

The 1689 Confession of Faith, Chapter 4 – “Of Creation”, Session # 2 –
“The First 3 Days”, presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on
November 18th, 2018, in the Adult Sunday School.

Paragraph 1 – “In the beginning it pleased God the Father, a) Son, and Holy Spirit, for the manifestation of the glory of b) his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, to create or make the world, and all things therein, c) whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good.” a) John 1: 2-3; Hebrews 1: 2; Job 26: 13; b) Romans 1: 20; c) Colossians 1: 16; Genesis 1: 31

1. Creation is an act of God which began time for all that He created.

In the beginning means that there was a certain point where time began. Time has not always existed. God has always existed. He has no beginning or any end, and thus His creation of the physical heavens and the earth was something that He did, completely outside of Himself. God spoke in creating the heavens and the earth, but nothing changed in God when He spoke, and created these things. God had no beginning, but all created things that do have a beginning were made by Him. God stands outside of time, but is intimately involved in everything that takes place in time, but this does not change His being in His involvement with created things or people.

2. The Creation is one of God’s extrinsic works; done by all three Persons of the Godhead.

The Creation is one of God’s extrinsic works. As A’Brakel says – “Since God is one in essence, and the three Persons are the one God, their will and power are one and the same. “All God’s extrinsic works are common to the three Persons, being the work of a Triune God.” Nevertheless, each of these extrinsic works is attributed to individual Persons according to the relationship which each Person has to the particular work.” “Consequently, creation is attributed to the Father, redemption to the Son, and sanctification to the Holy Spirit.” “In doing so, however, the other Persons are not excluded but expressly included in the same work, so that any extrinsic work attributed to one of the Persons, is also attributed to the other Persons.” “Thus creation is attributed not only to the Father, but also to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.”

3. All Things were created out of nothing. (Ex Nihilo)

Hebrews 11: 3 – “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”

I hope that you can see and understand this wonderful truth; that it is not by man’s fallen reasoning power, or his strength of intellect, which will convince him that God created the heavens the earth and all things in it. It is by faith that understand it. This does not mean that there is not a place for apologetics, or a reasoned defense of God’s creation. But faith will always believe God’s word and all His simple and direct statements concerning the creation of the world and all things in. The things which we see in the creation around us, which we perceive in relation to all people, animals, and every living thing; these things were created by God, and they were created in the beginning out of nothing.

Now today, I want to speak to you about how the Triune God made the world and all things therein, visible and invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good.

My proposition to you this morning is that we should be able to look at what took place on each day of the 6 days of creation and find reason to praise God, and to appreciate His fine and wise work. His creative work ought to cause us to think of His exalted Being and lead us to praise Him that He has so generously supplied us with all things richly to enjoy. And my second proposition is that we should be willing to consider certain spiritual truths and realities, as we look at the physical creation. If you are have been born again by the Spirit of God, you should be able to move from the physical to the spiritual in your thinking; to think about how the first creation is intended by God to lead your mind to consider the second or New Creation which comes through Jesus Christ. I believe that God would have us, when we look at His physical creation, to be led to the related truths of the spiritual new creation by Christ, and see how His grace transforms our lives to the glory of God. So let’s begin.

The 1st Day of Creation, Genesis 1: 1-5– “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.” “And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.” “And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.” “God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night.” “So the evening and the morning were the first day.”

In relation to the 1st day of creation, we should praise God for the light which illumines the darkness and cannot overcome the darkness, but by its very nature, drives the darkness away. This truth, as many of the truths of what God created, carries over into the spiritual realm as well. Ephesians 5: 13 – “But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, whatever makes manifest is light.” “Therefore He says: ‘Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.’” In Ecclesiastes chapter 11, verse 7, Solomon says – Truly the light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun; but if a man lives many years and rejoices in them all, yet let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many.” “All that is coming is vanity.” And Ephesians 5: 8 – “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.” “walk as children of light.” And 1st Thessalonians 5: 4 – “But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.” “You are all sons of light and sons of the day.” “We are not of the night, nor of darkness.” And remember that Jesus says in John 8: 12 – “I am the light of the world.” “He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

The 2nd day of creation, Genesis 1: 6-8 – “Then God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” “Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.” “And God called the firmament Heaven.” “So the evening and the morning were the second day.”

In relation to the 2nd Day of creation, when the heavens, the atmosphere above the earth, and the vast space of the physical universe above were created, we see that our God is able to establish boundaries for all things, and that space which is of value to separate things and make distinctions between them. The earth needed this space, this atmosphere in which would be oxygen for man’s breath and moist humid air to refresh his being continually. It would be needed for the production of rain and snow, and all the various weather that the Lord would bring upon the earth. The earth was created by God out of the waters and by means of His dividing the waters from the waters, This was how earth’s atmosphere was created. God called the firmament heaven, or what we would know as the physical sky. Let us praise God that He knew what would be needed to sustain physical life and prepared the atmospheric condition necessary for the cultivation of life, and also the beauty of what He would be able to produce in the atmospheric conditions of the sky; clouds, the aurora borealis, sunrise and sunset, and many others features of weather which man and all the creatures would benefit by. The greatness of the skies ought to turn our thoughts toward God. Job 37: 21 – “Even now men cannot look at the light when it is bright in the skies, when the wind has passed and cleared them.” “He comes from the north as a golden splendor; with God is awesome majesty.” “As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him; He is excellent in power, in judgment and abundant justice.”

The 3rd day of Creation, Genesis 1: 9-13 – “Then God said, ‘Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear’; and it was so.” “And

God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas.” “And God saw that it was good.” “Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth’; and it was so.” “And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind.” “And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the third day.

In relation to the 3rd day of creation, God caused the dry land to appear on the earth by causing the waters under the heavens to be gathered together into one place, it says in verse 9. He called the dry land Earth and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And then He also spoke and said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, and it was so. (verses 9-13) Now we ought to praise the Lord that He has created all things for His glory, and that the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” “For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters.” (Psalm 24: 1 and 2) But we should also think about the truth which is found in Psalm 115, verse 15 and 16 – “My you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” “The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s; but the earth He has given to the children of men.”

We should praise the Lord that He has entrusted the earth to men as his stewards, His own representatives created in His own image and likeness. This we ought to see as a privilege, and not abuse it. We should cultivate the earth and plant and sow and reap and harvest, but in the process we should take care that the earth is not polluted and ruined by our neglect to take care of it after we have used in. Our environment was given to us by God and we should protect it and preserve it. The world is not our garbage can. We should also see that it is the meek who shall inherit the earth. It will be those who see that all that they have been given is from the Lord, and He is well able to extend and establish the boundaries of blessing to those who know that they do not need to assert themselves to attempt to force other people to give to them what does not belong to them, but rather are content with what the Lord has given to them, and what He will establish for them as a lasting earthly inheritance, but even more importantly as a lasting spiritual inheritance.