

1689 LBCF – Chapter 4 – Of Creation Detailed Outline

- I. **(1) God creates the heavens and the earth**
 - A. **The time of creation: “in the beginning”**
 - B. **The Author of creation: “the Trinity”**
 - C. **The purpose of creation: “God’s glory”**
 - D. **The extent of creation: “all things seen and not seen”**
 - E. **The duration of creation: “six days”**
 - F. **The state of creation: “all very good”**

- II. **(2) The creation and condition of mankind (pre-fall)**
 - A. **Made after the “image” of God**
 - B. **Made in innocence with the “law” written in their hearts**
 - C. **Made upright, bit with liberty to transgress**

- III. **(3) Man’s communion with God (pre-fall)**
 - A. **Adam and Eve were in direct communion with God**
 - B. **Communion with God was based on obedience to God**
 - C. **Adam was given dominion over the earth and its creatures**

Stephen Charnock regarding God, temptation, and our first parents’ disobedience:

“God never willed sin by his preceptive will. It was never founded upon or produced by any word of his, as the creation was [made by his word]. He never said, ‘Let there be sin under the heavens,’ as he said, ‘Let there be water under the heavens.’ Nor does he will it by infusing any habit of it, or stirring up inclinations to it; no, ‘God tempts no man’ (James 1:13). Nor does he will it by his approving will; it is detestable to him, nor ever can he be otherwise. [Yet] the will of God is in some sort concurrent with sin. He does not properly will it, but he wills not to hinder it. To will sin as sin would be an unanswerable blemish on God. But to will to permit it in order for good is the glory of his wisdom. [sin] would never have peeped up its head, unless there had been some decree of God concerning it. And there would have been no decree concerning it had not God intended to bring good and glory out of it. God wills the permission of sin. He does not positively will sin, but he positively wills to permit it. And though he does not approve of sin, yet he approves of that act of his will whereby he permits it. Though God hated sin, as being against his holiness, yet he did not hate the permission of sin, as being subservient by the immensity of his wisdom to his own glory.”

Books for further study:

Richard Barcellos, *Better Than the Beginning: Creation in Biblical Perspective*. 2013