

# WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH SHORTER CATECHISM

## LESSON # 10 (Q1LES10) - CREATION QUESTIONS# 9 & 10

### 1. Prayer

### 2. Bible reading: Genesis 2: 4 - 25

3. **Review:** Last week we learned that The Decrees of God are his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass. Everything that occurs, happens because the Godhead, as represented in the trinity, wills it to happen. God, being infinitely righteous, causes good actions to occur, and also allows evil actions to occur. God also has selected from the beginning, those who will be saved, and those who will be cast into eternal damnation. Everything which God causes to happen or permits to occur is done for God's glory.

God executes his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

4. **Introduction:** This week we will talk about God's works of creation. God's works of creation are covered in the SC, in two questions, questions 9 and 10. Creation is one of the most interesting, and controversial issues facing mankind. Just as Paul said that if Christ did not rise from the dead, our faith is in vain, if creation, as presented in the Bible is not true, then the rest of the Bible cannot be trusted.

### 5. Questions.

Question 9. **What is the work of creation?**

Answer: **The work of creation is, God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.**

Question 10. **How did God create man?**

Answer: **God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.**

6. **The WCF, SC and LC** - The WCF devotes an entire chapter, chapter 4, **Of Creation**, to this subject. SC q9 and LCq15 are the same, as are SC q10 and LCq17. The LC answers are slightly expanded over the SC answers. Between q15

and q17, the LC inserts a question about the creation of angels, which we will look into if we have time.

## 7. GOD'S WORKS OF CREATION

a. Why did God create the world? For the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness (WCF, chapter 4, para 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,....."*

b. Genesis contains two accounts of creation.

- Gen 1 : 1 through Gen 2 : 3 is considered the chronological account
- Gen 2 : 4 through 25 is considered the "how" account

From the first account, it would appear that the Garden of Eden was prepared before Adam and Eve. The second account, (Gen 2: 5 – 6) if taken chronologically, does not agree with this.

c. What is creation? My Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary says creation is: "a creating or being created; the act of causing to exist; the act of bringing into existence." There are other definitions having to do with art (the creation of artists). The final definition says *"the creation; in theology, God's creating of the world."*

**God's making all things out of nothing:** The Scriptures verses used to back up "out of nothing" in the WCF, LC, SC, do not use these words. They rely on the definition of "created" or other words to define "out of nothing" (Latin Ex Nehilo). Lets look at two scripture verses:

- **(Heb 11:3 *"through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."*)**

"things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" seems to say all was made of nothing.

- **(Gen 1: 1 - 2 <sup>(1)</sup>*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* <sup>(2)</sup>*And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*"**)

I wish I was a Hebrew scholar, and understood what the Hebrew words for "without form" and "void" are. In v1 of the second proof, we are told that God

created the heaven and the earth. It notes that the “earth was without form, and void”. My trusty dictionary defines “void” as “empty; vacant; not occupied with any visible matter; as a void space or place. The earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep”

d. by the word of his power:

What do you think is meant by “by the word of His power”?

A reference to Christ doing the creating.

- **(Heb 11:3 *“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”*)**

and in

- **(John 1:1 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*)**

and

- **(Psalm 33: 5 - 6 *“(5) He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. (6) By the word of he Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth”*)**
- **(Gen 1: 3 *“And God said, let there be light, and there was light”*)** And Christ is frequently referred to as “the light”.

Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26, 29 make it abundantly clear that God spoke the world into existence.

e. in the space of six days (I found this concept one of the hardest to accept. Public schools teach evolution as fact, not a theory – but it is full of holes):

- According to Gen 1:1 – 31, God created the world in six days.

**day 1** God created:

heaven  
earth  
waters  
light  
divided light from darkness

**day 2** God created:

firmament (heaven)  
divided waters

**day 3** God created:  
gathered waters together (seas)  
dry land (earth)  
grass, the herb yielding seed, fruit tree yielding fruit

**day 4** God created:  
lights in the firmament (to divide day from night)  
greater light (for day)  
lesser light (for night)

**day 5** God created:  
moving creatures in water  
fowl of the air  
capability to multiply

**day 6** God created:  
living creatures of the earth - the beast, creeping things  
man in our image  
plants to eat

God is almighty, omnipotent, etc. Why did he take 6 days to create the world, instead of just snapping his fingers and creating it instantly?

Because he wanted too.

- Although the first book of Genesis makes it clear that God created the world in six days, probably no other passage has caused so much discourse. Detractors point out that
  1. God create the days before he created the sun, which determines the length of the days.
  2. Adam could not have named all the animals in one day
  3. If the term used for day is not literal, there is time for the man to evolve from the animals.
  4. a zillion other excuses not to believe God's Word.
- The Bible says six days. The word used for day (Hebrew "yom"), when used in conjunction with "evening and morning", always means a literal day.

Any further discussion?

d. and all very good

**(Gen 1: 31 “And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”)**

God made everything good. What does this mean?

God made everything without sin

All the evil which since has come into the world, is either sin itself, which is the work of the devil, or the fruit or consequence of sin.

## 8. God created man:

a. The best description of the creation of man is given in **(Gen 2: 7 “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”)**

This verse says a lot. Note:

- Note use of term “man”. In this usage it includes only male.
- Man made of “dust of the ground”
- Lord breathed (spired) life into his nostrils
- Lord gave man a soul. The LC, Q17 (same as SC Q10) mentions that man was created with a soul, the SC does not mention this.

b. male and female

**(Gen 1:27 “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”)**

Note use of term “man” in Gen 1: 27. In this usage it includes male and female.

c. after his own image

**(Gen 1: 27 “<sup>(26)</sup>And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.)**

What is meant by “his own image” TV - Similitude of likeness of God.

- Negatively, it does not mean the physical likeness of God. God is a spirit (Q4), and a spirit does not have a body.
- Positively, TV “ inward resemblance of his soul to God, in knowledge, righteousness and holiness.” This would be before the fall.

d. **in knowledge, righteousness and holiness**

WCF, c4p2 says, “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;” (Col 3:10 **“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”**) And (Eph 4:24 **“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”**)

What knowledge had man when he was first created?

- knowledge of God
- knowledge of God’s law
- knowledge of God’s creatures
- of all things necessary to make him happy

What righteousness had man when he was created?

- TV - “Man had at first in his will a disposition, accompanied with an executive power, to every thing which was right, and to give that which was both due to God and also to man, had there been any man besides him”

What holiness had man when he was created?

- TV - Man’s affections at first were holy and pure, free from all sin and defilement, free from all disorder and distemper; they were placed upon the most holy, high and noble objects. Man at first had true and chief love to God (remember why we were created); his desires were chiefly after him, and his delight was chiefly in him, and no creature in the world had too great a share. As for grief, and shame, and the like affections, though they were in man radically, yet they were not in man actively, so as to put forth any acts, until he had committed the first sin; then he began to mourn and be ashamed.”

e. with dominion over the creatures

***(Gen 1: 28 “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”)***

- Before the fall, man had total dominion over all the rest of the living creatures.
- After the fall, man lost his control over the animals. There was death, and many of the animals became carnivorous.

9. **What about angels?**

- a. The LC had an additional question (Q16) “how did God create angels?” God created all angels spirits, immortal, holy, excelling in knowledge, mighty in power, to execute his commandments, and to praise his name, yet subject to change.