

The Creator of the Heavens & the Earth & the Spirit of Man

Zechariah 12:1

“The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him” (Zech. 12:1).

1. “God is presented in the fullness of his power in the realms of heaven, of the earth, and of humanity, so significant are the pronouncements about to be made”—Wycliffe Bible Comm.
2. Great things to be pronounced: The crucifixion of Christ (12:10); The fountain opened for sin and uncleanness (13:1); The Kingship and the Name of the Christ (14:9); and others.
3. It is noteworthy that in the Book of Zechariah, filled with Messianic prophecies of Jesus the Christ, the prophet refers to God the Creator.
 - a. Jesus Christ is the Creator (John 1:1-4, 14; Col. 1:16).

“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” [John 1:1-3, 14].
 - b. Jesus Christ is referred to as: “the beginning of the creation of God;” (Rev. 3:14). The term, “beginning”, is from *arche*, and in this context it does not mean the “beginning” as to order, which the Watch Tower Society falsely teaches (that Jesus was the first created being). Yet, in this context, *arche*, referring to Christ, means that HE is the active cause of the creation of God, and hence, the Creator. Certainly this is the case as the Creator cannot possibly be created! Hence, the Second Person of the Godhead was the active Agent in the creation, and being Deity, always existed (Psa. 90:2; Micah 5:2)!

I. A True Prophet of God Proclaims the Great Creator!

- A. True prophets were God’s spokesmen, who spoke forth the word of the Lord, as the Spirit guided them (2 Pet. 1:20-21). God said to Jonah, “Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee” (Jonah 3:2).
 1. “saith the Lord.” True prophets spoke with a: “thus saith the Lord” (cf. Jer. 6:16; Zech. 8:2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 14, 19, 20, 23; 11:4). The expression, “thus saith the Lord,” is used 414 times in the Old Testament & 18 times in Zechariah.
 2. Yet, as false prophets spoke man’s word then, so do false teachers today (cf. Mt. 15:9; Titus 1:14). God’s anathema is upon them (Gal. 1:6-9).
 3. Just as there false prophets then, there are false teachers in the church today!

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction” (2 Pet. 2:1).
 4. As God’s inspired men were to speak only as “the oracles of God” (1 Pet. 4:11), preachers today are to speak only according to the word of God (2 Tim. 4:1-2).
- B. God is the Creator.
 1. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1; ASV).

2. God spoke the creation into existence [cf. Gen. 1:3; Psalm 33:6-9].
3. One day the voice of Almighty God will call forth the dead and will summons every soul to the Judgment [John 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10-12].
4. “created.” From the Hebrew word, *bara*. [pronounced, *baw-raw*.]
 - a. The production or effectuation of something new, rare, and wonderful; the bringing of something to pass in a striking and marvellous manner, as Num. xvi. 30; Jer. xxi. 22. (Wilson’s Old Testament Word Studies).
 - b. To make something new; to create something out of nothing.
5. Only God could do this! [Mal. 2:10; Isa. 45:21-22; Mark 12:29; 1 Cor. 8:6].

“Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;” [Isa. 44:24]. NKJ: “...I am the LORD, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself;” [Isa. 44:24; NKJV].
6. Paul declared to the Athenians: “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;” (Acts 17:24).
- C. “The burden of the word of the Lord.” Lit. It means a heavy load to be borne or lifted up. In the writings of the prophets it means to lift up the voice in proclamation, and an utterance or prophecy (Homer Hailey). [cf. Nah. 1:1; Hab. 1:1; Zech. 9:1; 12:1.]
- D. Those who preach the word of God today have a great responsibility & a heavy load upon them! They need our prayers, encouragement, and support! (Acts 20:27).

