

Discipleship:  
An  
Introduction to  
Systematic Theology and  
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Creation:

The Heights Church February 28, 2016

# What is the Doctrine of Creation?

- **Law of Non-contradiction: Something cannot be A and not A at the same time and in the same relationship.**
- **Double Truth (Islam)**

True in Faith True in Reason	True in Faith False in Reason
False in Faith True in Reason	False in Faith False in Reason

- **Double Truth according to Logic (Thomas Aquinas )**

True in Faith True in Reason	True in Faith False in Reason
False in Faith True in Reason	False in Faith False in Reason

# Historical Summary of the Islam/Christianity Conflict

- **451 Council of Chalcedon**
- **455 Vandals sack Rome; Western Roman Empire ends in 476**
- **610 Islam begins**
- **711 Islam invades the Iberian Peninsula**
- **1054 Eastern Orthodox split from Roman Catholicism**
- **1096-1487 Crusades (Thomas Aquinas 1225 – 1274)**
- **1453 Constantinople falls; Roman Empire ends; Ottoman Empire begins**
- **1491 Granada falls to Christian Forces**
- **1517 Reformation begins**
- **1683 Battle of Vienna**
- **1918 final defeat of the Ottoman Empire**

# What is the Doctrine of Creation?

- **Beginning with the Enlightenment, about the dawn of the 18<sup>th</sup> century , the guns of unbelief have been increasingly trained upon the Biblical explanation of Creation.**
- **The inerrancy of the Bible is a 20<sup>th</sup> century outgrowth of the attack on Biblical Creation.**

# Creation: Christian vs Secular World Views

Origin of:	Christian View	Secular View
Inanimate Universe	Created by God out of nothing ( <i>ex nihilo</i> )	<b>Big Bang</b>
Flora and Fauna	Created by God	<b>Evolution</b>
Humans	Physical beings created by God in God's image and for His glory.	<b>Evolved from apes</b>
Spiritual Beings (Angels, Cherubim, Seraphim, and "the four Living Creatures")	Spiritual beings created by God.	<b>Do not exist</b>

# What is the Biblical Doctrine of Creation?

- **God also created time. God did not exist in unending time before creation. He is different from us since he is eternal. But since he created time he is lord is over time and it is our obligation to use time for his glory.**

**Behold, God is great, and we know him not; the number of his years is unsearchable. Job 36:26**

**Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2**

**For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. Psalm 90:4**

# What is the Biblical Doctrine of Creation?

- **God also created time. God did not exist in unending time before creation. He is different from us since he is eternal. But since he created time his lordship is over time and it is our obligation to use time for his glory.**

**Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am. John 8:58**

**But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 2 Peter 3:8**

# What is the Biblical Doctrine of Creation?

- Creation is a triune work.
  - God the father was the primary initiator.
  - God the Son was the one through whom the creation came about.
  - God the Holy Spirit hovers over it in Genesis 1:2 indicating a preserving, sustaining and governing function. However, the testimony of Scripture to the Holy Spirit's work in creation is scarce.
- The creation is always distinct from God yet always dependent on God. God is far above the creation (from the perspective of being not distance) yet always involved in it. God is both **transcendent** and **immanent**.

# What is the Biblical Doctrine of Creation?

- **The Christian world view of an immanent and transcendent God is very different from other world views.**
- **Materialism denies the existence of God. Only the universe exists.**
- **Pantheism believes the whole universe is God.**
  - **Therefore God has no distinct personality**
  - **God changes as the universe changes.**
  - **God is not holy because the universe contains evil.**
  - **Buddhism and many other Eastern religions are pantheistic.**

# What is the Biblical Doctrine of Creation?

- **Dualism believes God and the Material universe have universally existed side by side.**
  - **There is an eternal conflict between God and the evil aspects of the material universe.**
  - **We cannot be sure God will ultimately triumph over evil.**
  - **God is not glorified by the universe.**
  - **The universe did not originate as good so people may see the physical as somewhat evil.**
  - **Star Wars is a modern example of dualism since the “Force” has a good and evil side.**

# What is the Biblical Doctrine of Creation?

- **Deism believes God is not now directly involved in creation.**
  - **Deism believes God created the universe and is transcendent but not immanent. God is the great clockmaker who wound it up and let it go.**
  - **Some deists agree God has moral standards and will ultimately hold people accountable on a day of judgment.**
  - **“Luke warm” Christians are in effect practical deists because they do not pray, worship, or have a moment by moment trust in God to care for their needs that arise.**
  - **Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and many of the “Founding Fathers” were deists.**

# What is the Biblical Doctrine of Creation?

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

- *Ex nihilo* (Latin for out of nothing)

**I. God created the entire universe out of nothing.**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. Psalm 33:6

For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.  
Psalm 33:9

# What is the Biblical Doctrine of Creation?

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

## I. God created the entire universe out of nothing.

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1:3

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. Colossians 1:16

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. Hebrews 11:3

**Contradicts the idea of creation out of previously existing material as humans do.**

# What is the Biblical Doctrine of Creation?

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

## II. it was originally very good

- At the end of each stage of creation God saw what he had done was **good**. Genesis 1:4, 10 12, 18, 21 and 25
- At the end of the six days of creation God saw everything that he had made and behold it was **very good**. Genesis 1:31

# What is the Biblical Doctrine of Creation?

## II. it was originally very good

- Despite the fall and sin which affect everything, the material creation is still good in God's sight and should be seen as good by us as well. We must not embrace a false asceticism that sees the use and enjoyment of the material creation as wrong

**Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. 1 Timothy 4:1-5**

# What is the Biblical Doctrine of Creation?

## II. it was originally very good

- While the creation can be used in sinful or selfish ways thus turning our affections away from God, we must not let the danger of abuse of God's creation keep us from a positive, thankful, joyful use of it for our own enjoyment and for the good of the kingdom.

**But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. 1 Timothy 6:9-10**

**As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 1 Timothy 6:17**

# What is the Biblical Doctrine of Creation?

## **III. he created it to glorify himself**

**The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Psalm 19:1**

**bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” Isaiah 43:6-7**

**“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.” Revelation 4:11**

- Creation primarily shows God’s great power and wisdom to have made the universe out of nothing and sustain it day after day.**

# What is the Biblical Doctrine of Creation?

## III. he created it to glorify himself

- God did not need to create the universe to show his glory. He did not need more glory than he had within the Trinity for eternity. Nor was he incomplete without the glory he received from the creation of the universe.
- Creation was a totally free act of God. It was not a necessary act but something God chose to do. **by your will they existed and were created.”** Revelation 4:11
- God created the universe to demonstrate his excellence and to show all of his attributes. God created the universe to delight in his creation. This delight is manifested in humans as well for when we create something good we not only delight in it but so do many others who enjoy what we have created.

# What is the Biblical Doctrine of Creation?

## III. he created it to glorify himself

- So if God created the universe to show his glory, we should expect that the universe he created would fulfill his purpose and be **very good** just as he had purposed to do.