2016 Fall Semester

Foundations

# Creation

## “God created the entire universe out of nothing; it was originally very good; and He created it to glorify himself.”

## The World

### Creation is a Trinitarian act:

#### God the Father:

##### Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

##### 1 Corinthians 8:6a – “yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live.”

#### God the Son:

##### 1 Corinthians 8:6b – “and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.”

##### John 1:3 – “All things were made through Him, and without him was not anything made that was made.”

#### God the Holy Spirit:

##### Genesis 1:2 – “Now the earth was formless and void, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”

##### Psalm 33:6 – “By the Spirit of the Lord the heavens were made.”

#### A succinct way of describing the trinity’s involvement in creation is to say that creation is from the Father, through the Son, and by the Holy Spirit.

### Ex nihilo – Implied in Genesis 1:1

#### John 1:3 – “All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.”

#### Hebrews 11:3 – “By faith we understand that the world was prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”

#### Romans 4:17 – “As it is written: ‘I have made you a father of many nations.’ He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that are not.”

### We must know that God created all of this very good. We will get more into this next week when we talk about the Fall.

### Creation ex nihilo by the Trinitarian God shows us God’s sovereignty:

#### Sovereignty – God has absolute rule over creation as King and total control over all that happens.

##### Daniel 4:34-35 – “His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, ‘What have you done?’”

##### Psalm 135:6 – “Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.”

##### “Isaiah 46:9-10 – “I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying “My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.”

##### Daniel 2:20-21 – “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.”

##### Proverbs 21:1 – “The kings heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.”

##### Isaiah 14:24-25 – “The Lord of hosts has sworn: As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand, that I will break the Assyrian in my land, and on my mountains trample him underfoot; and his yoke shall depart from them.”

##### 1 Samuel 2:6-7 – “The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. The lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and He exalts.”

#### It also shows us that God alone is worthy to be praised and worshiped.

##### Revelation 4:11 – “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

### Implication:

#### Ex nihilo: The same God who spoke all of creation into existence out of nothing is the same God who says to you “not guilty.”

##### “For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” – 2 Corinthians 4:6

#### Sovereignty: Mankind should obey and submit to God as humble subjects of his kingdom.

## Man

### Special, direct creation of God

#### We were not spoken into existence; we were personally fashioned by the very hands of God himself. Very special care and concern and involvement took place in the creation of man that did not take place in the creation of any other created thing.

#### The creation of man involved two elements:

##### Genesis 2:7a – “The Lord God formed man of the dust from the ground…”

###### This shows us that man has a natural side to him that is lowly and fragile.

##### Genesis 2:7b – “…and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;”

###### This shows us that there is a supernatural side to man that is uniquely intimate with God that the rest of creation is not.

###### None of the other living creatures received this breath of life, only man. In fact, it’s man’s receiving of this breath that Scripture says causes the man to become a living being:

##### Genesis 2:7c – “…and the man became a living being.”

###### This shows that man is a different type of “living being” than the other beasts and creatures that were created before him.

### Image of God

#### Genesis 1:27 – “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

##### It would be good for us to reflect on our likeness to God more often. When God decided to create something in his image, something more like himself, he created us. Reflect on the magnificence and beauty of God’s creation.

##### Male and Female

###### Both are in the image of God

###### “The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved” – Matthew Henry

#### The fact that man is in the image of God means that man is like God and represents God.

##### We are like God in several ways

###### We are moral beings

###### We are spiritual beings. We don’t just have a body, but also a spirit, and we can then therefore act in ways that are spiritually significant, such as praying to God and offering praise to Him. No animal will ever spend an hour in intercessory prayer for the salvation of a relative or friend.

###### Mentally we are able to reason and can think logically in a way that sets us apart from the animal world.

###### We are like God in our creativity. No other being can create like we can. Not even Satan. Only God can create ex-nihilo, but humans can fashion and mold new thoughts and ideas and turn them into reality.

