

The Apostles' Creed: Week 2

...Maker of heaven and earth...

In the Scriptures:

1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

...God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. ...Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

(Genesis 1:1-4, 1:31, 2:1)

2. Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?

Tell me, if you understand.

Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!

Who stretched a measuring line across it?

On what were its footings set,

or who laid its cornerstone—

while the morning stars sang together

and all the angels shouted for joy?"

"Who shut up the sea behind doors

when it burst forth from the womb,

when I made the clouds its garment

and wrapped it in thick darkness,

when I fixed limits for it

and set its doors and bars in place,

when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther;

here is where your proud waves halt'?"

(Job 38:4-11)

3. Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. 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.

(Heb 11:1-2)

...Maker of heaven and earth...

As described by Christian writers:

4. Because children have abounding vitality, because they are in spirit fierce and free, therefore they want things repeated and unchanged. They always say, "Do it again"; and the grown-up person does it again until he is nearly dead. For grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony. But perhaps God is strong enough to exult in monotony. It is possible that God says every morning, "Do it again" to the sun; and every evening, "Do it again" to the moon. It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but has never got tired of making them. It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we.

-G.K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*

5. "When you sit down to eat, pray. When you eat bread, do so thanking Him for being so generous to you. If you drink wine, be mindful of Him who has given it to you for your pleasure and as a relief in sickness. When you dress, thank Him for His kindness in providing you with clothes. When you look at the sky and the beauty of the stars, throw yourself at God's feet and adore Him who in His wisdom has arranged things in this way. Similarly, when the sun goes down and when it rises, when you are asleep or awake, give thanks to God, who created and arranged all things for your benefit, to have you know, love and praise their Creator."

-Basil the Great, *Martyrdom of Julitta*

6. "Nothing created by God is evil. It is not food that is evil but gluttony, not the begetting of children but unchastity, not material things but avarice, not admiration but vanity. It is only the misuse of things that is evil, not the things themselves."

-Maximos the Confessor, *400 Chapters on Love*

Why we believe in Creation:

- The universe is a fantastically beautiful work of art. Although as human beings we are incapable of fully understanding it, we can still appreciate its beauty, and see it as the work of a great artist, a Creator who invented every kind of life and joy.
- Everything that exists is in some way good. Evil is also real, but it always involves spoiling or corrupting something good. For example, if an animal suffers pain, that is a type of badness, but it only counts as bad because the animal is itself a good thing. Or, if a person commits a crime, they cannot do it without using their knowledge and strength, which are both good things. So good is more basic than evil. God is perfectly good, and he created the world to be good as well. In the rest of the Creed, we will learn what God has done about all the evil in the world.