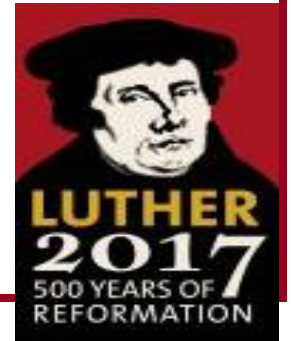


Creation of the World

Genesis 1:1- 2:3 Psalm 19:1-4a

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IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

Seven Hebrew words that mirror the seven days of Creation.

Only 33% of people believe these words; most everyone else believes in some kind of evolution <http://www.pewforum.org/2013/12/30/publics-views-on-human-evolution/>

They even have a new name for those who believe these biblical words about Creation: “Young Earth Creationists.” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young_Earth_creationism

Almost every major denomination and their seminaries (where they train their pastors and teachers) now teach “Theistic Evolution”. Theistic Evolution tries to merge creation with evolution, thus undermining and denying the Word of God.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acceptance_of_evolution_by_religious_groups

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

If you believe these words you are certainly in the minority; but *you are being faithful to Holy Scripture!*

God Himself teaches us about the creation of the world, and we believe Him. As a conservative Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregation, we are some of the few who still hold to God’s miracle of Creation where God created the heavens and the earth in six days, and He rested on the seventh day. Here is how we confess it to the world:

Of Creation

We teach that God has created heaven and earth, and that in the manner and in the space of time recorded in the Holy Scriptures, especially Gen. 1 and 2, namely, by His almighty creative word, and in six days. We reject every doctrine which denies or limits the work of creation as taught in Scripture. . . . We accept God's own record with full confidence and confess with Luther's Catechism: "I believe that God has made me and all creatures."

A Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod (1932)
See the whole statement in .pdf download: search for "LCMS BRIEF STATEMENT"

In worship, we confess God as our Creator when we say in the creeds:

“I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth”

APOSTLES' CREED

“I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.”

NICENE CREED

The Bible's opening words are these:

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.

It's almost as if right away, right at the start of Holy Scripture, God is testing you to see if you will believe Him and His Word, or if you will look elsewhere for the truth.

With these words “**In the beginning**”, the eternal God began time and space. Days are now marked by evening and morning. Out of **nothing**, God creates **everything!** The New Testament confirms these words:

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

Genesis 1:1 continues

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

This noun and verb teaches us about the Creator. The words actually are “God (plural) created (singular).” It is the first lesson we get in Holy Scripture about God's nature; right away we learn that there is a plural-ness and a singular-ness to God. “**Gods created**”. As Scripture unfolds, we are taught what this means. We learn that God is “three and one”, the Holy Trinity: One God, in Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is the mystery of the Holy Trinity that God has revealed to us.

When the Bible says that **God created** the Heavens and the Earth, it means the Holy Trinity – One God in Three Persons -- created the Heavens and the Earth. The Bible teaches us that all three persons of the Godhead were involved in Creation.

GOD THE FATHER

For us there is but one **God, the Father**, from whom all things came and for whom we live; 1 CORINTHIANS 8:6

GOD THE SON

[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 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. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. COLOSSIANS 1:15-17

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the waters. GENESIS 1:2

When the Bible says that **God created** the Heavens and the Earth, it means the Holy Trinity created the Heavens and the Earth. If you believe the earth evolved into its existence, then one of the implications is that all these verses are wrong, God is not the Creator and the Bible is untrustworthy.

When the Bible says that **God created** the Heavens and the Earth, it means the Holy Trinity created the Heavens and the Earth. **Creation is a miracle of God; *it is not*** man “developing and evolving” over millions of years.

The first verse in the Bible continues . . .

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH

During the first three days of Creation, God was **forming the earth**: during the last three days of Creation, God **filled the earth**.

- **God created the heavens, earth, water, sky, and land on the first three days:** and then
- **He filled the heavens with the sun, moon, and stars; He filled the earth with all kinds of fish and birds; with vegetation, animals and people on the last three days.**

When we say **“In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth”**, we are making a bold confession of faith in God the Creator; **we are categorically rejecting evolution as the world’s origin.**

† If you are caught up in the ways of the world and have compromised the doctrine of creation, then repent! If you believe the world evolved into being, then humble yourself and believe God’s Holy Word! **Evolution is a deception; it is false science and just more lies from Satan to turn you away from God! If you reject the doctrine of Creation, then you are rejecting the Word of God and your accountability to the Creator. If you doubt that God could create the heavens and earth in six days, then you will never believe that He could create a new heaven and a new earth where your dead body rises from the dead and lives forever. Evolution is a deception; it is false science and a lie from Satan!** Turn away from the false teachings of the world and trust the Holy Trinity’s Word in the Bible about how He created the World in six days!.

The Bible teaches us unequivocally: **“In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth.”** Right at the beginning of Holy Scripture, God is testing you to see if you will believe Him and His Word, or if you will doubt Him look elsewhere for answers.

Ultimately, the doctrine of Creation serves the doctrine of salvation. **The doctrine of Creation helps us better understand God’s work of salvation for us.** The Creator of the World is also the Savior of the World!

- † God's **almighty Word** spoke and creation came about; so too, God speaks **His almighty Word** in your life and its power crushes your sinful pride and rebellion and creates faith and trust within you. The Gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to you! *Faith comes by hearing; and hearing of the Word of God.* Romans 10:17
- † Just as God created life **out of nothing** when He created the Heavens and the earth, so too, God creates New Life in you **out of nothing** when He give you spiritual life. In sin, you have nothing to offer God; there is no life in you. *We were dead in sin but made alive in Christ.* Ephesians 2 God creates New Life in you **out of nothing** when He gave you spiritual life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- † Just as the Holy Spirit hovered **over the waters** in Creation, so too, the same Holy Spirit hovers **over the waters** of Baptism and makes you a new Creation in Christ. *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation"* 2 Cor 5:17. Jesus said, *"You must be born again of water and the Spirit."* John 3 Salvation is described in Creation images. New life and new birth come from the Holy Spirit through the waters of Baptism: the Holy Spirit continues His work of creation in you.
- † The world **belongs to God** because He made it; He is the Creator. **You belong to God** because He is not only your Creator but also your Savior. The God of Creation promises to watch over you, provide for you, and take care of you. You know the God of creation **and** salvation as the Holy Trinity --- One God in Three Persons --- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! You belong to God!
- † Just as God the Holy Trinity **alone** created the Heaven and the earth and all things in them; so too, God the Holy Trinity **alone** works salvation in you through His Word and Sacraments. *The God of Creation is the God of your Salvation!* Both creation and salvation is God's work alone!

The only way to know the God of creation is to know His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus said, **"No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6)";** and **"No one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. (Mt 11:27)."**

God has chosen you to reveal Himself to through His Word and Sacraments. It's no surprise that the world doesn't believe in creation --- it doesn't know Christ as Savior. **BUT YOU DO.**

You know and believe in God as creator because you know and believe in Jesus as your Savior! Jesus' journey of salvation brought Him out of heaven and onto earth: He was conceived, born, lived, suffered, died, was buried, resurrected, and ascended back into Heaven. His salvation journey reunites you with the Creator; by His death and resurrection you are reconciled to the Holy Trinity; by His grace and mercy alone your sins and guilt and death are replaced with forgiveness and peace and eternal life! ***The God of creation is the God of salvation!***

Most Christians no longer hold to the Genesis account of the creation of the world. **BUT WE DO.** We trust God's Holy Word. And we know that the doctrine of creation teaches us about the doctrine of salvation: ***The God of creation is the God of your salvation!***

Amen!