#### Implication: because men and women are created in the image of God, every human being is inherently worth equal dignity and respect. People of different races, the elderly, those who are seriously ill, the mentally handicapped, and children yet unborn; they all deserve full protection and honor as human beings.

##### Sanctity of Life

###### Abortion is supremely a religious issue, because what is being destroyed and disregarded is the image of God. But it is also a humanity issue.

###### Abortion not only destroys life; it destroys the Gospel.

###### The blood of Abel compared to the blood of aborted children.

###### We shouldn’t be pro-birth, but pro-life.

##### Concern for everyone – this is the fundamental moral difference between creationism and evolution

###### “The kingdom of God turns the Darwinist narrative of the survival of the fittest upside down (Acts 17: 6– 7). When the church honors and cares for the vulnerable among us, we are not showing charity. We are simply recognizing the way the world really works, at least in the long run. The child with Down syndrome on the fifth row from the back in your church, he’s not a “ministry project.” He’s a future king of the universe. The immigrant woman who scrubs toilets every day on hands and knees, and can barely speak enough English to sing along with your praise choruses, she’s not a problem to be solved. She’s a future queen of the cosmos, a joint-heir with Christ.” – Russell Moore

#### The historicity of Adam is challenged by some, but must be defended by the church. The Gospel falls apart if we deny that Adam was a real person.

##### Romans 5

## Angels & Demons

### Created by God:

#### Psalm 33:6, 9 – “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth…For He spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood forth.”

#### Nehemiah 9:6 – “You are the Lord, you alone; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host…and the host of heaven worships you.”

### They can exercise moral judgment as is seen in the fact that some of them sinned.

### Hebrews 1:14, speaking of angels says that they are “ministering spirits”, so they do not ordinarily have human bodies. They exist in a realm that we do not and unless special vision is given to us to see them, we can’t see them:

#### Numbers 22:31 – “Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way.”

#### 2 Kings 6:15-17 – “When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. The servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”

### So as we have just seen, angels are given the charge and duty of protecting us.

#### Psalm 91:11 – “For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.” – Guardian angels

### Angels serve God

#### Messengers to deliver messages to people. They also are the ones who pour out all of the bowls of God’s wrath in Revelation

### Angels worship God

#### Isaiah 6

### Implication: Angels are powerful beings that were created by God to serve him and worship him. We should be thankful that they exist and that they care for and protect us. However, we should not place angels in a lofty position that they do not deserve. Several times in Scripture angels refuse to receive worship from humans, therefore we shouldn’t worship them. We should worship Christ alone who is much greater than the angels.

### Demons

#### Everything was initially good. But demons sinned and fell from grace

##### 2 Peter 2:4 – “God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of nether gloom to be kept until the judgment.”

##### Jude 6 – “the angels that did not keep their own position but left their proper dwelling have been kept by him in eternal chains in the nether gloom until the judgment of the great day.”

##### Notice that angels sinned, not that all demons are kept in judgment.

#### Satan is the head of the demons and is the one in whom sin originated

##### This is evident from the fact that he tempted Eve

##### John 8:44 in speaking of the devil says “He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

#### Satan and his demons are active in the world and they can tempt us

##### Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness

##### 2 Corinthians 4:4 – “the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

#### Demons are powerful as well, but we are more powerful than they

##### Christ has given us authority over demons

###### In Luke chapter 10 the seventy were given the power to cast out demons by Jesus, and when they returned they said “Lord even the demons submit to us in your name!” Jesus replied to them saying “I have given you authority…over all the power of the enemy.”

###### We know this authority extends to us today because James tell us all in James 4:7 to “resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

#### Implication:

##### We should recognize that some sin and temptation is from Satan and demons, but not all of it. We will talk more about this next week.

##### On the one hand, we should recognize the reality that demonic activity does take place in the world, and we should actively guard and fight against it, but on the other hand, we know that we have the victory over the enemy in the name of Jesus.