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# Creed 2 Creator of Heaven and Earth

Sermon • Rev'd Andrew Hoggan • February 2026  
Genesis 1:1-4• John 1:1-5

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Let's pray, Heavenly Father, open our eyes and hearts afresh that we might understand your word to us, and live in the light of it, amen.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

There are bits of the Bible that are hard to interpret. Is what we are reading historical or figurative? Is it poetry, or prophecy? Are we meant to take it at face value, or is there another way of interpreting it?

Let's take the resurrection for example. It's a non negotiable gospel affirmation that Jesus actually rose from the dead in a flesh and bones way. It's history.

To say it was only a symbolic rising and Jesus simply lives in our hearts and inspires our decisions is at odds with the gospel and inconsistent with being a follower of Jesus. But what of things not based on human eye witness accounts?

About 4000 years ago, under divine inspiration, the author of Genesis wrote, "in the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth". 4000 years later we know a lot more about our origins scientifically.

But does that call into question the first vs of the OT? That's a tricky question because bible believing Christian's can read Genesis and come to different conclusions, especially in regards time scales.

Then there is what many take to be the scientific position. That is, time and chance, and just the right set of circumstances, resulted in things happening, and happening, and happening, and here we are.

To generalise and simplify, is it on the one hand, those inside the faith standing on the side of scripture, and those outside standing on the side of science?

What of those who believe in the trustworthiness and truth of God's word, but are also able to let both scripture and science shape their worldview and understanding of things?

Are scripture and science at odds when it comes to God being the creator? Many would argue that a biblical worldview is in fact the precursor to having a scientific understanding of things.

That's because science only works on the basis of order and repeatable experimentation. You can't have science in a chaotic random, "time and chance is the reason for it all" universe.

Many people don't appreciate that in the 16 century it was the people of biblical faith who invented this thing called "science". Scripture and science are not enemies.

Put simply. The starting point of science is order and predictably. The starting point of theology is there is a God who brought order out of chaos.

Last week I was watching a you tube video of a leading voice in the scientific community Dr James Tour. Chemist, computer scientist. Nano engineer. 800 research papers. 140 registered patents. Another 100 pending.

Dr James tour is a cutting edge researcher with multiple listed companies in areas of innovation. He is also a preacher and evangelist and loves making the connections between science and scripture.

I believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth. On a pastoral level what does this all have to do with us as we sit here this morning?

Simply this. When life is messy, chaotic, disappointing, difficult, life threatening, or doesn't seem to be making sense. At such times knowing and trusting in the character and purposes of a creator God can, and should, make all the difference in the world.

If we believe everything is accidental and random. That life itself is the mere consequence of time and chance. That natural selection and dog eat dog is the way it is. That is hardly a life affirming position.

Richard Dawkins, a brilliant academic in his field of biology, and a leading proponent against the idea of God has this to say.

“In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication some people are gonna get hurt. Other people are gonna get lucky. You won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is at bottom no design, no purpose, no evil, and no good. Nothing but blind pitiless indifference.”

Some of the greatest thinkers in the Christian stable have basically said this about Dawkins. He is a a genius in his given field, but a poor theologian. The God that he rejects as he reads the Bible bears little resemblance to the actual God of the Bible.

Dawkins rejects God and offers a council of despair. No purpose. No evil or good. Nothing but blind, pitiless indifference Contrast the alternative scripture offers us. The God who is relational and almighty is creative and purposeful. I much prefer the Genesis explication for why I'm around as compared the Dawkins one. But it's not just wishful thinking.

Scientifically, it looks like the biblical account makes much more sense than the Dawkins one. We will look a little at that in a moment.

So how do we understand Genesis? We could sum up the early chapters of Gen by saying the aim was to present a different world view from that which was generally held in the ANE.

For instance the ANE stories and myths talked of many gods vying for power, with poor old humanity caught in this great cosmic battle as collateral damage. Contrast the God of Genesis who is portrayed as one, as unified and as supreme.

The ANE creation myths also portrayed the gods as personifications of natural forces who know no moral principle. They lied, stole, fornicated, and killed. They were impotent, capricious, exploitative.

They were only interested in human events as they could be utilised in the great cosmic battle between the various gods. Worse from a self esteem perspective, humanity was simply an after thought created to build temples and supply food for the gods.

Now contrast the Genesis story where God creates humanity last, not as an after thought to provide food for the gods. But as the pinnacle of His creation. The part of creation that bore the image of the creator.

One more example. In ANE myth, the sun, moon, stars, the sea monsters are all seen as powerful gods. But Gen tells us they are merely a part of the creation. Day three, the great light is deliberately not called the sun. Why?

Because the sun was an object of worship and the writer of Genesis was pointing to the one true God who was distinct from the creation and brought the creation into being with a clear purpose.

If we read scripture like a scientific manual we will run into problems. Equally if we expect science to answer questions of ultimate causation and meaning we will run into problems.

Let's for a moment though use science to cast doubt on the idea that things just came to be. That time and chance are responsible for our incredibly complex universe.

Even if folk are tempted to reject the God of the bible, and a personal God who created the world and us with purpose. It would be hard to argue against the idea of intelligent design at the very least.

To get some idea of the complexity of creation and how unlikely it was to just come together without some agent of creation designing things Francis Collin's a Christian, physician, scientist and geneticist, who led the Genome project which led to the mapping of DNA says this.

When scientists talk about the, fine-tuning of the universe," "they're generally referring to the extraordinary balancing of the fundamental laws and parameters of physics and the initial conditions of the universe.



When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,  
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?  
Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with  
glory and honour.

I believe in God the Father, almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Again, when life is messy, chaotic, disappointing, difficult, life threatening,  
or simply does not make sense, to know that the God who brought order out  
of chaos in the making of our world can do the same in our lives and world  
today offers great hope.

The key lesson and point of the Genesis creation account is that God  
alone is sovereign. What are the implications in the applications for us as  
we live in a world where power brokers politically and technologically?

Will the Putins, Netanyahu's and Trump's of our world plunge us into  
ecological and dystopian chaos? Or will the sovereign God intervene at  
some point as the people of God repent, humble themselves and pray.

Will the Zuckerberg's, Musk's, Bezzos', and other Silicon Valley, and Asian  
technocrats, racing to gain AI dominance make people redundant? Or will  
God do a 21st century equivalent of the tower of Babel?

It would seem to me the pastoral implications of taking seriously the first  
sentence of the Apostles creed are something of a lifesaver in regards  
anxiety and mental health.

Let's pray,  
When I consider your heavens,  
the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,  
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?  
Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with  
glory and honour.  
Help us heavenly Father, to rightly order your world, and rightly flesh out  
your word, that the world might believe, amen.

