

Why did God create “the heavens and the earth?”

1. For the Glory of God

Ps 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork

Ps 136:1 “O give thanks to the LORD for He is **good!**

Ps 136:5-9 v.5 “To Him who by **wisdom** made the heavens, For **His mercy** endures forever.

Ps 104:24, O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In **wisdom** You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions—

Ps 115:3 “But Our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. (Prov 16:4 ...for Himself.)

Isaiah 40:21-28 v.26 Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the **greatness of His might And the strength of His power**; Not one is missing.

Job 9:8-10 He alone does...

Romans 11:32-36 v.36For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

2. For the benefit of man

Psalms 115:15-16 May you be blessed by the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; But **the earth He has given to the children of men.**

Psalms 148:1-12 **Praise the Lord!** Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! 2 Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! 3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light! 4 Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, And you waters above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, For He commanded and they were created. 6 He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away. 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, You great sea creatures and all the depths; 8 Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word; 9 Mountains and all hills; Fruitful trees and all cedars; 10 Beasts and all cattle; Creeping things and flying fowl; 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples; Princes and all judges of the earth; 12 Both young men and maidens; Old men and children.

Psalms 104:1-2; 5; 33-35 **Bless the Lord**, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, 2 Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.... 5 You who laid the foundations of the earth, So that it should not be moved forever,.... **33 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.** 34 May my meditation be sweet to Him; I will be glad in the Lord. 35 May sinners be consumed from the earth, And the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!

Psalms 139:13-14 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 **I will praise You**, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

Psalms 8:1-5 O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! 2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. 3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, 4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And **You have crowned him with glory and honor.**

Genesis 2:15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

Psalms 118:1 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

What does it mean to glorify God?

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

Psalms 100:2-3 Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. 3 Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

1 Samuel 12:24 "Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. Creation does what it is created to do

Psalms 8:2-3 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. 3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

What about Jesus?

John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

John 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

1 Peter 1:20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

Ephesians 1:3-9 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

John 3:35 "The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.

Book of Concord

A. Trinity at Creation

Large Catechism, Apostles' Creed, 6] But that it may be most easily and clearly understood as it is to be taught to children, we shall briefly sum up the entire Creed in three chief articles, according to the three persons in the Godhead, to whom everything that we believe is related, so that the First Article, of God the Father, explains Creation, the Second Article, of the Son, Redemption, and the Third, of the Holy Ghost, Sanctification. **7]** Just as though the Creed were briefly comprehended in so many words: I believe in God the Father, who has created me; I believe in God the Son, who has redeemed me; I believe in the Holy Ghost, who sanctifies me. One God and one faith, but three persons, therefore also three articles or confessions. **8]** Let us briefly run over the words. Article I. **9]** I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. **10]** This portrays and sets forth most briefly what is the essence, will, activity, and work of God the Father. For since the Ten Commandments have taught that we are to have not more than one God, the question might be asked, What kind of a person is God? What does He do? How can we praise, or portray and describe Him, that He may be known? Now, that is taught in this and in the following article, **so that the Creed is nothing else than the answer and confession of Christians arranged with respect to the First Commandment.** As if you were to ask a little child: **11]** My dear, what sort of a God have you? What do you know of Him? he could say: This is my God: first, the Father, who has created heaven and earth; besides this only One I regard nothing else as God; for there is no one else who could create heaven and earth.

Large Catechism, 1st Commandment, 26] For even though otherwise we experience much good from men, still whatever we receive by His command or arrangement is all received from God. For our parents, and all rulers, and every one besides with respect to his neighbor, have received from God the command that they should do us all manner of good, so that we receive these blessings not from them, but, through them, from God. **For creatures are only the hands, channels, and means whereby God gives all things,** as He gives to the mother breasts and milk to offer to her child, and corn and all manner of produce from the earth for nourishment, none of which blessings could be produced by any creature of itself.

B. Love of God for Man

Large Catechism, Apostles' Creed 64] But here we have everything in richest measure; for here in all three articles He has Himself revealed and opened **the deepest abyss of his paternal heart and of His pure unutterable love. For He has created us for this very object, that He might redeem and sanctify us;** and in addition to giving and imparting to us everything in heaven and upon earth, He has given to us even His Son and the Holy Ghost, by whom to bring us to Himself.

