

How Does God Execute His Decree?

- **God executes his decrees in the works of creation and providence, according to his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will.** (WLC14)
- Creation must be understood from a Christian Perspective
- Simply because a “Christian” holds a view does not make his or her view Christian (i.e. Biblical)

How do Christians understand Creation

- **Created by God:** not the ultimate end, but created for a purpose (i.e. manifesting the Creator’s glory)
 - Creation has Dignity
 - God is separate from His Creation, but sustains and governs it by His providence

How do Pagans understand Creation

- **The Product of Evolution:** random variations and chance have produced the world as we know it; contradicting the Laws of the Thermodynamics by becoming more ordered over time
- **The World Evil:** matter is bad or to be avoided; spiritual thoughts, mental exercises are good (cf. Greeks, Plato)
- **The World is Worthy of Worship:** thank the buffalo spirit, etc. for giving us his flesh for our teepee

Triune Creation (WCF 4.1)

It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days; and all very good.

Triune Creation (WCF 4.1)

- **The World is neither eternal nor self-existent, but the Cosmos derives its existence from God**
- **God made all things of nothing**
- **God formed the universe until it was *very good* in His Sight**
- **God created for His own Glory**

Triune Creation (WCF 4.1)

- **Purpose of Creation**
 - Creation exists for the glory of the Creator *not* the happiness of the Creature
 - Creation is a *theatre* for the glory of God
- **Triune Creation:** Father, Son, and Spirit were all present at the Creation and involved in Creation

Triune Creation (WCF 4.1)

- **The Cosmos is Not Eternal**
 - *Nothing comes from nothing, nothing ever could*
 - God made everything in the universe:
 - **Psalm 24:1-2**, *The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.*

Triune Creation (WCF 4.1)

- **The Cosmos is Not Eternal**
 - God did not merely order pre-existing materials
 - God spoke the universe into existence
 - Contrast with a modern/ “scientific” worldview

Triune Creation (WCF 4.1)

- **Creation “in the space of Six Days”**: There is no reason for a conflict between Science and Religion
- Any conflict between science and religion comes because men have erred
 - In Investigation or theories re: the facts
 - In Understanding of Scripture
 - Combination of the above

Triune Creation (WCF 4.1)

- **Some orthodox men have not held to a view of a literal, six-day Creation**
 - Augustine
 - B.B. Warfield
 - J. G. Machen: "It is certainly not necessary to think that the six days spoken of in that first chapter of the Bible are intended to be six days of twenty four hours each. We may think of them rather as very long periods of time"

Main Views on "six days" held in PCA

- **Calendar Day:** 24-hour days; yom = day
- **Day-Age View:** each day is a very long period of time
- **Framework:** Gen 1-2 is poetic, organized topically rather than chronologically
- **Analogical:** the six days represent periods of work by God, but do not conform to our days

Triune Creation (WCF 4.1)

- **Creation is Good**
 - God pronounces each day's work as good
 - God's creation is excellent according to His design

Mankind Culminates Creation (4.2)

After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after His own image; having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfil it: and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject unto change. Beside this law written in their hearts, they received a command, not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which while they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.

Mankind Culminates Creation (4.2)

- **Summary**
- Man is the Crown of Creation
- All Humanity descended from one pair
- Man made in Image of God
- God gave Adam sufficient knowledge and power of God's will to keep it perfectly

Mankind Culminates Creation (4.2)

- **Mankind is Unique:** not the product of development from lower creatures, but from the dust of the ground
- **Reasonable Soul:** no other creature is so capable
- **Immortal Soul:** because he is like God, there is a part of man that cannot die and is made to be in communion with God

Mankind Culminates Creation (4.2)

- **Unity of Mankind:** Adam the father of all mankind there is therefore only one race (or *two* Adam's race and Christ's race...but we digress.)
- **Sin's Entry:** all of mankind descending from Adam are tainted by sin
 - Mankind is either in Adam or in Christ
 - "Racism" would require multiple redeemers!

Mankind Culminates Creation (4.2)

- **Imago Dei:** man created like God
 - Moral creatures accountable for our well we show forth His image (moral accountability)
 - At Creation: integrity and truth
 - Ruler over Creation (for God)

Mankind Culminates Creation (4.2)

- **Morality of Mankind:** Positive moral character
- **Prohibition:** one certain tree forbidden; that Law summarized all other moral commands
 - "Become like God" more true than they imagined
 - Honour God in what He provided in resources
 - God's image corrupted in Mankind, but not lost

Mankind Culminates Creation (4.2)

- **Christ the Model Man:** does the Father's will
- Consider NT use of Psalm 8
- **Hebrews 2:8-9**, *Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

Rom 5:12-15, *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.*

¹⁵*But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.*

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Regeneration of Mankind

- **Christ is the Image of God:** we are re-created after His image
- **Tension of the Christian Life:** we still live in the old world, in the old body
