

What else did God create?

Notebook: Sermons

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What else did God create?

God created all things by his powerful Word, and all his creation was very good; everything flourished under his loving rule.

Two Questions:

What Should We Believe? (What Truth is contained in this Catechism?)

How Should We Live? (Understanding & applying this Catechism to our lives)

1) What Should We Believe?

A. God Is The Sole Creator Of All Things & The Work Of Creation Is Finished

- Three choices of belief -
 - Naturalistic evolution** (no god- no creator- random something out of nothing - the complex from the chaos)
 - Theistic evolution** - (Ted Davis, BioLogos) "I offer my own definition: the belief that God used the process of evolution to create living things, including humans." Bio Logos - what we believe... Properly interpreted, Scripture and nature are complementary and faithful witnesses to their common Author. (Nature & Scripture are =)
 - Divine Creation** - affirms that the eternal God, all wise, all powerful, without the aid of any evolution, made the universe completely, as it is now, in six days, after which all creation was completed. God created everything out of

nothing. (ex nihilo creation) Nothing new has been created since then in the time/space world.

- Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. (Gen 2:1-2)
- **John MacArthur** - These words affirm that God had completed His work. Four times it is said that He finished His work, and three times it is said that this included all His work. Present processes in the universe reflect God sustaining that completed creation, not more creation
- **DR. Henry Morris** - Once it was finished, of course, there was no more creating to be done. Just like salvation, with the price fully paid, the creation was complete, with all the work of creating and making fully done. Just as a redeemed sinner can never augment the payment for his redemption, neither can some imaginary creative process called evolution augment the completed creation.
- In Divine creation, we believe that God created "All Things" out of nothing (ex nihilo) In Science, the Law of conservation of Energy and matter states that energy (and matter) can neither be created nor destroyed. In naturalistic evolutionary thinking, there is no Authority that predates matter and energy, it is the laws of nature and science that reign. Divine Creation places God as the authority over all energy, matter, and even the laws of science and nature. As an example, you may recall that as his disciples feared their death because of a storm, Jesus rebuked the wind and the storm instantly ceased. His disciples marveled and said "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?" (Mat 8:27) **Christian, only The creator of all of the heavens and all the Earth and all that is contained therein - including all matter & all energy, has the authority & the power to speak to His creation, and His creation listens. Praise God for His Divine creation. It matters what we believe.**
- Psalm 148 is a psalm of all of creation praising their creator- The Psalmist writes in verses 5&6 "Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created. And he established them forever and

ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. "(Psa 148:5-6)

- Naturalistic Evolution declares a creation subject to "survival of the fittest". the law of "natural selection" and a constant "struggle to survive". A core principal of evolution is that decay and death are unavoidable. Only a belief in Divine creation places a Sovereign Omnipotent Authority completely in control over the laws of science and nature, with a fully declared purpose and plan for His creation. Only the account of Divine Creation provides an explanation of why there is life at all. In the answer to our question tonight, we see that the Power of Creation is also the Power of Sustaining all that was created. That brings us to our second point..

B. God the Son- Jesus - Is The Agent Of All Creation and Sustaining Power of All

- "His powerful Word" "His loving Rule" - Creating & Sustaining- perfectly
- "By His Powerful Word" this refers not to solely the voice of God- It refers to a person - Jesus - The second person of the Trinity-
- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3). **And the Word became Flesh -vs. 14**
- For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Col 1:16-17)
- The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command...Hebrews 1:3(a)
- Scripture reveals to us a God so intimately and lovingly involved in sustaining His creation that He even is aware when a sparrow falls to the ground. A God so concerned in the delight of His creation that he arrays the flowers of the field in all of their majestic colors. The God who sustained His prophet by having the ravens bring his food cares deeply about each and every one of His image bearers - that includes all in this room - what is weighing on your heart this evening?

- Our Catechism tonight says "Everything Flourished under His loving rule" Genesis 1: 31 says that all of creation was "Very Good". The Question you may have then as you listen to the evening news is "What Happened"? That brings us to point 3...