Large Catechism, Apostles' Creed 17] Moreover, we also confess that God the Father has not only given us all that we have and see before our eyes, but daily preserves and defends us against all evil and misfortune, averts all sorts of danger and calamity; and that **He does all this out of pure love and goodness, without our merit, as a benevolent Father, who cares for us that no evil befall us.** But to speak more of this belongs in the other two parts of this article, where we say: Father Almighty."

C. Man loves His Creator in return

Large Catechism, Apostles' Creed 19] Now, since all that we possess, and, moreover, whatever, in addition, is in heaven and upon the earth, is daily given, preserved, and kept for us by God, it is readily inferred and concluded that **it is our duty to love, praise, and thank Him for it without ceasing, and, in short, to**

serve Him with all these things, as He demands and has enjoined in the Ten Commandments.

- 20]** Here we could say much if we were to expatiate, how few there are that believe this article. For we all pass over it, hear it and say it, but neither see nor consider what the words teach us. **21]** For if we believed it with the heart, we would also act accordingly, and not stalk about proudly, act defiantly, and boast as though we had life, riches, power, and honor, etc., of ourselves, so that others must fear and serve us, as is the practice of the wretched, perverse world, which is drowned in blindness, and abuses all the good things and gifts of God only for its own pride, avarice, lust, and luxury, and never once regards God, so as **to thank Him or acknowledge Him as Lord and Creator.**
- 22]** Therefore, this article ought to humble and terrify us all, if we believed it. For we sin daily with eyes, ears, hands, body and soul, money and possessions, and with everything we have, especially those who even fight against the Word of God. **Yet Christians have this advantage, that they acknowledge themselves in duty bound to serve God for all these things, and to be obedient to Him [which the world knows not how to do]....**
- 23]** We ought, therefore, daily to practice this article, impress it upon our mind, and to remember it in all that meets our eyes, and in all good that falls to our lot, and wherever we escape from calamity or danger, that **it is God who gives and does all these things, that therein we sense and see His Paternal heart and his transcendent love toward us.** Thereby the heart would be warmed and kindled to be thankful, and to employ all such good things to the honor and praise of God.
- 24]** Thus we have most briefly presented the meaning of this article, as much as is at first necessary for the most simple to learn, both as to what we have and receive from God, and what we owe in return, which is a most excellent knowledge, but a far greater treasure. **For here we see how the Father has given Himself to us, together with all creatures, and has most richly provided for us in this life,** besides that He has overwhelmed us with unspeakable, eternal treasures by His Son and the Holy Ghost, as we shall hear.

CHRONOLOGY

J. Ussher

Archbishop James Ussher(or Ussher) furnished a chronological system in the seventeenth century. Understanding the Biblical genealogies of Genesis as descriptive of a strict linear succession, he concluded that the world was formed at 4004 B.C. This system was incorporated into the margins of the reference edition of the Authorized Version of the Bible published in 1611. Some editions of the King James Version still contain this chronology.

Upon closer examination at some of the genealogies in 1 Chronicles, it is noted that these genealogies are not a strictly linear succession. Sometimes names were left out and the time periods are not necessarily consecutive. Oriental chronological computation is quite different from the modern genealogy we know. The genealogy in Genesis has two groups of ten as the genealogy in Matthew has three units of fourteen. It is quite possible that these lists are more conventional, than linear. Therefore the system by J. Ussher is no longer considered accurate.

THE ANTEDILUVIAN PERIOD, FROM THE CREATION TO THE FLOOD (1657 YEARS).

