

CHAPTER 6

God's Creation

I. General

God Made All Things	48
God Maintains Creation	48
How God Made and Maintains Creation	49
Implications of God Being Creator	50

II. God's Creation of People

Life and Death	51
The Human Spirit	51
The Uniqueness of People	52
Epilogue: God's Self-Revelation to People	53

I. General

The formation of the universe is the most astonishing thing that has ever occurred. The Bible claims that God not only created the universe, but that he also created everything in it. Moreover, it claims that God continues to maintain the universe. If we believe that God is capable of doing this, then we should have little trouble in accepting the other claims that the Bible makes about God.

God Made All Things

God made the heavens and earth – and everything in them

You are the only LORD. *You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, with all the stars. You made the earth and everything on it, the seas and everything in them; you give life to everything.* [NEHEMIAH 9:6A](#) NCV™

All that God made is very good

God saw all that he had made – and it was very good! [GENESIS 1:31A](#) NET

God Maintains Creation

Every creature's life is dependent on God

The life of every creature and the breath of all people are in God's hand. [JOB 12:10](#) NCV™

God provides food for all creatures

[DAVID, TO GOD:] *Everything looks to you in anticipation, and you provide them with food on a regular basis.* [PSALMS 145:15](#) NET

God regulates all aspects of the weather

For to the snow he says, 'Fall to earth,' and to the torrential rains, 'Pour down.' [JOB 37:6](#) NET

He makes the clouds rise from the far-off horizons. He makes the lightning flash out in the midst of the rain. He unleashes the wind from the places where he stores it. [JEREMIAH 10:13B](#) NET

People have the moral capacity to know good from evil

And the LORD God said, "Now that *the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil*, he must not be allowed to stretch out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." [GENESIS 3:22](#) NET

People are to care for and act responsibly towards creation

A righteous person cares for the life of his animal ... [PROVERBS 12:10A](#) NET
[GOD, TO THE BABYLONIANS:] *For you will pay in full for your violent acts against Lebanon; terrifying judgment will come upon you because of the way you destroyed the wild animals living there.* [HABAKKUK 2:17A](#) NET

The Babylonians' desolation of the forests of Lebanon (cf. CEV, GNT, NLT) and their destruction of animals contravened humankind's responsibility towards nature – and they would be punished for it.

Epilogue: God's Self-Revelation to People

God reveals himself to people

Then the LORD again appeared in Shiloh, for it was in Shiloh that *the LORD had revealed himself to Samuel through the word of the LORD.* [1 SAMUEL 3:21](#) NET

God reveals himself by what he does

[GOD:] I acted for the sake of my reputation, so that I would not be profaned before *the nations among whom they lived, before whom I revealed myself by bringing them out of the land of Egypt.* [EZEKIEL 20:9](#) NET

By delivering the Israelites out of Egypt, God revealed himself to the surrounding peoples.

Creation perpetually evidences and reveals God to all people

[PAUL, SPEAKING OF WICKED PEOPLE:] *For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.* So they are without excuse. [ROMANS 1:19-20](#) ESV

People are dead without their spirit

For just as *the body without the spirit is dead*, so also faith without works is dead. [JAMES 2:26](#) NET

People's spirits exist after death

They [Jews] *continued to stone Stephen while he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"* [ACTS 7:59](#) NET

Here also are the spirits of those good people who have been made perfect. [HEBREWS 12:23B](#) CEV

The reference is to the spirits of righteous people who had died.

The Uniqueness of People

God has made people in his own image

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness, so they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move on the earth." ²⁷God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them. [GENESIS 1:26-27](#) NET

That God has made people in his own image is evident in that they reflect such things as his personal traits – e.g. aspects of his character and intellect – and that they have a spirit. Additionally, it is noteworthy that although God essentially is spirit, some descriptions of visions or manifestations of God speak of him in terms of a human-like form (cf. Ezekiel 1:26-28; Daniel 7:9).

