

GOD AS CREATOR

1. In the beginning, God created the universe.

- a. **Ge 1:1-3** 1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
 - (1) The phrase “the heavens and the earth” includes the entire universe.
 - (2) God does not have a beginning; the universe does.
- b. God made the universe and all that is in it.
 - (1) **Ex 20:11** 11 In six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
- c. God made heaven, the earth, and the seas, and all their host.
 - (1) **Ne 9:6** 6 You are Yahweh, 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.
- d. God made heaven and earth.
 - (1) **Ps 121:2** 2 My help comes from Yahweh, who made heaven and earth.
 - (2) **Ps 124:8** 8 Our help is in the name of Yahweh, who made heaven and earth.
- e. Yahweh made all things. He alone stretched out the heavens and spread out the earth.
 - (1) **Is 44:24** 24 Thus says Yahweh, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: I am Yahweh who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself.
- f. Yahweh is the maker of all things. All things came to be because of him.
 - (1) **Is 66:1-2** 1 Thus says Yahweh: Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? 2 All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares Yahweh.
- g. Creation had a beginning.
 - (1) **Mk 10:6** 6 From the beginning of creation, God made them male and female.
 - (2) The universe is not eternal. It had a beginning. This accords with contemporary science and refutes pantheism.
- h. God made the world and everything in it. He gives life and breath to humanity.
 - (1) **Ac 17:24-25** 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, because he himself gives to all humanity life, breath, and everything.
- i. God is able to call into existence the things that do not exist.
 - (1) **Ro 4:17** 17 God...calls into existence the things that do not exist.
- j. The builder of all things is God.
 - (1) **Heb 3:4** 4 Every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.
- k. God created the heaven, the earth, and the sea, and everything that is in them.
 - (1) **Re 10:5-6** 5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven 6 and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay.
- l. That God created the universe is the fundamental truth of the biblical worldview.

- (1) “‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,’ is the answer to the twenty-first century and its lostness.”¹
- m. Satan loves to convince human beings that God didn’t create the universe.
- (1) Faustus: “...Tell me who made the world.” Mephistopheles: “I will not.” Faustus: “Sweet Mephistopheles, tell me.” Mephistopheles: “Move me not, for I will not tell thee.”²

2. God spoke all things into existence.

- a. **Ge 1:3** 3 God said, Let there be light, and there was light.
- b. The heavens were made by the word of God. He spoke, and it came to be.
- (1) **Ps 33:6-9** 6 By the word of Yahweh the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap. He puts the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear Yahweh. Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! 9 For he spoke, and it came to be. He commanded, and it stood firm.
- c. The heavens and all their host were created and established at God’s command.
- (1) **Ps 148:1-6** 1 Hallelujah! Praise Yahweh from the heavens. Praise him in the heights! 2 Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his hosts! 3 Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! 4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of Yahweh! For he commanded, and they were created. 6 And he established them forever and ever.
- d. By faith we understand the universe was created by God’s word.
- (1) **Heb 11:3** 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.
- e. The invisible is the source of the visible.
- (1) **Heb 11:3** 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.
- (2) We must never forget, in history, philosophy, and science, history, that the invisible precedes the visible.
- f. All things exist by God’s desire.
- (1) **Rev 4:11** 11 Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory, honor, and power, for you created all things, and by your desire they existed and were created.
- (2) If God didn’t want us to exist, we wouldn’t exist. Things exist because God wants them to exist. There is something rather than nothing because God wants the something to exist. Our existence totally depends upon God. If he didn’t exist, we wouldn’t exist.
- g. God created the universe *ex nihilo*.
- (1) Before God created the universe, nothing existed except God himself.
- (2) God did not use previously existing material to create the universe. Matter is not eternal. There was a time when matter did not exist.
- (3) Space is not eternal. There was a time when space did not exist.
- (4) Time is not eternal. There was a “time” when time did not exist.

¹ Francis Schaeffer.

² C. Marlowe, *Dr. Faustus*, Dover Thrift ed., 27.

(5) Only God is eternal and infinite. The universe is finite.

