

From what we know about  
God, how is his divine  
providence reflected in  
Creation, Humans, and the  
Bible?

# Theology I - GOD

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# The External Act of Creation

## THE CREATION REPORT

- Questions Regarding the Creation Report
- Creation an External Act of God
  - Creation is the action of one God
- The Ultimate End of Creation

## DISCUSSION POINTS

- Two narratives of Genesis:
  - Genesis 1 – A general description of the work of creation
  - Genesis 2 – Brings creation in relation to the history of God's church in the OT
  - Genesis 2 – Supplementary and Explanatory
- The Soul of Man

God had a stated purpose in creation. He created "for his own ends" (Proverbs 16:4) and for His glory (Isaiah 43:7). He "formed [the earth] to be inhabited" (Isaiah 45:18). All creation is thus an expression of His will and His power.

Questions Regarding the Creation Report:  
The book of Genesis is canonical, it is divinely inspired and therefore contains God's own account concerning the beginning of the world and human race.

Creation an External Act of God

The Ultimate End of Creation; and  
Two narratives of Genesis:

The Seventh Day  
God's finished His work of creation...

**Exposition of Truth: According to Genesis 2:7 God did not make a body and put a soul into it like a letter into an envelope of dust; rather he formed man's body from the dust, then, by breathing divine breath into it, he made the body of dust live, i.e. the dust did not embody a soul, but it became a soul—a whole creature.**

# Creative Acts of God

- The act of creation must be regarded as a free act of God, so that God was not compelled to create the world by any inner necessity of His divine essence. Ps. 115:3

Book of Genesis account: 2 Tim. 3:16; John 10:35; -(Genesis 1 & 2)

- The Bible informs us exactly how and when man was created, it gives us no account whatever concerning the creation of angels. Nevertheless, they, too, were made within the hexaemeron, Gen. 2:1-2. Since scripture reveals to us everything that is necessary for salvation, we should not try to supplement the divine record by human speculation.

### Genesis 2

1-3 Inauguration or induction of the seventh day; the first Sabbath, a day of rest...

4-7 a display of the manner of creation

8-20 The Garden of Eden & the river thereof.... Note vv. 15

21-25 The making of woman and the institution of marriage.

*The competing thoughts of two narratives of Genesis in reference to the work of creation: Genesis 1*

1. *All of God's creation outside of man & the host of heaven.*
2. *The creation of man*
3. *Supplementary (Genesis 2)*
4. *Explanatory (Genesis 2)*

## Two narratives of Genesis:

*What is supplementary and explanative about God creation and works from the perspective of Genesis 2?*

*How do God's creation contribute to the OT Church history?*

The history of the Church of God, the Creator, which is begun in Gen. 2, is therefore narrated as that of the Church of Jehovah, the eternal Lord of His people.

- Genesis 1 – A general description of the work of creation
- Genesis 2 – Brings creation in relation to the history of God's church in the OT
- Genesis 2 – Supplementary (Complimentary, additional) and Explanatory (Descriptive, instructive, clarifying)

## The Souls of Men:

The Bible teaches that we consist of body, soul and spirit: "May your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus" (I Thessalonians 5:23). Our material bodies are evident, but our souls and spirits are less distinguishable.

"Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die" (**Ezekiel 18:4 (ESV)**).

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.  
<sup>36</sup> For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? <sup>37</sup> For what can a man give in return for his soul" (**Mark 8:35-37 (ESV)**)?

1. As the soul of Eve was produced by propagation from Adam so, it is generally held among Lutheran dogmaticians, that the souls of children are produced by propagation rather than by direct creation (traducianism, not creationism).
2. The soul of the first man was immediately created by God; but the soul of Eve was produced by propagation, and so the souls of the rest of men are created not daily... "but by virtue of the divine blessing are propagated by their parents." (Quenstedt.)
3. Traducianism is inferred:
  - a) From the primeval blessings of God, Gen. 1:28; 9:1
  - b) From God's rest and cessation from all work on the seventh day, Gen. 2:2
  - c) From the production of the soul of Eve, Gen 2:21-22
  - d) From the general description of generation, Gen 5:3
  - e) From Ps. 51:5

**According** to soul creationism, God creates each individual soul directly, either at the moment of conception or some later time. **According** to traducianism, the soul comes from the parents by natural generation. **According** to the preexistence theory, the soul exists before the moment of conception.

**Our spirit differs from our soul because our spirit is always pointed toward and exists exclusively for God, whereas our soul can be self-centered**

1. Creation is the work of the Triune God. It is ascribed to the Father (I Cor. 8:6), to the Son (Heb. 1:10; John 1:3; Col. 1:16) and to the Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:2; Ps. 33:6). Yet, through the Three Persons of the Trinity concurred in this work, the creative power or omnipotence, to which the universe owes its existence, is numerically one, so that we must not speak of three creators, but only of one, John 5:17.
2. Creation is an action of the one God... "It is likewise an action of God alone, which neither ought to be, nor can be ascribed to any creature." (Chemnitz.)
3. When scripture occasionally declares that all things were made by the Father through the Son or Holy Spirit, Ps. 33:6, this must not be construed into any inequality of persons, as the Arians blasphemously asserted that "the Son was God's instrument in creation, just as the workman uses an ax" (Chemnitz.)
4. The three persons of the Godhead are not three associated causes, not three authors of creation, but one Cause, one Author of creation, one Creator.

1. According to Holy Scripture the ultimate end of creation is the glory of God. In other words, the world was created ultimately for God's own sake, Prov. 16:4 or for His glory, Ps. 104:1. For this reason not only men, but all creatures are exhorted to praise God, Ps. 148.
2. Manifested in God's Creation:
  - a) His goodness, Ps. 136;
  - b) His power, Ps. 115
  - c) His wisdom, Ps. 19:1; 104:24; 135:5
3. The ultimate end of creation is the glory of God, the intermediate end of creation is the benefit of man, Ps. 115:16; 60:7-8

## The Seventh Day

God's finished His work of creation... (The Sabbath)

<sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. **Genesis 2:1-3 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. **Revelation 16:17 (KJV)**

<sup>26</sup> Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is a Sabbath, there will be none." **Exodus 16:26 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> And on the seventh day ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work. **Numbers 28:25 (KJV)**

## Answer the questions:

1. What do we learn about God from the seventh day of His rest or the Sabbath?
2. What is unique and important about the seventh Day?
3. How is it that men did not enter into the seventh day of God's rest?
4. What does it mean to enter into God's rest?
5. What does the number seven refer to?
6. What is the Sabbath and why did Jesus say he was Lord of the Sabbath? (Mark 2:28)
7. On the internet I came across statements saying "your soul is yours, but the spirit belongs to God". What is the problem with this statement? Explain

# Week 9 Summary

The act of creation must be regarded as a free act of God, so that God was not compelled to create the world by any inner necessity of His divine essence, Ps. 115:3. God is sovereign!

# Thank You

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