

**God the Creator**  
**Genesis 1; Job 38:1-15**  
**April 13, 2008**

- I. The Importance of a right view of the Creator
- A. Central to our understanding of God and man
1. **Spear:** “The doctrine of creation is not an isolated and unimportant matter, but is foundational to our understanding of God, of the world of reality, and of the meaning and purpose of human existence.” (28)
  2. for example
    - a. distinguishes the one true God from idols (Jer. 10:11)
    - b. calls men to account (Job 38:1-15)
    - c. calls men to worship (Ps. 95:1-5; 104)
  3. informs our relationship with God  
**Berkhof:** “The doctrine of creation is not set forth in Scripture as a philosophical solution of the problem of the world, but in its ethical and religious significance, as a revelation of the relation of man to his God.” (126)
- B. What does Scripture say about creation?
1. there are many things that God does not tell us about creation – doesn’t show all the what’s and how’s
  2. The primary purpose of Genesis account: that God created an orderly universe (God is the ultimate cause)
  3. The creation account reveals a transcendent, all-powerful, personal God  
**Waltke:** “The subject of the Genesis creation account is God, not the forces of nature.” (74)
  4. And that God creates a beautifully complex universe, dependent on him and related to him
- II. The Genesis Account
- A. In the beginning (v. 1)
1. the implication – there was a point in time when the heavens and the earth did not exist, and God existed before the creation
  2. “The work of creation is, God’s making all things of nothing”
    - a. to create – this Hebrew word always attributed to God
    - b. and this word never refers to the materials used for creation (never includes an accusative or object of material)
    - c. though this word does not necessarily refer to creation out of nothing, certainly can be used in that way
    - d. *Hebrews 11:3* <sup>3</sup> *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.*
  3. v. 1 – a summary of the whole creative act
- B. How does God create?
1. announcement – “And God said”
  2. command – “let there be light” (third person imperative)
    - a. “by the word of his power”
    - b. created by word – not emanation from God, but product of will
    - c. against Near Eastern creation myths, which taught that forces of nature were divine
    - d. against modern naturalism or evolution or atheism – that speaks with reverence about evolution or nature or Mother Nature, giving the creative qualities of God to the creation
    - e. the creation is utterly dependent upon God  
*Acts 17:28* <sup>28</sup> *for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, " For we are indeed his offspring."*

3. Report – for example, vv. 4b-5
  4. Evaluation – And God saw that it was good (“and all very good”)
- C. Days of creation
1. creation in six regular days (“the space of six days”)
    - a. the usual meaning of the word day (“yom”) – only overrule if context suggests other meaning
    - b. Genesis 1 context – the pattern of evening and morning
    - c. The pattern of the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment
  2. though I think this is the most reasonable explanation, we must be careful not to overemphasize the issue – the length of days is a minor point for the writer of Genesis
  3. outside of Genesis 1 and Exodus 20, the Scriptural references to creation focus in other directions
- III. The Importance of a transcendent, all-powerful, personal Creator
- A. Focus → the relationship between Creator and creature (Job 38:1-15)
1. beginning of God’s two conversations with Job
    - a. parallel with beginning – two conversations; LORD vs. God
    - b. parallels within two speeches
      - i. God answers Job out of whirlwind (38:1; 40:6)
      - ii. Dress for action – battle language, court language
    - c. both a dressing down of Job (battle language – v. 3a) and a war of words (court language – v. 3b)
  2. the wisdom of the Creator vs. the foolishness of the creature (v. 2; 34:35)
    - a. personal question – v. 4
    - b. impersonal questions – v. 5-15
    - c. but gives answers within the questions – vv. 4, 9 – no opportunity for Job to deny God’s creative work
    - d. created all things, including space (vv. 8-11) and time (v. 12)
  3. the purpose: put Job in his place, return God to his place
  4. You cannot even control the creation, can you control God?
  5. Right understanding of creation → right understanding of your relationship to the Creator
- B. Other proper responses to the Creator
1. produces confession of sins and repentance  
*Nehemiah 9:6* <sup>6</sup> “You are the LORD, 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; and the host of heaven worships you.
  2. produces worship (see also Ps. 104)  
*Psalms 95:3-5* <sup>3</sup> For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. <sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. <sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
  3. gives confidence in his promises  
*Romans 4:17* <sup>17</sup> as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”- in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.
  4. reminds you of your complete dependence on God (Col. 1:15-17; Rom. 11:36)  
**Waltke:** “[The Genesis account] represents the world as coming into being through God’s proclamation so that the world depends on his will, purpose, and presence.” (78)