

## God's Awesome Creation

GOD is the essential First Cause of the universe. Eternal God existed before the universe and acts within it. It is God's Creation and we should view its beauty and complexity with awe.

“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made. Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast” (Psalm 33: 6-9).

“Him that by wisdom made the heavens: the sun to rule by day; the moon and stars to rule by night; for his mercy endures for ever” (Psalm 136: 5-9).

“Worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” (Hebrews 11: 3).

God has not revealed **how** he created, but scripture language is familiar and understandable for all people in all ages. “I have made the earth, and created man upon it” (Isaiah 45:12).

The Creator not only originates, but also *preserves, sustains and protects* his Creation. “In

him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17: 28).

“If he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath, all flesh shall perish together, and man shall return unto dust” (Job 34: 14-15).

The Creator also *governs* his Creation. The Bible’s poetry deals not with scientific explanations of the material world, but is about the relationship between God and his Creation.

“He sends forth his commandment upon earth: his word runs very swiftly” (Psalm 147: 15).

“Who made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: who keeps truth for ever: who executes judgment for the oppressed: who gives food to the hungry” (146: 6-7).

The Creator also meets the needs of his creatures. He *provides* food, comfort, courage and strength.

“Who covers the heaven with clouds, who prepares rain for the earth, who makes grass to grow upon the mountains. He gives to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry” (Psalm 147: 8-9).

“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are all of you not much better than they?” (Matthew 6: 26).

God’s activity as Creator is continuous. It is just as necessary for our daily life in the present as it was at any time in the past. Each day we experience his action as our preserver, governor and provider.

God is not an all-powerful but impersonal force in the universe. He is a personal God, with a character of moral perfection.

“His righteousness endures for ever. He is gracious and full of compassion. The works of his hands are truth and justice” (Psalm 111: 3-7).

“For the righteous LORD loves righteousness; his countenance does behold the upright” (Psalm 11:7). Thus he who is holy makes demands of men: “All of you shall be holy; for I am holy” (Leviticus 11: 44).

God is not only sustaining his Creation, but is actively guiding all things so that he will eventually be glorified. "As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD" (Numbers 14: 21).

Because God's Creation, marred by human rebellion against his will, contains sin and death, the activity of God is a work of restoration, that Creation may be cleansed of sin and evil, and men won back to God.

The mind of God is the ultimate reality that gives the universe its rational order. God also requires moral order and will intervene to establish it.

"Because he has appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he has ordained; whereof he has given assurance unto all men, in that he has raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:31).

