

Belgic Confession of Faith (1561)

Article XII

The Creation of All Things, Especially the Angels

Leader: We believe that the Father by the Word, that is, by His Son, has created of nothing the heaven, the earth, and all creatures, when it seemed good unto Him; giving unto every creature its being, shape, form, and several offices to serve its Creator;¹ that He also still upholds and governs them by His eternal providence and infinite power for the service of mankind, to the end that man may serve his God.²

People: **He also created the angels good, to be His messengers and to serve His elect; some of whom are fallen from that excellency in which God created them into everlasting perdition, and the others have by the grace of God remained steadfast and continued in their first state. The devils and evil spirits are so depraved that they are enemies of God and every good thing; to the utmost of their power as murderers watching to ruin the Church and every member thereof, and by their wicked stratagems to destroy all; and are, therefore, by their own wickedness adjudged to eternal damnation, daily expecting their horrible torments.**³

Leader: Therefore, we reject and abhor the error of the Sadducees, who deny the existence of spirits and angels; and also that of the Manichees, who assert that the devils have their origin of themselves, and that they are wicked of their own nature, without having been corrupted.

¹ Gen. 1:1; Psalm 148:5-6; Isa. 40:26; John. 1:3; 1 Cor. 8:6

² Heb. 1:3; Acts 17:25

³ Col. 1:16; Matt. 25:31