

THE DOCTRINE OF CREATION

Virgil Warren, PhD

The doctrine of creation is unique to the Judaeo-Christian and Islamic heritages.

I. Biblical Materials

- A. Genesis **1:1**; **2:4**; Isaiah **45:18**; note other statements about “made” heaven and earth (Acts **4:24**; **14:15**; **17:24-25**; Exodus **20:11**; Psalm **146:6**; Hebrews **1:2**; Revelation **14:7**; 1 Peter **3:5**)
- B. John **1:1-3**: “*All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that was made.*”
- C. Colossians **1:15-17**: “*In [the Firstborn] all things were created in the heavens and on the earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, dominions, first causes, or powers. All things have been created through him and to him.*”
- D. Hebrews **11:1-3**: “*Through [the Son] [God] made the worlds.*”

II. Alternatives to Creation from Nothing

- A. Eternality of matter
 - 1. Big bang plus collapse into black holes plus another big bang (the “pulsating universe”)
 - 2. Entropy plus “anti-entropy” as ongoing principles in tension
- B. God’s creating the material universe out of himself
- C. Emanationism: the physical realm is to God like a ray from the sun

III. The Scope of Creation (presumably all that is not God)

- A. People
- B. Angels
 - 1. The word *angels* refers to
 - a. Messengers in general (Luke **7:24**; **9:52**; James **2:25**)
 - b. Supernatural spiritual beings, messengers of God (Matthew **1:20**, *etc.*)
 - (1) Guardian angels (Matthew **18:10**; Acts **12:15**?)
 - (2) Good angels: Gabriel (Luke **1:19**); Michael (Jude **9**)
 - (3) Bad angels = demons (2 Peter **2:4**; Jude **6**)
 - c. Evangelists (? Revelation **2:1**, **8**; 1 Corinthians **11:10**?; *etc.*)
 - d. Spirit of a dead person (Acts **12:15**?)

e. Angel of the Lord = deity in Judges **6:19-24**: “*And the angel of the Lord departed out of his sight. And Gideon saw that he was the angel of the Lord. And Gideon said, ‘Alas, O Lord Jehovah, for I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face.’*”

2. That angels are created beings seems clear from Psalm **148:2 + 5** (cp. 2 Kings **21:3**; Jeremiah **33:22**; Daniel **7:10**; Zephaniah **1:5**) and Colossians **1:16**
3. Satan (2 Corinthians **11:14**)

C. Impersonal/material universe

IV. Creation and the Principle That “*From nothing nothing comes*” (*nihil ex nihilo*)

christir.org