

Synopsis of Creation readings by Dr. Chris Baglow.

“The doctrine of creation refers to God, by a love, power, and wisdom that are absolute and unimaginable, bringing into being things distinct from himself” (Baglow p.58). Creation is not a single event that happens once in which God puts all things in motion and walks away to see what happens. It was a deliberate act of love. The Christian understanding of our Creator God have 4 important elements.

1. God creates the world from nothing. There was no “raw material” that God used to mold and form the universe. This is not a change in the way matter arranged itself, since there was no matter to begin with. It is the truest meaning of “creating” when there was no material to copy or rework. Not even the smallest particle existed before God began Creating the universe. God’s creating is a continual process. This is reflected in much of the Bible. For instance, Heb 11:3 states: ‘By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear’.(Baglow, p60)

2. God creates the world with time. Time is a measure from one event to another. Time is a human construct. Several of the Church’s councils such as Lateran IV and Vatican I repeat that God creates ‘from the beginning of time’.” Many theologians reinforce that “time only exists in relation to creatures, not God.” (Baglow, p60) An idea that may be new to you is that creation is always happening. God did not create only once, He continues to create in every moment of every day. Once God acted and produced the matter of the universe, time began. Remember that God the creator exists beyond time, time is only part of His Love and goodness given to us.

3. God creates the world because He chose to in total freedom. He has no dependence on the existence of man or anything else in the universe. It is the opposite which is true. All things depend on God for their existence. The Universe is freely created by God. This is found in scripture and in Church doctrine also. “Psalm 135: 6-7 ‘ Whatever the Lord pleases he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.’ “ (Baglow, p61)

Vatican I : “[The] one true God, by his goodness and almighty power, [brought things in to being] not with the intention of increasing his happiness, nor indeed of obtaining happiness, but in order to manifest his perfection by the good things which he bestows on what he creates, [but] by *an absolutely free plan*.³¹ “ (Baglow,p61)

This means God was free to choose to create the universe or not create the universe. He did not have the intention of creating a perfectly balanced world, but one that included free will and allowed all inhabitants to choose to journey toward him and participate in creation to the best of their ability. (True love is always given of free will)

4. God creates the world from the Trinity. Remember that there is not “time” for God, so there is no time for the Holy Trinity. There are “times” that the members of the Trinity have entered into our history, but they have always been with the Father. “The Holy Trinity is a perfect communion of love, which means that the universe is the product of divine love and goodness.” (Baglow, p63) It is important to note there are 2 kinds of love. A “just” love is giving another

what is correct to give. For example, a child loves their parents because the parents are good to them and so deserve to be loved. A “merciful” love is given not because the other one deserves it, but simply because it brings goodness to another. If I forgive a friend, it keeps my relationship with them, so I receive a good as well as giving forgiveness to keep a relationship. If I give forgiveness or food to a stranger, then I am giving a goodness where there was not goodness before. All of God’s love is merciful. God does not owe us anything, so the good He brings us is merciful.

Fill in notes:

The 4 important elements of God’s creating power are:

1. God creates _____
2. God creates _____
3. God creates _____ -
4. God creates _____

What are the 2 types of love? Be sure to use complete sentences here

- 5.
- 6.
7. Why do you think the reading did not use the word “created” to imply a past event?

Article written by Dr. Chris Baglow summarized by Suzanne Albertson.