



# The Scriptures and Creation

by Charlie Frederico

The scene is the throne-room of God. It is a magnificent scene, one which only a few men in the Bible were allowed to see.<sup>1</sup> In this place are creatures full of wonderful variety and magnificent creativity. There are living beings, elders, and myriads of angels. There are also the souls of saints who have been slain for their testimony to Christ.

This is the vision that the Apostle John was given by God concerning the end of history as we know it. What John saw was wonderful. However, what he heard was just as wonderful. He heard these creatures, specifically, the living beings, praising God. They seem to be continually repeating the same phrase: “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME” (Rev 4:8). This repetition is necessary because of the immense holiness and glory of the God in whose presence they are. God is holy, separate from all things.

There are others repeating a similar phrase. When the four living creatures speak their repetitious line, the elders also repeat their statement. These elders are twenty-four human beings who possess a certain amount of authority in heaven and are around

the throne of God Himself. They utter a refrain that is pertinent to our consideration in this article. Listen to what they say: “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created” (Rev 4:11). Think about this statement. The elders repeatedly asserting in Heaven one basic premise: God is worthy of worship because He created all things by His will. This is remarkable! In Heaven, before God’s throne, God is continually worshipped because He created everything that exists. This seems to indicate the magnanimity of His act of creation. God’s ability to create is so wonderful and grand and demonstrates such a display of God’s glory, that it is repeatedly a topic of worship in Heaven.

The first part of the elder’s statement is: “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power . . .” This is worship in its most basic sense. Worship is the recognition of the high value, or worth of something or someone. In this case, the worship of God is appropriate since God, and God alone, is worthy of this honor. Only God is worthy to receive “glory and honor and power.” That is, true glory and true honor and true power only come from the God of Heaven. It is only appropriate that it be recognized in God’s Heavenly throne-room.

However, what is the basis of this glory, honor, and power? The answer comes in the next phrase: “for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.” At the beginning of this phrase is the little word “for.” This little English word in Greek is the familiar causal particle *hoti*. This particle at the beginning of the sentence tells us the reason for the praise from the elders. Something has caused the praise of God’s glory, honor, and power. Something has caused the living beings to cry out concerning the holiness of God. The cause of this praise is nothing less than the God’s creating “all things.”

At this point, stop and consider. The scene is Heaven. The beings here are

near to the throne of God. God is all-powerful, holy, immense, and eternal. And, with all that God is personally, and all the attributes that flow from the person of God, the one thing that causes praise in the mouths of the elders is the creation of all things! All the worship in God’s throne-room centers around the fact that all things were created solely by the will of God! Given that reality, we can easily see that our priorities have often been out of place. Instead of scrutinizing God for what He has created, we should worship Him for it.

## I. HAVING FAITH IN CREATION

There are a number of key passages in Scripture that affirm the reality of God’s creative handiwork. With that said, this article is not intended to be a defense of Biblical creation.<sup>2</sup> Rather, its purpose is to lead the reader to a deeper worship of God. Scripture clearly demonstrates that God created all things. Scripture never indicates that the creation record in Genesis 1-2 is anything less than historical fact. And not only fact but a wonderful, marvelous, and glorious fact. It posits the creation act as the pivotal display of the very power of the God Who can do all things because He created all things.

Few passages summarize the act of creation as well as Hebrews 11:3.

The summary that this verse affords crystallizes the proper perspective on the matter. It reads, “By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”

Notice first, the statement of the preeminence of “faith.” Faith is the instrument by which we understand the preparation of the world. What does that mean? Simply put, it means that we believe the creation account of Genesis 1-2 as it is written. The writer of Hebrews states that it is by “faith” that we comprehend the vastness of the creation of the heavens and the earth. Faith, as is previously written in Hebrews 11:1, is “*The assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*” The “things hoped for” and the “things not seen” are not arbitrarily defined by us. These things are defined by the rest of chapter 11 as those things expressly written in Scripture. Notice that the writer takes an entire chapter and identifies the people who were assured of things hoped for and confident of things they could not see. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and the rest of the figures in Hebrews 11 attest to the importance of believing in God even though they could not see what He was telling them. Although God’s promises had not come true yet, it does not mean

they will not come true, as in the case of creation. Faith is believing the Word of God without reservation.

By faith, then, we understand that God designed, created, and now sustains all creation just as it has been written in Genesis 1-2. Further, those things created were not created out of already existing material. The writer of Hebrews 11:3 summarizes this for us by saying, “*what is seen* (sun, moon, stars, Earth, people, animals etc.) *was not made out of things which are visible* (preexisting matter).” This is a clear rebuke to any form of evolution. Evolution necessarily dictates that everything came from an earlier form of something. Whether you are talking about the origin of life or the development of life from lower forms of apes to a higher form of ape, namely the human being, their entire system demands that all of it came from some eternal, preexisting matter. It also demands that man is empty and meaningless in such a universe.

But this is not what Hebrews 11:3 teaches. This verse, built upon the solid foundation of earlier revelation, maintains that matter is not eternal. Matter is a created substance that was the design and creation of a God Who is above matter. He is not in the matter and the matter is not from His

substance, as the New Agers would assert. Matter, all of it, was designed and created in six literal, 24-hour days and it declares the glory of God and is under the rulership of man.<sup>3</sup> We understand that on the basis of Scripture and by the instrument of faith.

## II. THE WORD OF CREATION

Another passage that gives further credence to the realities of God's creative powers is John 1:1-5. John wrote,

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

In this passage, the Scripture teaches us even more about creation. God did not simply create the universe, but He created it through the agent of "the Word." Who or what is the Word?

First, the Word was in the beginning. The Word existed before the beginning since He was there in the beginning.