YEAR OF THE WORLD.	BEFORE CHRIST.	EVENTS OCCURRING BEFORE THE FLOOD.	YEAR OF THE WORLD.	BEFORE CHRIST.	EVENTS OCCURRING BEFORE THE FLOOD.
1	4004	The first year of the Mundane Era, and of the life of Adam. Whether the years of Adam are reckoned from his creation, or from the expulsion from Paradise, is left undecided.	987	3017	Translation of Enoch, aged 365 years.
			1042	2962	Death of Seth, aged 912 years. [Bisecton of the period from Adam to the Promise.]
			1056	2948	Birth of Noah.
			1140	2864	Death of Enos, aged 905 years.
130	3874	Cain and Abel.	1235	2769	Death of Cainan, aged 910 years.
235	3769	Birth of Seth.	1290	2714	Death of Mahalaleel, aged 895 years.
		Birth of Enos. "Then began men to call upon the name of the Lord."	1422	2582	Death of Jared, aged 962 years.
325	3679	Birth of Cainan.	1536	2468	The ark begins to be prepared (120 years).
395	3609	Birth of Mahalaleel.	1557	2447	Noah's eldest son is born (500 years).
460	3544	Birth of Jared.	1558	2446	Shem is born.
622	3382	Birth of Enoch.	1652	2352	Lamech dies, aged 777 years.
688	3317	Birth of Methuselah.	1656	2348	Methuselah dies, in his 969th year.
874	3130	Birth of Lamech.	1657	2347	The Flood, in the 600th year of Noah, and the 99th year of Shem.
930	3074	Death of Adam, aged 930 years.			

NOTE.—The death of Abel must be supposed to have not long preceded the birth of Seth, since Eve regarded Seth as the substitute "for Abel, whom Cain slew." In that case there will be no difficulty in explaining Cain's exclamation, "Every one who findeth me shall slay me." In one hundred and twenty years after the Creation, the earth may have had a considerable population.

Today

"Most conservatives, however, are prepared to concede a somewhat older earth than the traditional 4,004. In general, we are bound by the clear Biblical impression of a relatively young earth, but we are in no position to attempt to fix a precise date, nor, in a fully Biblical context, is it an important matter" (The Word Becoming Flesh, p. 64).

GENEALOGY OF THE PATRIARCHS,

SHOWING WHICH WERE CONTEMPORARY WITH EACH OTHER.

