

I. Creation

- a. "Oh Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made"
- b. It is hard for us to 'consider' creation
 - i. Is it really 7 days of creation or is each day an eon?
 - ii. Different scholars have different schools of thoughts and there are competent arguments for each position
 - iii. I want us to focus ('consider') on creation, not the amount of time it took God to create the universe
 - iv. We focus on our particular planet and all that God created on our planet
 - v. Genesis 1:14–16 (ESV) ¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—**and the stars.**
 - vi. Look up into the night sky and see all the stars that God created
 - vii. We have divided them up into galaxies and solar systems
 1. We live in the Milky Way galaxy
 2. "Currently, the observable Universe, which has a radius of 46.5 billion light-years, seems to contain at least two trillion galaxies." (www.nineplanets.org)
 3. A light-year is how long it takes light to travel in one year (186,000 miles per second; you can circle the earth's equator 7.5 times in one second at the speed of light)
 4. We use the idea of light-years because if we used standard measuring, like miles, the numbers would be astronomical!
 5. For perspective, the sun is 93,000,000 miles from the earth, and it takes the sun's light about 8 minutes to travel that distance
 6. An astronomical unit is the distance from the earth to the sun
 - viii. It doesn't take long for my brain to become overwhelmed at the distances and sizes of the **known** galaxies
 - ix. And God only gives us three words for all of this, "and the stars" (Genesis 1:16)
- c. "Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee, how great Thou art"

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II. Take Away Sin

- a. "And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in"
- b. In all of God's creation, we are but one small part

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- c. On the sixth day, after creation the entire cosmos (including the earth and everything on it), God creates humanity
 - i. Genesis 1:26–27 (ESV) ²⁶ Then 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 birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
 - ii. It doesn’t take us very long to violate God’s law and get kicked out of the garden
 - iii. Genesis 3:21–24 (ESV) ²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. ²² Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

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- d. But God had a plan already in place to redeem humanity
 - i. Matthew 13:33–35 (ESV) ³³ He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.” ³⁴ All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. ³⁵ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.”
 - ii. The age of the Kingdom (the church) was planned before God laid the foundation of the world
 - iii. Ephesians 1:3–4 (ESV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love
 - iv. 2 Timothy 1:8–9 (ESV) ⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,
 - v. The phrase, “before the ages began” in the Greek is literally “before times eternal”
 - vi. Titus 1:1–2 (ESV) ¹ Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth, which

accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began

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- e. God created us with our salvation already planned
 - i. Acts 2:22–24 (ESV) ²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.
 - ii. God’s definite plan was sacrificing Jesus for us
 - iii. God’s definite plan was the Church with Jesus as its head
 - iv. Colossians 1:15–20 (ESV) ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
 - v. Jesus’ precious blood has redeemed us, bought us back, reconciled us with God
- f. “Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee, how great Thou art”

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- III. Take Me Home
 - a. “When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!”
 - b. Hebrews 9:27–28 (ESV) ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

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- c. Christ has dealt with our sin. Next, we go home!
 - i. Ephesians 2:19 (ESV) ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
 - ii. Philippians 3:20 (ESV) ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
 - iii. We must constantly remind ourselves of our home
 - iv. Not the country we are residents of, but the kingdom we are citizens of

- v. Colossians 1:13–14 (ESV) ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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- d. Paul longed to be with Christ (Philippians 1:23)
- e. We are to patiently wait for his return (James 5:7-8)
- f. “Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee, how great Thou art”

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- IV. My Soul Sings
 - a. God is great... all the time
 - b. When we sing this hymn, we recognize and praise the greatness of the almighty God
 - c. How great Thou art!