II. The Creator of the Heavens and the Earth—Zech. 12:1.

- A. God “...stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth” (Zech. 12:1).
- B. “Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein;” [Isa. 42:5].
- C. Psalm 104:1-5, “1 Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. 2 Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain: 3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind: 4 Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire: 5 Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.”
- D. “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;” (Isa. 40:22).
- E. The prophet declares the Almightyness of God.
 1. The vast and majestic heavens over our head, God simply stretched them out like a curtain [cf. Isa. 40:22; 42:5; 44:24].
 2. One day, God will, along with the earth, fold them up like a cloak [Heb. 1:10-12; Psa. 102:25-27].
 3. “And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the

vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree” [Isa. 34:4]. God is able to roll up the heavens like a scroll (i.e. a book or a roll).

4. The inspired Hebrews writer makes it plain, that it is Jesus the Christ Who created the heavens and the earth, and Who will, one day, bring them to an end!

“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” (Heb. 1:8-12; cf. Psa. 102:25-27).

5. “...not only by the original creation, but He continues to uphold them ‘by the word of His power’ (Heb. 1:3; cf. Col. 1:17)” [Homer Hailey]. Cf. John 5:17; 2 Pet. 3:7.
6. Christ, the Creator is unchanging, and shall endure forever! (Psa. 90:2; Mic.5:2).
“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Heb. 13:8).
- F. God laid the foundations of the earth (Heb. 1:10; Zech. 12:1; Psa. 102:25; 104:5).
 1. Christ laid the foundations of the earth, but not out of preexisting materials, but *ex nihilo*, out of nothing.
 2. “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” (Heb. 11:3).
 3. God “gives the earth its firmness and solidity on which it continues to exist” [H.Hailey].
- G. Without God, the heavens, the earth, & man himself, could not possibly continue to exist!
- H. “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” [Colossians 1:16-17]. This Refutes the philosophy of Deism!

III. The Lord God Formed the Spirit of Man within Him—Zech. 12:1.

- A. God infuses the spirit of man within him: “Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?”
- B. God is the Giver of our spirits (souls). Every person has an eternal spirit (1 Thes. 5:23). This is one aspect of our being created in the image of God [Gen. 1:26-27; John 4:24].
- C. When man dies, his spirit (soul) goes into eternity [Eccl. 12:7]. This cannot be said of the mere animal or beast, who does not have an eternal spirit.
- D. The fact that the soul of man is of much greater importance than the physical creation is shown by the fact that Christ died to save our souls, but He did not die to save the physical creation [cf. Heb. 2:9]. What about the individual who declared that we have as much responsibility to save the whales as we do to preach the gospel & save souls? Such an one does not believe & obey Christ (Mark 16:15-16)!
- E. One day, as we have seen, the material universe will perish (be destroyed) [cf. 2 Pet. 3:10-12], but the soul of man will live on in eternity! [cf. Mat. 25:34, 41, 46; 10:28].

Conclusion.

1. God's creation, the heavens (Psa. 19:1) & the earth (Psa. 24:1; 1 Cor. 10:26) are great!
2. "1 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. 2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. 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. 6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: 7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; 8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. 9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" (Psa. 8:1-9).
3. Yet, the heavens & the earth are not as great as God's creation of man, his soul, the gospel, & the Lord's church [Eph. 2:10; 5:25; Acts 20:28; 2 Cor. 5:17; Mt. 16:18; Rom. 1:16]!
4. God's great physical creation declares the power and existence of God [Rom. 1:20], but we are not to worship "Mother Earth" rather than God! [Mat. 4:10].
5. Man and the church has been created to glorify God and to teach others of Christ [Eph. 3:8-12, 21; Mat. 28:18-20].
6. Souls that are saved are to show forth the excellencies of Christ: "But ye are a elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for (God's) own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" (1 Pet. 2:9).
7. What is the condition of the spirit (soul) that God has formed within you? Jesus said: "36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36-37). To be Saved: Hear & Believe the gospel of Christ (Rom. 10:17; 1:16; Acts 18:8); Repent (Acts 2:38; 17:30); Confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God (Acts 8:35-39); Be Baptized in His Name for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 8:38-39; Gal. 3:27). If you have done this, but need to come back to Christ—By repentance, confession of sin, and prayer, you may be forgiven and restored to Christ (Acts 8:20-24; 1 John 1:9; James 5:16). Why not now? [2 Cor. 6:2.]

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