

Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) 2020-2021

Women's Thursday Bible Study #6

Prayer from Valley of Vision

Some review: Q. 14 provides the structure for what follows in Q.15-20(compressed, tight precise wording)

I. Work of Creation

Q. 15 What is the work of creation?

A. The work of creation is that wherein God did in the beginning by the word of his power, make of nothing the world, and all things therein, for himself, within the space of six days, and all very good.

Gen. 1 Heb. 11:3

Prov. 16:4

Rev. 4:11

(Is. 45:18)

Helpful exercise to read all of Gen. 1 and underline repeated phrases . A 5-fold pattern arises.

- (1) Act of creation - God created, made, said
- (2) Declaration of fulfillment - and it was so
- (3) Giving of names and purposes for what created - He called
- (4) Expression of delight - He saw...and it was good, very good
- (5) Indicator of time - evening, morning, the first, second, etc day

Clear principles

- (1) God made all things . All is inclusive. God in the beginning. The uncreated Creator
- (2) out of nothing - L. *Ex nihilo* -prior was no space or time

So universe is not eternal. It is not self created nor self-sustaining.

(3) by the Word of His power -

(4) in the space of 6 days

Remember any question of origins is not a scientific one, but a philosophical or theological one .
No one was present except God of course

Both require faith

Some interesting observations about the word "day"

- in Gen. Qualified by evening, morning
- The 4th day governed by the sun
- Ex. 20:11 our work week and day of rest on Sabbath patterned after God's work
- For those who say day (Heb. yom) means an age, there is another Hebrew word for age (long period of time) - not used here

So a 24 hour day is most natural probable, rendering

(5) all (very) good

Matter itself is not inherently evil

*What are practical implications of seeing God as Creator ?

Issac Newtoncomment

Job. 26:14. (these are only the outskirts of his ways

Q. 16 How did God create angels?

A. God created all the angels spirits, immortal , holy, excelling in knowledge, mighty in power, to execute his commandments, and to raise his name' yet subject to change.

Col. 1:16/ Ps. 104:4/ Heb. 1:7,14/ Ps. 103:19-22

II Th. 1:7

Mat. 24:36

Sum - spirits, (take on some bodily form),not have a common ancestor like man (Adam), only God's servants, messengers, ministers, (II Kings 19:35), some fell, some elect ,

What I learned from looking at a concordance: Heb. malak and Greek aggelos means messenger

Most references to angels in OT: Genesis, Judges, Zechariah

In NT: Matthew Luke Acts Hebrews , esp. Revelation

Can we draw a possible conclusion from this?

Q.17 How did God create man? {S.C. # 10} A.

Gen. 1 and 2

Take each phrase briefly

What does it mean - in the image of God.

With immortal soul?

With dominion?

Subject to change?

II. Work of Providence

Q. 18 What are the works of Providence ?

A. God's works of Providence are His most holy, wise and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures; ordering them and all their actions, to His glory.

God's sovereignty answers the question, Who is in control?.

NOT fate, luck, chance.... Not blind determinism, or a deistic god (detached, distant)

God's works are like Himself- wise, holy, powerful

Ps. 145:17 / 104:24 / Heb. 1:3

How detailed is His control?

Preserving

Governing

On a scale of the greatest to the smallest

Esther / Jonah

Mat. 10:29-31 / Joseph Gen. 45:7-8 ; 50:19-20

All creatures - even ones cannot see

All actions - even sinful, seemingly accidental, random

How does that work? Where does man's choices / free agency/ responsibility come in?

Doctrine of **Concurrence**- think of 2 currents (streams) coming together

1. Joseph
2. I Kings 22:34 Ahab's demise foretold by God, comes about
3. Cross - Acts 2 and again Acts 4

To His glory-

Rom. 11:36/ Is. 63:14 (" to make for yourself a glorious name") Ps. 148

Q. 19 What is God' s providence toward the angels? A.

Jude 6/ II Pet. 2:4

Job. 1:12 and Mat. 8:32 (God set limits on devil, demons)

Clearly God employs the angels as his servants then, now, in the future. Particularly for believers

Next week:

Most likely we will cover question 20 and begin 21-29 under the topic "Man and Sin" or more specifically " the Covenant of life or Works". Just plod through those and reflectively read Scripture proofs