

The Nicene Creed

Session 2 – “The work of God in Creation.”

Introduction;

In considering the work of God in creation, we need to understand that the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, were there from the beginning

- **FATHER** – In the creed we read, “We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, **maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**” In the very first verse of Genesis, we read; “In the beginning GOD created the heavens and the earth.”
- **SON** – In the Creed we read “We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, **through whom all things were made.**” **John says in the first chapter of his gospel**, “In the beginning was the Word, (Jesus) and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.” Also note Paul comments in today’s reading from **Colossians 1 15-28** the same comments that John **makes**.
- **HOLY SPIRIT** - In **Genesis 1** we read, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.**”

The Trinity Was there from the beginning of creation. The Trinity is not a Christian invention. In **Genesis 1 26** God is written about as plural, “*Let **us** make mankind in **our** image, in **our** likeness*”

Creation

- God initiated – but the Bible tells us “Why” we were made – not “how”.
 - Remarkable that when written – steps resemble that which science has suggested was the process.
 - It starts with; “*And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light*”.
- Creation amongst other things shows us two contrasting truths – the greatness of God and the tiny insignificant nature of humankind. Science suggests there are more stars in the Cosmos than grains of sand on every seashore in the whole world. We cannot even begin to understand a God that large, who created and contains the whole of such vastness. Our brains are just too small. We touch into God’s greatness in passages such as Isaiah 6 and Revelation 1, where the great prophet Isaiah and the disciple John, the “beloved disciple”, both fall down as though dead when they get a vision of glory. Moses hears God in a burning bush and on asking God his name is told “I am who I am”. In other words, “There is no way human words could even begin to describe me, much less a name.” Moses experienced only the reflection of the back of God, where He had been, on mount Sinai. But that experience caused his face to shine in a way that terrified the people when he came down from the mountain.
- In Creation we see the afterglow of God’s presence, His footprints. How can we, limited to a human scale, come to understand the Infinity scale of God reflected in the **macro** size of Universe and the **micro** complexities of the living creation or subatomic particles. The more science delves into these things, the more we realise we do not understand. Truly great scientists acknowledge some things we will never understand because our brains are just too small.
 - How foolishness then that some people think that because we have come to understand a few of the myriads of processes involved in creation, it is possible to dispense with God.
 - In the face of such wonder many of the best scientific brains become truly humble people. Among scientists, a higher proportion are Christians than in general population. I defy anyone looking into creation through a telescope or a microscope, not to be moved in awe.

Underlying message to take home from this morning

- God created all things in the universe. The best we can do is to think God’s thoughts after Him
- The Almightyness of God is demonstrated in this creation – In Awe we fall down and worship
- All three persons of the Trinity were involved in this creation. Cf “Let us make man in our own image”

Why were we made?

- In **Genesis 1 27** we read, “God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

- Like the Trinity we were created equal but different.
- Like the Trinity we were created to be relational. Theologians describe an eternal dance of relational love that is the essence of the Trinity. Men and women were created to be part of this. Why were we made? We were made to enter into this divine dance of love with Father Son and Holy Spirit and with each other.
- Sadly that idyllic creation was spoiled by sin, so Jesus came to restore us to God's original intention.

Conclusion

The ancients 1700 years ago, humbly acknowledging their humanity and God's deity, formulated the Nicene creed as a summary of the Christian faith. It still stands today.

The Nicene Creed says;

"We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, **maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

We believe in the Holy Spirit"

I believe that God the Father is my heavenly Father. But he is also Almighty God maker of the Universe, in whom all things exist, whose footprints we see all around us in creation – the afterglow of God.

The joy of the Christian is that Jesus came to introduce us to the Father and to make it possible, through His death and resurrection, for us to walk through life in relationship with Him.

Creation / Nicene creed

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