GENEALOGY OF THE PATRIARCHS.		YEAR OF THE WORLD.....	BEFORE CHRIST.....	THESE COLUMNS SHOW WHICH OF THE PATRIARCHS WERE CONTEMPORARY WITH EACH OTHER, AND FOR HOW LONG A PERIOD.																						
				ADAM.....	SETH.....	ENOS.....	CAINAN.....	MAHALALEEL.....	JARED.....	ENOCH.....	METHUSELAH.....	LAMECH.....	NOAH.....	SETH.....	ARPHAXAD.....	SELAH.....	EBER.....	PELEG.....	REU.....	SERUG.....	NAHOR.....	TERAH.....	ABRAHAM.....	ISAAC.....	JACOB.....	
ADAM.....	Created	..	4004	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SETH.....	Born....	130	3874	130	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ENOS.....	Born....	235	3769	235	105	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CAINAN.....	Born....	325	3679	325	195	90	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MAHALALEEL.....	Born....	395	3609	395	265	160	70	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
JARED.....	Born....	460	3544	460	330	225	135	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ENOCH.....	Born....	622	3382	622	492	387	297	227	162	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
METHUSELAH.....	Born....	687	3317	687	557	452	362	292	227	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
LAMECH.....	Born....	874	3130	874	744	639	549	479	414	252	187	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ADAM.....	Died....	930	3074	930	800	695	605	535	470	308	243	56	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ENOCH.....	Transl..	987	3017	...	857	752	662	592	527	365	300	113	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SETH.....	Died....	1042	2962	...	912	807	717	647	582	...	355	168	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
NOAH.....	Born....	1056	2948	...	...	821	731	661	596	...	369	182	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ENOS.....	Died....	1140	2864	...	...	905	815	745	680	...	453	260	84	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CAINAN.....	Died....	1235	2769	...	...	...	910	840	775	...	548	361	179	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MAHALALEEL.....	Died....	1290	2714	...	...	...	...	895	830	...	603	416	234	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
JARED.....	Died....	1422	2582	...	...	...	...	...	962	...	735	548	366	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SHEM.....	Born....	1558	2446	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	869	682	502	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
LAMECH.....	Died....	1651	2353	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	964	777	595	93	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
METHUSELAH.....	Died....	1656	2348	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	969	...	600	98	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
THE DELUGE.....	.....	1656	2348	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	600	98	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ARPHAXAD.....	Born....	1658	2346	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	602	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SALAH.....	Born....	1693	2311	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	637	135	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
EBER.....	Born....	1723	2281	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	667	165	65	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
PELEG.....	Born....	1757	2247	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	701	199	99	64	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
REU.....	Born....	1787	2217	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	731	229	129	94	64	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SERUG.....	Born....	1819	2185	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	763	261	161	126	96	62	32	...	...	...	...	...	...
NAHOR.....	Born....	1849	2155	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	793	291	191	156	126	92	62	30	...	...	...	...	...
TERAH.....	Born....	1878	2126	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	822	320	220	185	155	121	91	59	29	...	...	...	...
PELEG.....	Died....	1996	2008	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	940	438	338	303	273	239	209	177	147	118	...	...	...
NAHOR.....	Died....	1997	2007	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	941	439	339	304	274	...	210	178	148	119	...	...	...
NOAH.....	Died....	2006	1998	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	950	448	348	313	283	...	219	187	...	128	...	...	...
ABRAHAM.....	Born....	2008	1996	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	450	350	315	285	...	221	189	...	130	...	...	...
REU.....	Died....	2026	1978	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	468	368	333	303	...	239	207	...	148	18	...	...
SERUG.....	Died....	2049	1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	491	391	356	326	...	...	230	...	171	41	...	...
TERAH.....	Died....	2083	1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	525	425	390	360	...	...	...	...	205	75	...	...
ARPHAXAD.....	Died....	2096	1908	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	538	438	403	373	...	...	...	...	...	88	...	...
ISAAC.....	Born....	2108	1896	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	550	...	415	385	...	...	...	...	...	100	...	...
SELAH.....	Died....	2126	1878	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	568	...	433	403	...	...	...	...	...	118	18	...
SHEM.....	Died....	2158	1846	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	600	...	...	435	...	...	...	...	...	150	50	...
JACOB.....	Born....	2168	1836	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	445	...	...	...	...	...	160	60	...
ABRAHAM.....	Died....	2183	1821	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	460	...	...	...	...	...	175	75	15
EBER.....	Died....	2187	1817	464	79	19	...	
ISAAC.....	Died....	2238	1716	180	120	...	
JACOB.....	Died....	2315	1689	147	...	

NOTE.—This tabular view is interesting and instructive in several particulars. It shows that Noah might have received the account of creation through six equal channels with equal directness, thus: from Adam through Enos only, or from Cainan or Mahalaleel, or Jared or Methuselah, or Lamech, his own father. Lamech was fifty-six years contemporary with Adam, and ninety-three years with Shem; and Shem, again, was contemporary for several years both with Abraham and Isaac. The communication from Adam to Abraham and Isaac is only through Lamech and Shem.

All the generations from Adam to the flood were eleven. Of all these, Adam was contemporary with eight; Seth, with nine; Enos, ten; Cainan, ten; Mahalaleel, ten; Jared, ten; Enoch, nine; Methuselah, eleven; Lamech, eleven; Noah, eight; Shem and brothers, four. Thus, there were never less than nine contemporary generations from Adam to the flood, which would give, in one lineal descent, eighty-one different channels through which the account might be transmitted.

Who ever imagined, without making the comparison, that Shem lived to witness all the glorious things transacted between God and Abraham? Who would have supposed that Abraham and Isaac lived with those who, for one hundred years of their early life, witnessed and assisted in the building of the ark; who were borne triumphantly in it through the swelling flood, saw the opening heavens, felt the heaving earth when its deep foundations were broken up, and heard the groan of a perishing world? Yet such was the fact. Noah was contemporary with every generation after him down to Abraham, and Shem down to Jacob.

These narrations bring the account to the time when minute and particular history commences, and when the art of inscribing upon papyrus, and probably upon parchment, was understood. The participants in the awful scenes of the flood lived to see the Pharaohs, the pyramids and obelisks of Egypt, and probably to have those scenes stereotyped on monuments and in hieroglyphics which have come down to us; so that we have the account, in a manner, second-handed from Shem.