

Salvation—Creation

(Today we are studying the doctrine of creation and its connection to salvation.)

At first sight it may seem strange that the topic of creation would be included in studying the salvation of God. The truth of creation is essential in many ways and concerning many aspects of the various doctrines of the Holy Scriptures and regarding the life and lifestyle of the believer. We cannot cover all of these topics due to the nature of our podcast since we are merely considering creation in relation to the salvation of God. In fact, one of the major reasons that God created the universe was for the salvation of those He loved and elected in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world. Since God elected some in Christ Jesus and predestinated that they would be called, justified, and glorified, it was necessary that they should be born into this world. Because eternal life was promised before the world began (Titus 1:2) and salvation by the death of Christ was foreordained in eternity (II Timothy 1:9), even to the names of the redeemed being written in the book of life from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8; 17:8), and all other components of salvation were to be fulfilled, it was necessary for God to create the universe. God created the earth in the universe for the habitation of mankind. Note Isaiah 45:18, “For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I *am* the LORD; and *there is* none else.” Therefore, all who believe the Holy Scriptures of God are not carried away with the pseudo-science of the world and know that God created the heavens and earth. As any Bible reader knows, the revelation of God begins with this declaration: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth,” Genesis 1:1. Equally, the true believer knows that the earth is the habitation of man.

Many today go to great lengths to deny the truth of creation as stated in the Bible. However, if man evolved from eternal matter the only salvation he needs is to be saved or delivered from are adversities while living in this life: sickness; financial dilemmas; death; or, other such like issues. After all, if there is no hereafter; there is no salvation. But there is a general belief found in the history of man of a supreme being that created the universe and that there is life after death or a state where a person dwells forever. Nevertheless, as previously stated, every Bible believer knows and understands that God created the heaven and earth. Even our Lord testified of this. In Mark 13:19, Jesus said, “For *in* those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.” Furthermore, Jesus stated that God created mankind as male and female: “But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female,” Mark 10:6. Jesus further stated the purpose of creating male and female: “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” Mark 10:7-9. From this and other passages regarding creation, we know that the first couple was a male and a female and their names were Adam and Eve. This is what God ordained for the human race. The Scriptures further declare, “Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge,” Hebrews 13:4. While the ungodly may deny this and practice their unholy lifestyle, believers who are saved by the grace of God will honor this by living according to the commands of God. The Lord willing, we will have more to say about this in the future, but for now we need to direct our attention more specifically to the need for creation regarding the salvation of God. In many ways, I believe it is rather obvious, yet we will try to give some light concerning this topic.

Previously we studied the purpose of God, the sovereignty of God, and the election, adoption, and the predestination of God regarding salvation. In order for these things to materialize it was necessary for those elected, adopted, predestinated unto calling, justification, and glorification to be created. A plan is of no benefit unless it comes to pass.

I want to interject at this point that salvation is not limited to those whom the Father loved before the foundation of the world, but the whole creation is involved. Romans 8:19-23 speaks of the creation groaning and travailing as it waits for the manifestation of the fullness of salvation. It says, "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body." (It is to be noted that the words "creature" and "creation" are the same Greek word.) There are other passages that affirm that the creation is connected with salvation. However, we will give two of many that could be supplied: (1) II Peter 3:13 says, "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2) Revelation 21:1, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." The holy city of God is to dwell on this "redeemed" earth with the redeemed people of God.

While there are various opinions as to how all of this may play out, we are not prepared to discuss that in this podcast. Our only purpose for introducing this in our study is to clearly demonstrate that the study of the salvation of God includes knowing the truth about creation and that it was necessary that God create the universe. In connection with this, it might be good to keep in mind that not only was creation essential, but it was vital that the creation is exactly what we have. In other words, due to the wisdom and perfection of God there could be no other creation. It is true that God has the power to create a different world but since He does all things "good" and "very good" and to harmonize with His perfection and wisdom, this is the only world that could be.

The creation, like salvation, is for the glory of God. Listen to Revelation 4:11, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Earlier when we studied about those elected unto salvation and predestinated unto the adoption of children, we saw that that, too, was according to good pleasure of God and for His glory. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved." And again, "That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." Ephesians 1:4-6, 12-14. Obviously, we can multiply verses throughout the Scriptures to show that the creation of God and the salvation of God are so intertwined that one is as essential as the other. While modern Christianity sing the praises of and applauds the importance of salvation and the preaching of the gospel for the attainment of this salvation, little is said regarding the importance and beauty of worshiping the God of creation. The angel in Revelation 10:6 said, "[S]ware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein." And the angel in Revelation 14:7 equally proclaimed, "Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

Unless there was a creation, there would be no salvation. It is not a matter for philosophical reasoning of what God might have done or what He could have done. The creation of God was essential for the salvation of God. All the purposing, election, predestination, and other activities of God before the foundation of the world would have been of no benefit without the creation. Hopefully, you are blessed to see the divine importance of creation and that this subject is far more important and man trying to

determine his origin. Man continues to spend billions and billions searching the depths of the ocean, the archeological digs of the earth, the planets, and the expanse of space trying to figure out how we got here. Equally, because the philosophers and so-called scientist tell us that our earth is wearing down and we need to establish some colony or outpost for the salvation of life. The creation of the universe by God is for the salvation of God. It is the Christian that is at peace with God because he knows how he got here, why he is here, and where he is to spend eternity. Equally, he knows that the creation of God is a vital part of salvation.

The Lord willing in our next podcast we will devote some time to the providence of God over His creation. Nevertheless, our time is up for today. Farewell.