

Title: The Message of Creation

Text: Rom 1: 20

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Romans 1: 20: For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

What are the things God used his messengers to declare about himself in creation? This is how we know what God would have us declare from his natural creation. We know what we are to preach from creation by looking into the word to see what God gave men to write and preach concerning his creation. We know what to preach from creation by hearing what Christ preached concerning creation.

Proposition: Throughout his word, God used his creation to declare his glory in the salvation of his people in Christ his Son.

Psalm 19: 1: « To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. » The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Though God uses his creation as illustrations of him, we are never told to behold the earth and worship it. We are never told we must know its shape or its size or how many constellations there are or any such thing to be saved. But we are told to look away from this earth, to lift up our eyes on high, to behold him who created these things.

Isaiah 40: 11: He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom, *and* shall gently lead those that are with young. 12: Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? 13: Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or *being* his counsellor hath taught him? 14: With whom took he counsel, and *who* instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding? 15: Behold, the nations *are* as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. 16: And Lebanon *is* not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering. 17: All nations before him *are* as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity. 18: To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? 19: The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains. 20: He that *is* so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree *that* will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, *that* shall not be moved. 21: Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22: *It is* he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof *are* as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: 23: That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. 24: Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble. 25: To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. 26: LIFT UP YOUR EYES ON HIGH, AND BEHOLD WHO HATH CREATED THESE THINGS, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth

Throughout his word, God used his creation to declare his glory in the salvation of his people in Christ his Son. That is the message of creation.

CHRIST THE CREATOR

Colossians 1: 15: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18: And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

God used the apostle Paul to declare that Christ is the Firstborn of every creature and the head of his church by showing it is Christ who created all things in the first creation. And just as Christ created the first creation, God moved Isaiah and John to use creation to declare Christ is he who creates the new creation—which is his people created anew in his righteousness and his holiness. This is why Christ is Head of the church, the firstborn among many brethren. He alone creates his people new. His people are new Jerusalem. It is Christ who creates the new heavens and the new earth by his precious blood and righteousness.

Isaiah 65:17: For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Revelation 21: 1: And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2: And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3: And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

It is not our believing in this natural creation by which we are saved. It is believing on Christ who is the Creator of his people. It is Christ by whom we are created anew and saved.

CHRIST IMMUTABLE

Hebrews 1: 8: But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. 9: Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. 10: And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: 11: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; 12: And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

God moved the writer of Hebrews to use creation to declare that Christ who created all things is immutable. He never changes. Therefore, his salvation of his people never changes.

As solid as the heavens and earth appear, they shall perish. Christ who made them shall fold them up as a garment. But God our Savior who saved his people, is immutable. He changes not, so his salvation changes not.

Hebrews 13:8: Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Isaiah 66:22: For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

He created his first creation to come under the curse so that he might be made a curse for his people and thus create his new creation in his unchanging righteousness so that his people—his new creation—shall never again come under the curse.

So it is Christ that we must believe. There is nothing about creation that we are commanded to believe in order to be saved. It is Christ we are commanded to believe. There is salvation in no other.

THE GRACE OF GOD

Psalm 8: 3: When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4: What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5: For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Hebrews 2: 8:...But now we see not yet all things put under him. 9: But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man [who God gave him to save] 10: For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11: For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren...

God used the Psalmist and the Hebrew writer to use creation to declare how small God's people and therefore how gracious God is to send his Son to save us. God did not move the writer of Hebrews to take the Psalm and declare that there is something we must know concerning creation. He moved the Hebrew writer to declare to us that it is Christ who was made lower than the angels and crowned with glory and honor! It is Christ who is the consecrated Captain of our Salvation because he tasted death for all his people. Christ who is our Sanctifier and all those he sanctified are one.

God always moved the writers of scripture to use creation to point us to Christ, to some aspect of his glory and his salvation. But never did God use the writers of scripture to point us to creation itself. He never declared we must believe something about creation or we cannot be saved.

THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Malachi 4: 2: But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

Christ used creation to describe himself and his people.

Isaiah 60:2: For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

Luke 1: 78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, 79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Revelation 22:16: I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Isaiah 60:19: The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Psalm 33: 6: By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth....10: The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. 11: The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

God moved his messengers to use creation to show that as Christ created all things by his word in natural creation so he creates his new creation by his word. It is God's counsel—his world—alone that shall stand.

So God moved John to show Christ is the Word who created the first creation and Christ is the Word who creates his new creation. He is the unfailing Word of God who is God.

John 1: 1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made... 14: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Beholding Christ we behold the Word of God. Beholding Christ on the cross, we behold how grace and truth meet in harmony—how God can be gracious and yet pour out justice on guilty sinners such as his people are. So God moved Isaiah to use creation to show his Word never returns void.

Isaiah 55: 10: For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it. 12: For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.

So God moved Paul to use creation to show it is God's command--his word—who creates his people anew,

2 Corinthians 4: 6: For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7: But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

The same one who created the constellations puts understanding in the heart by his word. Just as we cannot put the constellations in the sky we cannot put spiritual wisdom and understanding in the inward parts—not in another nor in our own selves.

Job 38: 31: Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? 32: Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? 33: Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth? 34: Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? 35: Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are? 36: Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?

No man can resist the grace of God. And Christ used creation to illustrate it.

John 3:8: The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

It is his covenant word by which Christ reigns and his people who he has made priest shall reign with him. And God used his creation to declare it.

Jeremiah 33: 19: And the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, saying, 20: Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; 21: *Then* may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers. 22: As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me.

LONGSUFFERING, SALAVTION AND HOLINESS

2 Peter 3: 3: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4: And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation. 5: For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8: But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9: The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10: But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11: Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12: Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13: Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

God gave Peter a word concerning his creation to teach us God's longsuffering and assure of his salvation. He used creation to teach us to walk in holiness as we anticipate Christ's return.

There are many more ways that God used creation to glorify him. But not once did God give his messenger a word declaring that we must believe how the earth is shaped or the number of constellations or any other thing concerning creation in order to be saved. He used creation to glorify God and Christ and salvation by him.

He used creation to declare Christ is the creator of the new heavens and new earth just as he created the natural. God used creation to declare that Christ is immutable so his new creation is established in his unchanging righteousness and shall never change. He used creation to declare Christ is the Sun of righteousness, the Light who makes his people children of Light. God used creation to declare that Christ is the Word who shall not fail but shall save his people from our sins just as his rain and snow accomplish his purpose and his covenant with day and night cannot be broken. He used creation to declare that God is longsuffering.

Yet, not once does God declare anywhere in his word that it is necessary to believe some fact concerning this natural creation or else we cannot be saved. But throughout, God declares we are to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and it is only faith in Christ by which we are saved.

Acts 4: 12: Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Therefore, if we would preach creation aright then we must preach Christ alone from creation—not turning men to the earth but turning them from this natural creation to Christ above!

Colossian 3: 1: If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2: Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Amen!