

DOCTRINE MATTERS: ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Message 6: **Creation**: Why it Absolutely Matters

The most important verse in the Bible?

Genesis 1:1 (ESV)

¹In the beginning, **God created** the heavens and the earth.

5 reasons:

1. It refutes _____, because the universe was created by God.
2. It refutes _____, for God is transcendent to that which He created.
3. It refutes _____, for one God created all things.
4. It refutes _____, because God, not man, is the ultimate reality.
5. It refutes _____, because God created all things

“In the beginning”

Component of _____ ... *bereshith*

“God”

Elohim (plural ... why?)

“created”

bara ...

man can *asah* (make) and *yatsar* (form) ...

only God can *bara*

The difference?

“heaven”

shamayim ... plural = heavens

... literally: _____

“earth”

Component of _____

The doctrine of **creation**:

God created the entire universe out of nothing; it was originally very good; and He created it to glorify Himself.

Out of Nothing

ex nihilo

Psalm 33:6,9 (ESV)

⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

John 1:3 (ESV)

³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Colossians 1:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ 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.

Hebrews 11:3 (ESV)

³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Implications:

Created matter is not _____.

Created matter is _____.

Adam and Eve

Imago Dei

Genesis 1:26-28 (ESV)

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:31 (ESV)

³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, **it was very good**. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Creation was _____ (tov) until people were added; then creation was _____ (tov meov)

Genesis 2:7 (ESV)

⁷ ... then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Genesis 2:21-23 (ESV)

²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

²³ Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Implications:

Man has the capacity of a unique _____ with God.

Man has a unique _____ from God.

Creation – distinct *from* God yet dependent *on* God

Transcendent

The Bible teaches that God is distinct from his creation. He is not part of it, for he has made it and rules over it. He is greater than his creation and is independent of it.

Colossians 1:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ *And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)

³ *... he upholds the universe by the word of his power ...*

Immanent

God is not removed from and uninterested in his creation. The bible is the story of God's involvement with his creation and particularly with the people in it.

Job 12:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ *In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.*

Acts 17:25b-28 (ESV)

²⁵ *... he (God) himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.* ²⁶ *And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,* ²⁷ *that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,* ²⁸ *for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."*

Implications:

God _____ Himself in creation.

God seeks to _____ His creation.

Creation – ultimate purpose

glory

Isaiah 43:7 (ESV)

⁷ *... everyone who is called by my name, **whom I created for my glory**, whom I formed and made.*

Psalms 19:1-2 (ESV)

¹ *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.* ² *Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.*

Revelation 4:11 (ESV)

¹¹ *"Worthy are you, 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."*

Implications:

Creation displays God's infinite _____ and _____

Understanding both evokes _____!

Our _____ in God's creation _____ Him.

Conclusion: Creation and the **Gospel**

Nehemiah 9:6 (ESV)

⁶*You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.*

*Theology is for **doxology** and **devotion**—that is, the praise of God and the practice of godliness.*

- J.I. Packer

NEXT WEEK:
God's Providence