be such. It is a religious book, and consequently one cannot obtain information about the natural sciences from it. One cannot get from it a scientific explanation of how the world arose; one can only glean religious experience from it." Further, "The form [of the Bible's writing] would have been chosen from what was understandable at the time -- from the images which surrounded the people who lived then . . ." A must-read for anyone who is honestly seeking spiritual guidance and a better understanding of the Judeo-Christian tradition relative to modern science. Only 100 pages, but very thought-provoking. A book to treasure. (Appreciation goes to Boniface Ramsey, O.P., who translated this book from the original German into English.)

But I must admit that my engineer's thinking filter makes his writing a bit harder to assimilate. Enjoyed this treatise but it would take me another reading to get the most out of it.

A clear and thorough update on the faithful person's understanding of the "big bang". Pope Benedict has done his usual great job here of summarizing current theological teachings versus present day scientific understanding of the development of life on earth. While clearly written from a Roman Catholic viewpoint, a person of any faith can benefit from Benedict's clear compare and contrast approach to the two great bodies of thought on this central topic.

A very deep insight of the biblical text and a balanced position between creational narrative on Genesis and science point of view. It give us a clear idea of the wisdom of The Holy Father and unique Pope Benedict XVI. In this reflections we can hear the voice of The Lord Himself, from the perspective of faith and reason. Every catholic if possible should read it!.

More detailed than I thought it would be. Excellent supplementary reading on the related science. Since I teach biology in a Catholic high school, I consider it essential reading. Ratzinger was indeed a scholar. Frankly, some of the theological and philosophical commentary was deep and I had to consult someone with an advanced degree in Catholic theology. But glad I read it. It gave me a much deeper understanding of current Church thinking on matters relating to organic evolution.

Fantastic, thoroughly biblical and deeply philosophical. That's one of the main reasons why I like Pope Benedict's writings so much. They combine the Biblical teachings with the necessary truth that comes with it as is the fact that truth and freedom can't be separated. Completely enjoyed reading the homilies. Now will read another one by him and this one is on the "saints"

A must read! Ratzinger's genius is his brevity of his extensive knowledge and wisdom. He is basically able to complete salvation history from the first three chapters of Genesis by throwing enough rope over to the New Testament to make the connection. While this book is easy to read for a deep topic, I still recommend reading only one chapter a day to allow time to reflect.

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