3. The Creator is totally distinct from his creation.

- a. God is not the universe, nor is he part of the universe. Pantheism is a false worldview. A novelist is distinct from his novel. An architect is distinct from the building he has designed. A poet is distinct from his poem. A painter is distinct from this painting. So God is distant from his creation.
- b. God could have chosen not to create the universe. He in no way needs the universe.
 - (1) “We should not think that God...was somehow incomplete without the glory that he would receive from the created universe. This would be to deny God’s independence and imply that God needed the universe in order to be fully God. Rather, we must affirm that the creation of the universe was a totally free act of God. It was not a necessary act but something that God chose to do.”³

4. All things were made through the Word, Jesus.

- a. **Jn 1:1-3** 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- b. All things were created by, through, and for Jesus. He is the firstborn of all creation.
 - (1) **Col 1:15-16** 15 [The Son] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.
- c. God created the world through Jesus.
 - (1) **Heb 1:2** 2 In these last days [God] has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.
- d. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all played a role in the creation of the universe.
- e. The Spirit’s role in creating the universe is indicated by:
 - (1) **Ge 1:2** 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
 - (2) [].
 - (3) [].

5. God has made all his works in wisdom.

- a. **Ps 104:24** 24 Yahweh, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all. The earth is full of your creatures.
- b. God established the universe by his knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.
 - (1) **Pr 3:19-20** 19 Yahweh by wisdom founded the earth. By understanding he established the heavens. 20 By his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew.
- c. Wisdom was God’s master workman as he made the world.
 - (1) **Pr 8:22-31** 22 Yahweh possessed me [wisdom] at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. 23 Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning

³ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 271.

of the earth. 24 When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. 25 Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, 26 before he had made the earth with its fields or the first of the dust of the world. 27 When he established the heavens, I was there. When he drew a circle on the face of the deep, 28 when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, 29 when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, 30 then I was beside him like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, 31 rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.

d. Yahweh established the world by his wisdom.

(1) **Jer 10:11-12** 11 The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens. 12 It is [Yahweh] who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

6. God established six realms of creation to be inhabited by creatures.

a. Third heaven.

(1) This is where God dwells and where Jesus sits at the Father's right hand. This is also where believers go after death.

(2) God created the third heaven as a place where his presence is especially evident.⁴

(3) **2 Co 12:2** 2 I [Paul] know a man in Messiah who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows.

(4) **Jn 3:31** 31 He who comes from above [Jesus] is above all. He who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

(5) **John 6:38** 38 I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

(6) **John 8:23-24** 23 You are from below. I [Jesus] am from above. You are of this world. I am not of this world. 24 I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I Am you will die in your sins.

b. Second heaven.

(1) This is the space inside the universe but outside the earth's atmosphere. It is the realm of angels.

(2) God stretched out the sky and made the stars.

1. **Job 9:8-10** 8 [God] alone stretched out the heavens, trampled the waves of the sea, 9 [and] made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south.

(3) The heavens are the work of God's fingers.

1. **Ps 8:3-4** 3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

(4) The sky above proclaims God's handiwork.

⁴ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 264.

1. **Ps 19:1** 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
 - (5) God created the stars and calls them all by name.
 1. **Is 40:25-26** 25 To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high and see. Who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name. By the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.
 - c. First heaven.
 - (1) This is the earth's atmosphere, where birds dwell.
 - d. Earth.
 - (1) This is where man and
 - e. Sea.
 - (1) This is where fish dwell.
 - f. Hell.
 - (1) This is where unbelievers go after death. Hell was created when Satan and the demons fell.
- 7. God has assigned to each created thing a definite character, essence, and nature.**
- a. **Ge 1:11-12** 11 God said, Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth. And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.
 - b. **Ge 1:20-21** 20 God said, Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens. 21 So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.
 - c. **Ge 1:24-25** 24 God said, Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock, creeping things, and beasts of the earth according to their kinds. And it was so. 25 And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.
 - d. God created man in his own image.
 - (1) **Ge 1:26-27** 26 God said, Let us make (עֲשֵׂה) man in our image, after our likeness. ...27 So God created (בָּרָא) man in his own image. In the image of God he created him. Male and female he created them.
 - e. God gave man dominion over the creature of the air, sea, and land.
 - (1) **Ps 8:6-8** 6 You have given [man] dominion over the works of your hands. You have put all things under his feet, 7 all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, 8 the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
 - f. God formed earth to be inhabited by living creatures, especially man.
 - (1) **Is 45:18** 18 Thus says Yahweh, who created the heavens (he is the God who formed the earth and made it, he established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), I am Yahweh, and there is none else.

