

Week 3

WE CREED: through Him, all things were made

The next statement with the Second Article of the Nicene Creed states: *(We believe)* “through whom (Christ Jesus) all things were made.”

Benefits abound living in rural America. Having the beauty of countryside surround you on all sides certainly is one; another is being able to stare into the endless sky above unmasked by the constraints of light pollution.

Travelling home the other night, after having taken the boys for a car ride and the obligatory “pup cup,” we noticed the skies were simply majestic. Without warning, I pulled the car over a few miles outside of town and I swerved the wheel into cemetery parking lot. I lowered the windows, turned off the lights and ignition, and invited my wife to join me in gazing upon the eternal canopy overhead. Instantly, the milky popped into view – the grandeur of which can’t be seen even from within the town’s limits.

I find it fascinating how immense the cosmos truly is. For when we look up, we’re not just peering into our Milky Way galaxy, but seeing countless other galaxies and nebula beyond our own. I know I touched on this in Week 1, but one of my favorite scriptures comes from the book of Amos. It’s one sentence that seems (upon first glance) to be out of place.

Consider what Amos wrote”

“He who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the Lord is his name...” (Amos 5:8, ESV).

The Pleiades a grouping of stars, that you can see with your naked on a very clear evening (with little to no light pollution). The Pleiades are also known as the “seven sister” and are

roughly some 439 light years away from Earth. That means, if we could travel at the speed of light, it would take longer for humanity to travel there, than Israel was enslaved by Egypt. The distance to the seven sisters is so vast, that it would look like this in a mathematical equation: $439(5.879e+12)$. I don't math, but that's a LONG WAY from our earthly home.

Now, to geek ya out just a bit more, we can see the Pleiades by looking at Orion (the hunter), and looking over *his* left should and up just a bit. Now about Orion, some of its stars are the largest in our viewable scope – so large in fact they make our own sun look miniscule. And from within Orion, is a nebula named the same; and that nebula is some 1,350 light years from earth. These are but just two constellations and star formations within our night sky. Wowzers!

Amos said the LORD made these. This is Yahweh we're talking about. This is Jesus, through whom *all things* were created, that we're talking about. Today, we're going to look at the scripture to back up the church father's claims, and all the ramifications of what "all things"... is.

We touched on a couple of these scriptures in the last two weeks, but let's revisit them and add a couple more.

- John 1:3, 10
- Hebrews 1:1–2, 10
- Isaiah 40:22–26
- Isaiah 44:24

Question: The author of Hebrews and the Prophet Isaiah tell us that Christ (Yahweh in the flesh) was the one who formed the universe with his hand.... How do you envision he did this?

Question: What do you think it means that the Lord “stretched out the heavens”? (as Isaiah wrote).

A couple weeks ago we skimmed over one more passage that we cannot overlook:
Colossians 1:16–17. The Apostle Paul wrote this:

“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

The opening phrase suggest that God just isn’t the creator of all that is, and ever was, but that Jesus is the instrument of God’s creation. Read, consider, and discuss this passage from Proverbs 8:22–30.

Question: How do you see Jesus as a “master workman” / “the architect at his side” ?



Let's touch on a subject that can be seen as... a touchy one for not just Christians, but all people the world over. When Paul said "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities..." we know he's speaking of angelic beings, and of an organized dominion in the spirit world.

Most believers don't doubt that God is the creator of all things, visible and invisible, including the the angelic realm. But we also know a large percentage of those "rulers and authorities" don't have our well being in mind. Consider this warning the Apostle Paul gave to the church Ephesus:

*"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the **rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.** ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm" (Ephesians 6:12-13, ESV).*

I know we'll never answer this question; yet it's often asked—perhaps you've asked it too. "Why would have Jesus created Satan and demons (before they rebelled and fell), if he knew beforehand they'd revolt and cause so much human suffering? Ultimately, we'll never know the answer to such a profound and inexplicable question. Yet, Jesus created them too.

Question: Do you believe Jesus created them, *knowing* they'd rebel and fall, *knowing* humanity (and all of creation) would suffer, for a specific reason? What do you think those reasons may be?



FOR HOME

Take some time over the next few weeks when the skies are clear, drive out into the country, and just gaze upon the stars. Think about Jesus creating all that you can see with the work of his hands.

Journal your thoughts afterwards:
