

## **I Believe in Creation (Part 1)**

I believe in creation. I believe that this world was created by Almighty God. As the Apostle's Creed states, "I believe in God the Father, Maker of heaven and earth." The first verse of the Bible says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1.1). Thus, the existence of this world is not the result of chance; it is the result of God's creative power.

The doctrine of creation is important for the following reasons: it is a Scriptural teaching and emphasis (e.g. Genesis 1; John 1); by studying creation we learn more about God; the doctrine of creation influences what we believe about other teachings such as the doctrine of humanity, sin, and redemption; plus, the contemporary significance of this issue demands attention since so many today hold to some form of naturalistic evolution. Let me share three affirmations about creation.

First, God created the world out of nothing. Hebrews 11.3 states, "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." The Latin term for this is *creatio ex nihilo*, which means "creation out of nothing." According to the Bible, only God is eternal and self-existing. The Apostle Paul refers to God as one "who alone is immortal" (1 Timothy 6.16). Thus, before creation only God existed. No other being or thing has eternal existence—not matter or angels or Satan. Only God has existed from all eternity.

Speaking of God's creative power, Romans 4.17 says that God "gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist" (ESV). We can make things out of existing material, but only God can create out of nothing. That is why the Hebrew word *bara*, which means "to create," is used only of God in the Old Testament. The fact that God can create out of nothing magnifies the power of God. God created this world by his spoken word. In Genesis 1, God said, "Let there be," and there was. He literally spoke this world into existence. What power! Also, in light of God's act of creation we recognize the authority of God. As Creator of the world, God has the right to govern the world and demand its worship and obedience. Since God alone is Creator, to worship anything else is idolatry (see Romans 1.25).

Yet, what about science? What about the claims of Darwinian evolution? Didn't the world evolve into its present form through natural selection after beginning with the Big Bang some 15 billion years ago? Well, it takes faith to accept evolution; I think more faith than to accept God as Creator. Why? Because no one was there when the world began and the fossil record has never proved that one species evolves into another species. If a person holds to the teaching of Scripture, there are four non-negotiables related to creation: God created this world, he created this world out of nothing, he created this world with a purpose, and he created humanity uniquely in his image. These truths are clearly revealed in Scripture, and I do not believe that Darwinian evolution coincides with these beliefs. It attributes the existence of this world to time and chance; the Bible says God created this world with a purpose.

*Pastor Mark*