

# KINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH ONLINE NOTICE BOARD – 74

The Bible speaks about *creation* for one vital reason. It's not that we can argue about what 'science' has to say about it, but simply to take to heart what the Bible says about it. The Bible tells us these things so we more fully understand ourselves – who we are and, most importantly, how we relate to God. We have a very great advantage in having the Bible tell us about creation: we weren't there when it happened! Nor were those who claim to tell us the 'secrets' of creation there when it happened.

Someone once said (I don't know who it was, but they were right): 'People observe what they expect to observe, until shown otherwise; our beliefs will affect our observations'. It is also true that, 'Being there is different from the memory of being there'. There is a dynamic and intensity we experience being 'there' that we can't find in the memory of being 'there'. Put simply, whether we were 'there' or not, we need someone we can trust to tell us what it's all about. The scientists may (may!) be able to tell us the 'when', 'how', and 'what' of creation – but they can't tell us the 'who' or the 'why' of creation – they admit that. But those are the really important questions: *whose* world is it and *why* is there a world at all?

We may have ideas, theories, notions, beliefs, and deductions about the 'who' and 'why' of creation – but we don't *know* until we're given a truthful report. To understand the truthful report of creation we must first admit our inadequacy and inability, and accept God's love in Jesus Christ. That opens the door to what Paul calls *'the wisdom of God'*. (see 1 Corinthians 1)

To talk about the 'who' and 'why' of creation we need to listen to the truthful report we are given in the Bible. To find answers to 'when', 'how' and 'what' we may go to the book of nature – Paul tells us that in Romans 1.19-20. But 'the book of nature' says nothing about 'who' created or 'why' he created.

Very well then, our first question is answered: **Where** do we find the truth about who created and why he created? We find that truth in the Bible.

The second question: **Who** created? This is easy now we know where to find the answer. The answer is *God: 'In the beginning God created...'*. As we read on we find that answer opens out like a flower. *God* created: the *Father*, the *Son*, and the *Holy Spirit*. The Trinity was involved, as they always are in all God does. The Creed tells us the *Father* created, because the Creed is concerned to emphasise the Father as the *font* and *source* of all things. Chapter 1 of John's Gospel and chapter 1 of Colossians emphasise that the *Son* – the Word, Jesus Christ – created *'all things'*. Here the emphasis is on the *glory* of Christ, the one through whom the Father created. The *Holy Spirit* is Creator, the 'Lord and giver of life'. Here the emphasis is on the Holy

Spirit as the one through whom the Father *works* in the world. The Apostle Paul makes this startling statement: *'For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse'*. (Romans 1.20) Notice Paul says, *'have been clearly seen'*, not *'may be'* clearly seen. He's saying people *'have clearly seen'* that God created – each person *knows* the world, creation is God's handiwork – whether they admit it or not.

Third question: **Why** did God create the world? Here too the Bible gives us the answer. God created all things for his *glory*. His *glory* is his *love* – creation is the way God chose to let his *love* flow out beyond himself, beyond the *love* shared by Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God's *love* expressed in creation is his *grace*. And the outflow of his *love* and *grace* aren't finished with this creation – God won't be satisfied in sharing his *love* until in the fullness of his *grace* he brings us to the new heaven and new earth that are yet to be created – where he will dwell with us and we with him.

Where this creation is concerned the main themes of the Bible are these great truths: 1) God is the Creator of all things; and, 2) he has created all things for his glory and for our good. To this we should respond with *praise* – the Book of Psalms is full of praise for creation. We're also to respond with *trust* and *obedience* – we see this throughout the Old and New Testaments; after all, this is God's world! He is to be *first* in our priorities. Everything is turned up-side-down when we put the earth first, when we make our first concern this planet. Our priority isn't to be *what* was made, but who *made* it! The greatest commandment isn't, *'you shall love the earth,'* but *'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength'*.

This is just what Paul says in Colossians chapter 1:

*Giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, with priority over all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he has first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1.12-20)*