



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

A Systematic Study of Bible Teachings (Dogmatics) Lesson 3.1 – The Doctrine of Creation

The Triune God Is the Creator

The Bible begins with the account of God's creation of the universe and everything that is in it. **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"** (Genesis 1:1). The following verses (Genesis 1:1 – 2:3) describe the events of the first week of human history: the six days in which God did His work of creating and the seventh day in which He rested from the work of creation.

All of God's people in the Old and New Testaments accepted the teaching of creation as an undisputed truth. They addressed their prayers to the God who created the world. King Hezekiah of Judah prayed to God in a time of great peril, saying: **"O LORD God of Israel...You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth...Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his (Sennacherib of Assyria) hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone"** (2 Kings 19:15-19). In the days of Nehemiah, the Levites praised the world's Creator: **"You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them"** (Nehemiah 9:6). The apostle John heard voices in heaven praising the Creator: **"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created"** (Revelation 4:11).

God Himself appeared to Job and claimed to be the Creator: **"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?"** (Job 38:4). God went on to point out to Job some of the details of that creation. Many of the psalms and proverbs refer to God's act of creation. For example: **"You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands"** (Psalm 102:25). **The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens"** (Proverbs 3:19).

All three persons of the Triune God participated in the work of creation. The apostle Paul told the Corinthian Christians: **"For us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live"** (1 Corinthians 8:6). Paul wrote to the Colossians about Jesus: **"By Him (Christ) all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible"** (Colossians 1:16). Elihu, Job's young friend, declared: **"The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life"** (Job 33:4).

Before God created the universe, nothing existed anywhere except God alone. Thus, God created everything out of nothing. **"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible"** (Hebrews 11:3). Notice that God created everything simply by speaking: **"God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light"** (Genesis 1:3).

Our Lord Jesus clearly accepted the Genesis account of creation as the truth. When the Pharisees asked Him about divorce, Jesus responded: **"Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female...?"** (Matthew 19:4).

The world itself shows us that there is Creator God, and the Bible tells us that God created the universe. Nevertheless, many today reject this obvious fact. They propose other explanations for the origin of our world. Pantheists do not distinguish between the Creator and His creation. They say that God is all and all is God. Others claim that God and creation are both eternal. Today most people

who reject God's creation of the universe propose a theory of evolution as the explanation for the world. The theory of evolution claims that our present world is the result of a process of gradual development caused by natural forces in the world. The theory of evolution is popular because it eliminates God and eliminates God's laws and God's judgment. The apostle Paul wrote that, by nature, human beings "**suppress the truth in unrighteousness**" (Romans 1:18).

Most evolutionists are atheists. They believe that there is no God at all. Others claim to be theistic evolutionists. They propose that God created the universe by means of evolution. Both atheistic evolution and theistic evolution contradict God's account of creation in Genesis. Most scientists are evolutionists who claim that creation is unscientific. But there are a number of scientists who accept God's account of creation. Some of them are able to explain how all the fossil and geographic evidence agrees with the Bible's teaching. They show that the evidence does not support evolution. Believing that all things just developed by themselves by chance really requires much more faith than believing that God created the world: "**For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God**" (Hebrews 3:4).

It is a sad fact that most American churches, including Lutheran churches, have rejected Genesis as a factual account of creation. Most have given in, at least partially, to the claims of evolutionists. But the acceptance of evolution generally leads to a denial not only of Genesis but of the rest of the Scripture as well.

Questions

1. Where in the Bible do we find God's own account of creation?
2. What passages show that Old Testament believers accepted God as Creator?
3. How would you answer God's question to Job in Job 38:4?
4. What passages prove that it was the Triune God that created the universe?
5. How did God create the universe?
6. Why do we believe that God created the universe?
7. How do we know that Jesus Himself accepted God's account of creation?
8. What is the most common view of the origin of the world where you live?
9. What is the difference between atheistic and theistic evolution?
10. Is there any conflict between true science and the Bible? Why or why not?
11. Why is the theory of evolution so popular in our world today?