

The Apostle's Creed

Maker of Heaven and Earth (Everything There Is)

Maker of the Natural World

Read aloud Genesis 1:1-25, the "account and story of creation".

The Shorter Catechism Question 9. What is the work of creation?

Answer: The work of Creation is, God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.

What stands out to you in the Catechism answer in light of God's word in Genesis?

For deeper understanding and appreciation, make a note to read Psalm 104 (Environmentalist Psalm) and the book of Job Chapters 38 - 41. Here's a taste:

In Psalm 104: 5-13 and 24, the psalmist writes:

"He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.
You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.
But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight; they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them.
You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth.
He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains.
They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches.
He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work."

"How many are your works, Lord!
In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures."

Does this poetic description of creation help you understand or appreciate God's work better, and in what way?

In Job, we get the message regarding creation and nature differently and full throttle, direct from the Maker. God spoke out to Job in response to his accusers, who had all the answers about natural disasters and the such, in what is the longest extended monologue from God's lips to our ears in Scripture. In *Reforesting Faith* by Dr. Mathew Sleeth, says "God was on the scene, in the house, and holding court."

From Job 38:1-7 and 39: 26-27:

“Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said,
“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
Now gird up your loins like a man, and I will ask you, and you instruct Me!
Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell Me, if you have understanding, who set its measurements, since you know.
Or who stretched the line on it? On what were its bases sunk?
Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

“Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars,
Stretching his wings toward the south?
Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up
And makes his nest on high?”

Dr. Sleeth’s take on this is that the Creator laid out the university science curriculum for the next several thousand years. God was asking, “Do you know about oceanography, Have you studied plant pathology or the reproductive cycles of mammals? Have you invented meteorology yet?

Are there ways today that we and others are arrogant about our understanding of the natural world and therefore miss the blessing of the truth about creation and the Maker? What should we do about this?

Maker of Us

Read Genesis 1:26-31

Shorter Catechism Question 10. How did God create man?

Answer: God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

Psalm 139:13-14 “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

In the book *Fearfully and Wonderfully; The Marvel of Bearing God’s Image*, Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey state “After each stage of creation, God pronounced it “good.” Still something was lacking until God decided, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us” (Genesis 1:26). **But how can visible human beings express a likeness to God, who is invisible spirit?”**

Implications of Creation (from John Piper)

1. The Foundation of All Redemptive History. John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:3 “All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” Colossians 1:16 “For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him.”
2. God owns all things absolutely. Psalm 24:1 “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.”
3. Everything exists for the Glory of God; everything that exists has a purpose. Isaiah 46:10 “My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.”
4. We are Dependent on Our Creator for Everything. 1 Peter 4:19 “Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.”

Heidelberg Catechism Question 26. What do you believe when you say, “I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth”?

Answer (first part): That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ the Son.