This statement echoes Genesis 1:1, which says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." In writing the Gospel of John, the Apostle John is starting in creation to establish the eternity of Jesus Christ.<sup>4</sup> As such, the Word was in the beginning, the very beginning of creation as stated in Genesis 1:1.

Next, the Word was with God. That is interesting. To say that the Word was with God is to say that the Word was close in proximity to God. Therefore, He is separate from God and yet, because He was in the beginning, He was God. So, two distinct Persons are mentioned here: God and the Word.

Third, John tells us that the Word was God. This Word was next to God and yet the same as God. Fourth, given the finer description of the Word, we learn that all things came into being through Him or through the Word. He was, as was stated before, the agent of creation. That is, the Word expressed His power in obediently carrying out of the will of God when God said, "Let there be . . ." God spoke and the Word obeyed. Notice also the content of what was created in John 1:3. "Nothing came into being that has come into being." That is pretty comprehensive. Anything that exists exists by the Word. That

is all inclusive statement. Every atom, particle, piece of matter, and even time itself came into existence through the Word. Borrowing from the earlier statement in Hebrews 11, we understand this by faith. We understand this because we believe that this is exactly what the Scripture means because this is exactly what it says. How marvelous is the fact that God, through the Word, Jesus Christ, created all existence by His word! He simply commanded, and it was done. Or, as the Psalmist says, "For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast" (Ps 33:9).

At this point, it is important to assert that the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures, never contradict the act of creation by God, through the Word, in six 24-hour days. The repetition of the Scripture on these points makes it obvious that the creation of all that exists, even time, was established in six days. To deny this would necessitate a tremendous amount of emendation, which is unthinkable for the Christian.

## III. THE OLD TESTAMENT AND CREATION

In contrast to much modern thinking on this issue, we have the clear testimony of Scripture itself which repeatedly

testifies to God's creative power. As it relates to the Creator, the Scripture repeatedly admits that God, the God of Scripture, as the only Creator of all that exists. Let us review these truths from God's precious Word.

Exodus 20:11, "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy."

Isaiah 40:22, "It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in."

Isaiah 40:26, "Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing."

Isaiah 40:28, "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable."

Isaiah 42:5, “Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it.”

Psalms 104:2-5, “Covering Yourself with light as with a cloak, Stretching out heaven like a tent curtain. He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters; He makes the clouds His chariot; He walks upon the wings of the wind; He makes the winds His messengers, Flaming fire His ministers. He established the earth upon its foundations, So that it will not totter forever and ever.”

And, of course, God’s own address to Job appeals to creation. Consider the following statements from God to Job.

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? “On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy? “Or who enclosed the sea with doors When, bursting forth, it went out from the womb; When I made a cloud its garment And thick darkness its swaddling band, And I

placed boundaries on it And set a bolt and doors, And I said, “Thus far you shall come, but no farther; And here shall your proud waves stop?” (Job 38:4–11)

Job 38:33, “Do you know the ordinances of the heavens, or fix their rule over the earth?”

Job 38:36, “Who has put wisdom in the innermost being or given understanding to the mind?”

I can imagine what God would say to the evolutionists and skeptics who do not believe Scripture on the issue of creation. It is recorded in God’s dealings with Job,

“Now gird up your loins like a man; I will ask you, and you instruct Me. Will you really annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me that you may be justified? Or do you have an arm like God, And can you thunder with a voice like His?” (Job 40:7–9).

#### IV. THE NEW TESTAMENT AND CREATION

The New Testament confirms and builds upon what is clearly stated as true in the Old Testament. The Apostles unanimously affirmed that God created all things in the very manner prescribed in Genesis 1-2.

Consider the following passages.

Matthew 19:4-6, “And He answered and said, ‘Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, ‘FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH?’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

Mark 10:5-9, “But Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. ‘FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH;’ so they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

Mark 13:19, “For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will.”

John 1:1-3, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came

into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

Acts 4:24, “And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, ‘O Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM.’”

Acts 14:15, “And saying, ‘Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM.’”

Acts 17:24-26, “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation.”

In Romans 5:12-19, the Apostle Paul gives a rather lengthy testimony to God’s creation. He writes,

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned— for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience

of the One the many will be made righteous.

First Corinthians 11:7-9, "For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake."

First Corinthians 11:12, "For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God."

Second Corinthians 11:3, "But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."

Colossians 1:16, "For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him."

Hebrews 1:1-2, "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all

things, through whom also He made the world."

Revelation 21:1, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea."

Apparently, God will create a perfect heavens and earth in which absolute righteousness exists<sup>5</sup> within a single day, the very day that God judges all humanity, death, and Hades.<sup>6</sup> Should we reject God's future creation in one day because of our pre-understanding that all things need material and time in order to form? Absolutely not! Then why do we not give glory to God for the six days in which He created a lesser cosmos?

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, a more fitting praise of God cannot be given than that which David gave in Psalm 19:1-14. May God, the Creator, be glorified!

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has

placed a tent for the sun, Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices as a strong man to run his course. Its rising is from one end of the heavens, And its circuit to the other end of them; And there is nothing hidden from its heat. The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward. Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults. Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me; Then I will be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer." (Psalm 19:1-14)

## Endnotes

- 1 Moses was allowed to see the throne-room of God in Exodus 24:9-11. Ezekiel was allowed to see it in Ezekiel 1:22-28; Isaiah in Isaiah 6:1-7; Daniel in Daniel 7; the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:1-4; and the Apostle John in Revelation 4-5.
- 2 For a defense of Biblical creation, see “The Evidence for Creation” and “Evolution vs. Creation” in this issue of /jtst/.
- 3 Gen 1:26, 28.
- 4 See John 20:30-31.
- 5 See 2 Pet 3:13.
- 6 See Rev 19:11-21:1.