C. God's Creation Was Very Good - But it has been corrupted by Sin

- Only in the account of Divine Creation is there a clear understanding of what happened to a creation that was "very good" and yet became corrupted. Evolution regards death and decay as a natural, unavoidable process for all of creation, including man. How many here believe death & decay, disease, deformity, pain, suffering, violence, abuse, are part of "flourishing".
 - In Genesis 3 we understand that Adam & Eve willfully disobeyed God and disregarded the warning that to disobey would bring grave consequences. Consequences that would affect all of creation, not just them. Sin doesn't just affect the sinner - remember the first death implied in the Bible was the innocent animal that God used to clothe Adam & Eve. They tried to hide their nakedness behind their own works- fig leaves. But it was the clothing from an innocent substitute that was slain that covered them that day.
 - Adam's sin introduced the last enemy into creation - death. "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—(Rom 5:12).
It was not just man who was affected by his sin- . all of creation was subject to the curse, even the ground. Listen to what God told Adam..
 - And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. (Gen 3:17-18)
 - All of creation is in bondage because of sin- what a horrible predicament if there is no Authority over creation. If this is where it is left- then it truly is a "dog

eat dog" world. Even today, all of creation awaits the final release from the effects of sin.

- For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Rom 8:18-23)
- **The solution to the effects of man's willful sin - the corruption of ALL of creation - is directly tied into the Gospel. That the creator of all things would leave the splendors of heaven, put on flesh, live a sinless life, voluntarily allow Himself to have the entire weight of the curse of sin placed upon Himself at the cross in order to satisfy the just punishment for my sin, your sin, then to prove For all eternity that HE is the God of Life by His resurrection. That He would by Grace through faith redeem the eternal souls of all who repent and believe to adopt us as Sons and daughters is unimaginable Love. This is the secured hope of the Gospel - that not only includes the redemption and restoration of God's relationship with man, it also includes the absolute Divine promise that ALL of His creation will be set free. What an amazing Love, what an amazing Grace, what an amazing God we serve.**
- All of creation waits on the Hope of Jesus. As we wait upon the restoration from the curse, we answer question #2

2) How Should We Live?

Belief Matters

- The serpent asked Eve - "Did God really Say..." creating doubt and uncertainty. The purpose of these messages is to help us understand why we believe, strengthening our faith against doubt and confusion. Today even in the arena of Evangelicals, many are moving towards the position that the creation account is not meant to be taken literally. Be careful. Belief in the trustworthiness of Scripture in all it addresses is the root of a steadfast faith.

Belief guides Our Values-

- Because we can trust a Sovereign Creator , we can properly value all of His creation. He has given to us responsibility to steward his creation.(Genesis 1:25)
- We value the sanctity of life. We value every human as an image bearer of God.
- We value all of creation because we esteem the Creator. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, (1Timothy 4:4)
- Belief brings value to our worship and directs it to the creator and not to the created. Romans 1:25- Keeping us from exchanging the truth for a lie.

Attitudes are formed on our beliefs and values

- Our attitude about the environment- not driven by fear of calamity but by desire to exercise loving care to a creation we respect.
- Our attitude about our fellow man - knowing that as Christians we know the hope of the Gospel and that all men, women, and children need that hope.
- Our attitude about our Creator- Gratitude and dependence. Worship is not just a Sunday exercise, it becomes the daily lifesong of our heart, knowing our need for His sustaining care, we look first to Him

Behaviors express these three

- Enjoy, marvel at the beauty of God's creation. It was made for us. Not to exploit, but to respect and nurture - care for the parts of creation God has put in your life. Teach others by your example the joy of loving rule.
- Acknowledge the worth of everyone you know and meet. Always being prepared to make a case to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15)
- In the daily struggles that are part of human existence at present- let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5: 8-11)

- Remember, Gods promise to restore all things still stands. "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."(Rev 21:4-5)

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