

How Does God Execute His Decrees?

Specifically, What Is The Work of
Creation? or... “Where Did All This
Stuff Come From?”

Can God's Decrees Be Defeated, Or Fail To Be Brought To Pass?

- “My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure,” Isa. 46:10
- “Who hath resisted his will?” Rom. 9:19
- “None can stay his hand, or say unto him, what doest thou” Daniel 4:35

By What Means Does God Bring His Decrees To Pass?

- By the works of creation and providence.

What Is The Work of Creation?

- “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.” – *Shorter #9.*

Preliminary Considerations

- The creation is not eternal; it had a beginning. We know this not only from the light of nature, but also by faith (Heb. 11:3).
- The world had its beginning from God alone, who gives being to all other things that have being (Neh. 9:6).

All Things Of Nothing

- Sometimes this is referred to as *ex nihilo* creation, which simply means “out of nothing.”
- God created this world in the beginning of time (Genesis 1:1), “In the beginning....”
- There was no pre-existent matter for God to work with; he called “those things which be not, as though they were” (Rom. 4:17), “so that things which are seen, were not made of things which do appear” (Heb. 11:3).

The Space of Six Days

- Though God began his creation “in the beginning,” yet he continued it for the space of six days, consisting of one evening and one morning per day.
- God could have created in a moment of time, but saw it was more for his glory and the good of his people to set them an example of working six days and resting the seventh day.

What Is Demonstrated About God In His Creation?

- His infinite power, his extensive goodness, and his manifold wisdom
 - His power is shown in bringing all things suddenly out of nothing by his bare word, i.e. “let such and such be” (Psa. 33:6).
 - His wisdom is shown in the vast variety of creatures, as well as the order and harmony of them all (Psa. 104:24).
 - His goodness is demonstrated in their fitness both for the creation as a whole and their usefulness to men.

But Some Creatures Are Not Good

- Some creatures are hurtful to men, but they were not so at their original creation and while man continued in obedience to God. Through disobedience man has brought a curse upon both himself and the whole creation, “cursed is the ground for thy sake” (Gen. 3:17)
- Though Isa. 45:7 teaches that God creates evil, this does not mean sin as such, but the punishment of it as a just judge: thus Rom. 3:5-6 and Amos 3:6.

How Did Sin Come Into The World, If God Created All Things Good?

- Man, not God, is the originator of sin in the human race and it was by Adam that death entered the race as well, Rom. 5:12.
- This will be discussed in greater detail in a future consideration under the question, “Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?”

God's Resting From His Labor

- God is said in Gen. 2:2-3 to “rest from his labor.” That day was thereafter until the resurrection of Christ appointed (blessed and sanctified) to be the weekly Sabbath.
- This does not mean that God was weary and required rest (Isa 40:28), but it is spoken after the manner of men and it means that God ceased from creating any other sorts of creatures than those he created in the six days.

God's Resting From His Labor

- God continues, by his creating power, to uphold all things and keep them from falling back into “nothingness,” (Hebrews 1:2-3).

A New Creation As Well

- The Spirit of God, in Scripture, speaks of a new creation, made up of a new heavens and a new earth (Isa. 66:22; Rev. 21:1).
- This new creation is the church of Christ made up not only of the militant saints upon the earth, but the triumphant saints in heaven as well.
- This new creation is made by the same God who made the old one (Isa. 65:17)

A New Creation As Well

- The inhabitants of the new creation are all new creatures who have been taken out of the old creation by God's grace (2 Cor. 5:17).
- These became new creatures by a new birth (John 3:3) because flesh and blood continuing corrupted cannot inherit this kingdom (1 Cor. 15:50).
- Those who enter this new creation do so only by Christ (John 10:9; 14:6).

A New Creation As Well

- The happiness of the creatures in the new creation lies in the fact that they dwell in God and God in them (1 Cor. 3:16), walks among them as in his garden (2 Cor. 6:16), and at death they are transported by the ministry of angels to the world above (Luke 16:22).
- We should then contemplate God in all his creatures (Ps 104), acknowledge him as the rightful proprietor and sovereign disposer of them all (1 Chron. 29:11), and believe that the same almighty power of God is now exerted in the defense and support of his people.