

19-124-1-Our Trust in the Creator

the Creed, God, Father, omnipotence, creation, providence

Psa 124:8

“I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.”

INTRODUCTION:

–The *Apostle’s Creed* is the Church’s oldest *statement of faith*. Like a *divine baton*, it’s entrusted by one generation to the next, preserving orthodoxy within Christianity. The Creed keeps us in touch with what was held and proclaimed by the earliest disciples. Jesus promised, *“I will build My church,”* and I think one of His important *construction materials* was the formation of this Creed.

–The historical purpose of the Creed was to keep the Christian faith orthodox [*ortho*=“straight” or “right”/*doxa*=“thought” or “opinion”]. It gave the churches and new converts Scripturally orthodox statements to counter false ideas infiltrating early Christianity. Heretical beliefs have not ceased to circulate, and the need for the Creed has never diminished.

–The first statement in the Creed is this: **HOM.idea**. Many Bible verses describe God as *“Maker of heaven and earth,”* but the example I want to quote is Psa 124:8, *Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth*. This verse puts two elements in our belief about God together. He’s not just the Creator, but He has a fatherly concern for that part of creation called “the human race.”

I. We Believe in God

- A. [In my *senior year in HS*, I heard an anthropologist lecturing on his theory that a gene in the DNA might be responsible for the tendency of humans to believe in God. This was to explain why belief in God is universal in the human history of every geographic location.] The Bible’s explanation is better: “In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.” We’re part of creation, and God built into us the tendency to believe in Him.
- B. Not just that, but the *design* of the cosmos is so fine-tuned that it’s obvious creation isn’t the result of a series of accidents– Rom 1:20, For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities–his eternal power and divine nature–have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.
- C. God went beyond making *His existence obvious in nature* or embedding a belief in Him into human thinking: He communicated

with us, not only *indirectly* but *in person*:

1. He spoke through spiritual leaders and prophets– **Heb 1:1**, In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, (through *angelic appearances, dreams, and visions*)
2. **Heb 1:2**, but in these last days he has **spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. When God spoke through His incarnate Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, He was getting as personal and direct as He could possibly could.

TRANS: With God speaking in our conscience, in nature, in the mouth of prophets, and even from the mouth of His Son, we have no logical defense for unbelief– **Psa 14:1a**, The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” Most religions have a belief in God. The important point is, Which God is the real One. Christians say, **“I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.”**

II. We Believe in the Author of Creation

- A. When the Gospel first started to spread, there was a philosophy prevalent in the Mediterranean called Gnosticism [Gnostics taught that God created human spirits, but *a false god created the material world*, attaching *humans to corruptible physical bodies*. *Salvation* meant being *set free from the physical world* and totally at one with God in the spiritual world. They were called *Gnostics* (from the Gk. word *gnosis* or *knowledge*. In order to reach the next level in spiritual progress, Gnostic believers had to be initiated into progressive levels of secret knowledge that only Gnostic leaders could impart.] (**Satan seems to be the first Gnostic teacher: he convinced Adam and Eve that the forbidden fruit would open them to a knowledge that would make them “like God,” the ultimate spiritual Being.**)
- B. As Gnosticism began infiltrating the early church, the Apostles Creed was developed to fight it and to keep Gnostics from being baptized by using this statement: **“I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.”** (If the true God made both the *spiritual world* and the *physical world*, then *both worlds were good* and both worlds were **sacred** in God’s eyes.)
- C. [**Christian History Magazine** did an issue on Gnosticism in early Christianity, and the lead article is entitled, “The Heresy that Wouldn’t Die – Though Gnostic sects faded in the early church, Gnostic ideas have had a long shelf life.”] Even today there are Gnostic elements are hidden in the way some Christians view the material world.

1. *How did that happen?* Early Christian monks adopted and passed on Gnosticism’s view that the material world was corrupt and that the physical body was spiritually defiled.
2. Persistence of that view in Christian thought today sets up a false dualism of spirit over body, whenever we treat the body as unimportant in God’s plan. (But Christ’s *physical Incarnation and bodily Resurrection* condemns such false thinking.)

TRANS: Belief in God as “*the Maker of heaven and earth*” is very *human-friendly*, because our destiny, like Christ’s, is to be heavenly spirits in glorified earthly bodies forever and ever. But the verse we started with has another extremely important aspect in God’s identity– **Psa 124:8**, *Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.* God is the *believer’s Helper*, because...

III. God is Our Almighty Father

- A. The Fatherhood of God is a uniquely Christian concept.
 1. That the 2nd Person of the Trinity became a human Son with God as His Father goes against the usual religious concepts of God.
 2. Yet, this eternal *Fatherhood* in God, stated in Christianity, offers the most human-friendly view of God among all others religions.
- B. Christ who called God “My Father,” taught us to pray to Him as “Our Father,” because His Incarnation and death in our place was to bring us into a relationship with God as our Father– **Heb 2:9b-10a**, ...he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many *sons* to glory... [*sons* = “children”].

CONCLUSION:

–**Psa 124:8**, *Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.* God isn’t just a *theological fact*, but at a *Real Person*, the most real Person in the universe. Because He’s the Maker of both our spirits and our bodies, and because He is a caring Father, we have the help we need to get through this life, and throughout eternity– **Rom 8:32**, He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? That’s our Father, and that’s why we say, **“I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.”**