God has given people an able mind – with which they can think and reason intelligently

Who has *put wisdom in the heart*, or has *imparted understanding to the mind*? [JOB 38:36](#) NET

And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days *he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving* that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." [ACTS 17:2-3](#) ESV

God maintains nature

[GOD:] "While the earth continues to exist, planting time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease."

[GENESIS 8:22](#) NET

God's promise that these things will continue is indicative of his control over them, regulating and maintaining them.

How God Made and Maintains Creation

God made all things with his wisdom

How numerous are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is filled with your creations. [PSALMS 104:24](#) ISV

The LORD created the earth by his wisdom; by his knowledge he set the sky in place. ²⁰His wisdom caused the rivers to flow and the clouds to give rain to the earth. [PROVERBS 3:19-20](#) GNT

God made all things with his power

[GOD:] *I made the earth, its people, and all its animals with my great power and strength.* [JEREMIAH 27:5A](#) NCV™

God made all things by his word

By the word of God heaven was made, and the earth was made from water and with water. [2 PETER 3:5B](#) NCV™

God made and sustains all things through Jesus Christ

All things were created by him [Christ], and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. [JOHN 1:3](#) NET

He is the one through whom God created the universe, the one whom God has chosen to possess all things at the end. ³He reflects the brightness of God's glory and is the exact likeness of God's own being, *sustaining the universe with his powerful word.* [HEBREWS 1:2B-3A](#) GNT

The Holy Spirit also has a role in creation

[A PSALMIST, TO GOD:] *When you send forth your Spirit, they [creatures] are created, and you renew the face of the ground.* [PSALMS 104:30](#) ESV

Implications of God Being Creator

Because he made everything, all things belong to God

The heavens and the earth belong to you. And so does the world with all its people because you created them ¹²and everything else. [PSALMS 89:11-12A](#) CEV

Because he made everything, God is sovereign over all things

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth. [ACTS 17:24A](#) ISV

Because he has made all things, God has the right of sovereignty over all things. God's almighty power and incomparable wisdom enable him to enforce his sovereignty.

Creation shows God's power and wisdom to be incomparable

[JOB, SPEAKING OF GOD:] *He is wise in heart and mighty in strength – who has resisted him and remained safe? ⁵He who removes mountains suddenly, who overturns them in his anger; ⁶he who shakes the earth out of its place so that its pillars tremble; ⁷he who commands the sun and it does not shine and seals up the stars; ⁸he alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea; ⁹he makes the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, and the constellations of the southern sky; ¹⁰he does great and unsearchable things, and wonderful things without number.*

[JOB 9:4-10](#) NET

Pray for persecuted Christians

II. God's Creation of People

Arguably the most significant part of God's creation is his creation of people. God not only gives people life and a spirit, he has made people quite unique amongst all creatures. Also, of all his creatures, it is primarily to people that God reveals himself and relates.

Life and Death

God creates people . . .

The rich and the poor are alike in that the LORD made them all. [PROVERBS 22:2](#) NCV™

. . . God gives people life and breath

He gives life, breath, and everything else to all people. [ACTS 17:25B](#) CEV

People's lives are very brief

[DAVID, TO GOD:] *You made my life short, so brief that the time means nothing to you. "Human life is but a breath, ⁶and it disappears like a shadow.* [PSALMS 39:5-6A](#) CEV

As many old people would affirm, in a relative sense life is very brief.

Each person is destined to die

For death is the destiny of every person, and the living should take this to heart. [ECCLESIASTES 7:2B](#) NET

The Human Spirit

God has made people with a spirit

The LORD – who spread out the heavens, laid the foundation of the earth, and *forms the spirit in a person* – says, ... [ZECHARIAH 12:1B](#) GW

The spirit is at the core of one's being

A person's spirit is the lamp of the LORD; it searches through all of one's innermost being. [PROVERBS 20:27](#) ISV