- g. God gives life and breath to humanity.
 - (1) **Ac 17:24-25** 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, because he himself gives to all humanity life, breath, and everything.
- h. Every believer is a new creation.
 - (1) **2 Co 5:17** 17 If anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come.
 - (2) **Ga 6:15** 15 Neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.
- i. How foolish we are when we as creatures do not consult our Creator when making laws and establishing policies as communities and nations. See *Biblical Worldview*.

8. Everything God made was originally very good.

- a. **Ge 1:31-2:3** 31 God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. 1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 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. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.
- b. God is infinitely good. Everything he does is perfectly good. He would create only things that are good.
- c. After the fall, God “regretted” he had made man on the earth.
 - (1) **Ge 6:6-7** 6 Yahweh regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So Yahweh said, I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man, animals, creeping things, and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.
- d. With the flood, God blotted out from the ground every living thing he had made.
 - (1) **Ge 7:4** 4 In seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.
 - (2) It is God’s prerogative to rule his creation in whatever way he desires to.
 - (3) When God’s free will creatures sin, he must and will deal with that sin according to his perfect justice.
- e. Everything created by God is good.
 - (1) **1 Ti 4:4** 4 Everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.
 - (2) Satan, demons, and men may corrupt what God created to be good. They surely do so. But in their essence, every created thing is good. God created no evil or “ungood” thing. It is impossible for God to create evil. Any evil or corruption in the world is a result of the rebellion of angels and men, who are free will creatures.

9. God created the universe for a purpose.

10. God actively rules his creation.

- a. No one can command God concerning his creation. It is his prerogative to rule.

- (1) **Is 45:11-12** 11 Will you command me [Yahweh] concerning my children and the work of my hands? 12 I made the earth and created man on it. It was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host.
- b. When God calls to the earth and heavens, they stand forth together before him.
 - (1) **Is 48:13** 13 My hand laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens. When I call to them, they stand forth together.
- c. The God who made the heaven, the earth, and the sea is a living God.
 - (1) **Ac 14:15** 15 Men, why are you doing these things? We [Paul and Barnabas] also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them.
- d. God did not create the universe and then go on a vacation. He is active in our world. He superintends creation. He is a personal God, very much interested in what takes place from day to day. He is personally involved in the day to day running of our universe. God is very much involved in creation, for it is continually dependent on him.
 - (1) “The God of the Bible is no abstract deity removed from, and uninterested in his creation. The Bible is the story of God’s involvement with his creation, and particularly the people in it.”⁵

11. God’s loyal love for his creation endures forever.

- a. **Ps 136:5-9** 5 To him who by understanding made the heavens, for his loyal love endures forever; 6 to him who spread out the earth above the waters, for his loyal love endures forever; 7 to him who made the great lights, for his loyal love endures forever; 8 the sun to rule over the day, for his loyal love endures forever; 9 the moon and stars to rule over the night, for his loyal love endures forever.
- b. God’s eternal power and divine nature are clearly seen in creation.
 - (1) **Ro 1:20-25** 20 Since the creation of the world [God’s] invisible attributes, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that [men] are without excuse. ...25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
- c. We know and understand God exists through creation. See *General Revelation*.

12. We are to stand in awe of Yahweh our Creator.

- a. **Ps 33:8-9** 8 Let all the earth fear Yahweh. Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! 9 For he spoke, and it came to be. He commanded, and it stood firm.
- b. Man wasn’t there when God laid the foundation of the earth.
 - (1) **Job 38:4** 4 Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.
- c. We are to worship, bow down, and knell before Yahweh our Maker.
 - (1) **Ps 95:4-6** 4 In [Yahweh’s] hand are the depths of the earth. The heights of the mountains are his also. 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the

⁵ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 267.

dry land. 6 Oh come let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before Yahweh, our Maker!

- d. Because God made us, we belong to him.
(1) **Ps 100:3** 3 Know that Yahweh, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his.
- e. We must not forget our Maker.
(1) **Is 51:12-13** 12 Who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass, 13 and have forgotten Yahweh, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth?
- f. Our Creator has a right to be upset when we, his creatures, do not acknowledge, thank, or worship him.

13. God will make all things new.

- a. **Re 21:5** 5 [God] 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.
- b. **John 5:21-23** 21 As the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son [Jesus] gives life to whom he will. 22 For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

Notes