

Theme: God created everything that exists – including the heavenly and earthly realm, and the spiritual and physical aspects of the universe.

I. Intro – The Story Begins

- A. Creation is the place to start
- B. It is where Scripture begins!
- C. Creation determines fall, redemption, consummation
- D. What did God create?
- E. Why did God create?
- F. What is man's place within creation?

II. Two Phases of God's Creative Work

- A. Phase one – God created ex nihilo
 - 1. "In the beginning" (Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1)
 - 2. ex nihilo – without pre-existing material
 - a. Necessitated by biblical concept of God (wk 1)
 - b. John 1:1,3; Col 1:16; Heb 11:3
 - c. God spoke – "Let there be"; Ps 33:6,9
- B. Phase two – God formed the universe
 - 1. A formless universe is now "formed"
 - 2. Genesis 1:2-3; 9; 11; 2:7 – more next week

III. Two Realms of God's Creative Work

- A. The two realms: heavenly and earthly
 - 1. Not really Gen 1:1; but is Col 1:16
 - 2. Col 1:20; Eph 1:10; Mt 6:10
 - 3. Heaven – God's throne; earth – physical universe
- B. Creation is both realms – not one or the other
 - 1. God's creative work entails both realms
 - 2. God's plan and our future entail both

IV. Two Aspects of God's Creative Work

- A. Aspect one – spiritual entities
 - 1. Col 1:16; Psa 148:2,5; Heb 1:14; Mat 8:16
 - 2. Includes angels, Satan and his demons
- B. Aspect two – physical entities
 - 1. Gen 1:1; Col 1:16; light; sky; ground; plants, animals
 - 2. Most of creation falls into this category
- C. Man: The spiritual-physical being
 - 1. Man alone is both spirit & physical (Gen 2:7)
 - 2. To be man, must be both spirit and physical

V. **Applying the Word (Develop More in Coming Weeks)**

A. Do we see creation's relation to God?

1. It is dependent upon God – not eternal
2. It is distinct from God – not pantheism
3. It is God's work – not dispensable junk

B. Do we see the two realms of creation?

1. God made both the heavenly and earthly realm
2. Both realms are important
3. This world **is** our home in a real sense

C. Do we see the two aspects of creation?

1. Both the physical and spiritual are important
2. Gnostics see physical as bad
3. God says both are good – & part of who we are
4. God's purposes equally involve both

God's Creative Work

Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16

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1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
John 1:1-3

16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.
Colossians 1:16

3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.
Hebrews 11:3

6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth... 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.
Psalm 33:6, 9

10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment-- to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.
Ephesians 1:10

10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Matthew 6:10

2 Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts.... 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.
Psalm 148:2, 5

14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?
Hebrews 1:14

16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.
Matthew 8:16

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler
yet.
This is my Father's world: the battle is not done:
Jesus Who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heav'n be one.

VI. Applying the Word (Develop More in Coming Weeks)

- D. Do we see creation's relation to God?
1. It is dependent upon God – not eternal
 2. It is distinct from God – not pantheism
 3. It is God's work – not dispensable junk
- E. Do we see the two realms of creation?
1. God made both the heavenly and earthly realm
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- F. Do we see the two aspects of creation?
1. Both the physical and spiritual are important
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 4. God's purposes equally involve both