

01-01-01-The Two Creations-Part 1
 God, creation, regeneration, Holy Spirit
 Gen 1:1

The God of our creation is also the God of our re-creation.

INTRODUCTION:

–**Gen 1:1**, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” This is the 1st sermon of 4 on “The Two Creations,” about how *the original creation reminds us of the transition from our old life to a new life in Christ.*

–“*Genesis*” [**Latin trans.** of LXX title, “origins” (**Heb. title**, *Bereshith* is “in the beginning”)] *is the seedbed of the whole biblical orchard* [esp. **Gen. 1-3**].

–Some doubt the Bible’s *creation account*, but *faith has its reasons*:

- 1) [“Journey to the Center of My Heart” is my story of **losing faith** in *evolutionism*]
- 2) [**Tract I read** about Darwin’s conversion in old age & **Darwin in Heaven** joke]
- 3) [**Moses’ 40-day stay** with the Creator; if the *Decalogue* is *accurate*, so is *Genesis*]
- 4) **Jesus treated the biblical creation account as trustworthy**– **Mat 19:4**,

“Haven’t you read, that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’”

–I still have *unanswered questions* about the *Genesis creation account*, but I trust in its *reliability*. (*Ongoing questions should never cancel answered ones*...because in heaven, *all of them will be fully answered*.)

–*Studying Genesis with this confidence* allows us to *see how God works* not just as *Creator*, but as *re-Creator*. **HOM.idea**. The *pattern in the original creation* is *similar to how God creates saints from sinners*.

So, *in studying about creation in Genesis* [1st book of the *Torah*, or the *Law*], we’ll depend on the NT’s Gospel revelations. [**Matthew Henry**: “*Lord, open our eyes, that we may see the wondrous things both of thy law and gospel!*”]

I. God is the God of Beginnings (“*In the beginning, God...*”)

A. **God takes center stage in creation**. (It’s not about *how*, but *Who*.)

B. The various meanings of the word, *God*, are very significant—

1. **God in English** is from the Anglo-Saxon word for “good” (both as the *standard of goodness* AND as the *source of good things*).
2. **God in Hebrew** is *El* [*strong one*], but here *Elohiym* [**plural of El**, used with a *singular verb*; a *grammatical impossibility*, but a *Trinitarian reality*: **Three Beings acting as one**– **Gen 1:26a**. And God said, **Let us** make man...].
3. **God in philosophy** is *First Cause*, *Designer*, the *Power* of laws. [**Atheists** say *God is a figment of the imagination*. In philosophy, *atheists are figments* of the *First Cause* and *come from the Great Designer’s imagination*.]

TRANS: *Why should we get to know this God?* This Triune God began our creation. But He also initiated our salvation– **2 Cor 5:19**, “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.” If we realize that our Creator was the Triune Godhead *Elohiym*, then we’ll understand that this Holy Trinity is together—all Three Beings—our one Savior. **The God of our creation is also the God of our re-creation.**

II. God Is the God of New Beginnings (“*In the beginning, God created...*”)

A. **God is uniquely the Creator** (in the way He “created” [Heb., *bara*,]).

1. The result of *bara* is *always something new and instantaneous*.
2. The word *bara* is *used only of God*, and it *describes something coming ex nihilo*—out of nothing.
 - a. *Human skill can only fashion or re-arrange what already exists* in creation, (God can *create both things and people*).
 - b. *Wayward human wills can deface, ruin, and destroy* both things and people, including themselves, (God can *re-create people!*)

B. **God is uniquely the re-Creator** (Maker of a new creation)

1. **He creates us each uniquely in the womb**. [**No identical snowflakes!** How much more unique are “*fearfully and wonderfully made*” humans?]
2. **He wants to re-create us**, making us into *new creations through new birth*– **2 Cor 5:17**, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

TRANS: *Praise the Lord! God creates people*, and can also *re-create them*. The *God of birth*, is the *God of rebirth*. In Christ we become *new people*, a *re-creation*, a *new creation*. This tells us about *who we are as body-spirit beings*. *God doesn’t cancel the one to bring about the other*.

III. God is the God of the Earthly and the Heavenly (“*In the beginning God created ...the heavens and the earth.*”)

A. **God created the cosmos**, making the *laws of our physical body*:

1. When *natural law* is obeyed, there’s *life and safety*; when it’s *disobeyed*, there’s *danger*, even *death* [**Biological homeostasis** must be maintained; *small variations in the internal environment* can *spell trouble*.]
2. **Even if we obey these laws**—which God equips both our bodies and our minds to do—*eventually homeostasis is stopped* by *accident, disease* or *aging*, and *we return to dust*.
3. But **God isn’t done** with our *dust*. **Christ created a new law** called

resurrection. (His original plan for us to be body-spirit beings wasn't just for this life, but for eternity in a renewed cosmos!)

- B. God also created the heavens, making the laws of our spiritual being:
1. Moral law wasn't given to frustrate us, but to fulfill us spiritually.
 2. BUT we fail to keep it— Rom 3:23, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Our destiny isn't to be forever alive in bodies of resurrected dust, but never succeeding in our spiritual lives.)
 3. God wants His heavenly will for us in eternity is to start now, while we await our resurrection bodies:
 - a. Our created earthly life and our re-created heavenly life are to be fully integrated—the two creations to be one new creation.
 - b. This oneness is seen in the union of earthly and heavenly love:
 - (1) We see this integration in the two greatest commandments— Mat 22:37-40, Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (...stated in the Bible, but shown in Christ.)
 - (2) We see it the way God considers loving our earthly neighbor and loving our heavenly Father as one integrated love— 1 Jo 4:20-21. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

CONCLUSION:

–There's no division or separation of the *two creations*, because they are the work of one Creator Whose holiness defines the goodness of them both. **The God of our creation is also the God of our re-creation.** The God of our physical dust is the God of our spiritual destiny.

–There's one big difference in our *creation* and *re-creation*. God created us with no involvement of our will, but He won't re-create us without it. We must choose for our *Maker* to become our *Master*. We must, by free will, decide for our *Designer* to become our *Deliverer*. If you know God only as Creator of your life, then take the next step to make Him the Lord of your life.