

# Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem

## Creation

Teacher: Dan Reed

*Doctrine of Creation: God created the entire universe out of nothing; it was originally very good; and He created it to glorify Himself!*

**Gen 1:1** *In the beginning, **God created** the heavens and the earth.*

What do you mean; out of nothing – “ex nihilo”(latin)? Are you trying to say God made it all from scratch? How did God create it?

**Ps 33:6** ***By the word** of the LORD the heavens were made, and **by the breath** of his mouth all their host...<sup>9</sup> For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*

How much of the universe did God make?

**John 1:3** ***All things** were made **through** him, and without him **was not** any thing made that was made.*

Where did God create? Where is the stuff he created?

*Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, **visible and invisible**, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*

Did God use stuff lying around and kick off the big bang?

*Hebrews 11:3 (ESV) By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not **made out of** things that are visible.*

*(NET) By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that the visible **has its origin** in the invisible.*

**Therefore: 1) nothing in the Universe is eternal but God**

**2) Nothing can challenge God's Sovereignty, Independence, Worship due Him**

**Application: God created for something; He gives meaning and purpose in life!**

Is anything special/unique in His Creation?

*Genesis 1:27 God created man in **his own image**, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

So did God fabricate mankind any different?

*Genesis 2:7 then the Lord God formed the man of **dust from the ground** and **breathed** into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*

What about woman-kind? Did the first woman start different?

*Genesis 2:21-22 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs (part of his side) and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had **taken from** the man he **made into** a woman and brought her to the man.*

**Doctrine of Creation: God created the entire universe out of nothing;**

Was Christ involved in any of this?

*John 1:3 In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. **He** was in the beginning with God. All things were made through **him**, and without **him** was not any thing made that was made.*

*1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and **through whom we exist**.*

*Col 1:15-16 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, **visible and invisible**, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created **through him** and **for him**.*

*Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the **exact imprint** of his nature, and he **upholds the universe** by the word of his power.*

*What about the Holy Spirit?*

*Genesis 1:2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters.*

*Job 33:4 The Spirit of God has made me,  
and **the breath** of the Almighty gives me life.*

*Ps104:30 (NET) when you send your **life-giving breath**, they are created,  
and you replenish the surface of the ground.*

*Heb(ruach) : spirit, breath, wind ...acceptable translations. It is figurative language in many places, often referencing 3<sup>rd</sup> person of trinity.*

*God created the universe out of nothing...*

*He created Adam and Eve*

*The Son & Holy Spirit (TRINITY), were all involved in creation*

## *Creation is distinct from God,*

*Acts 17:25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since **he** himself **gives** to all mankind **life and breath and everything**.*

Principle: He made \_\_\_\_, therefore He rules over \_\_\_\_!

**Def: Transcendent** –(Webster) something that goes beyond normal limits, ordinary human experience, or the material world. It refers to qualities or concepts that surpass usual bounds—meaning they are supreme in excellence, extraordinary, or elevated above the ordinary.

*Colossians 1:17 And he is **before** all things, and **in him** all things hold together.*

*What about the rest (animals/plants)?*

*Job 12:1 In his hand is the **life of every living thing and** the breath of all mankind*

Acts 17:22 So paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus...24 The God who made the world and **everything in it**, being **Lord of heaven** and earth, does not live in temples made by man...25 he himself gives to all mankind **life** and **breath** and **everything**. And he made from one man every nation..27 that they should seek God...**yet** he is **actually not far from** each one of us. For in him we live and move about and exist

**Def: Immanent** – means existing or remaining within something; it refers to qualities, characteristics, or powers that are inherent, intrinsic, and naturally bound to a subject.

*Creation is distinct from God,  
yet always dependent on God*

Transcendent  
Immanent

## Review:

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***God created the universe out of nothing...***

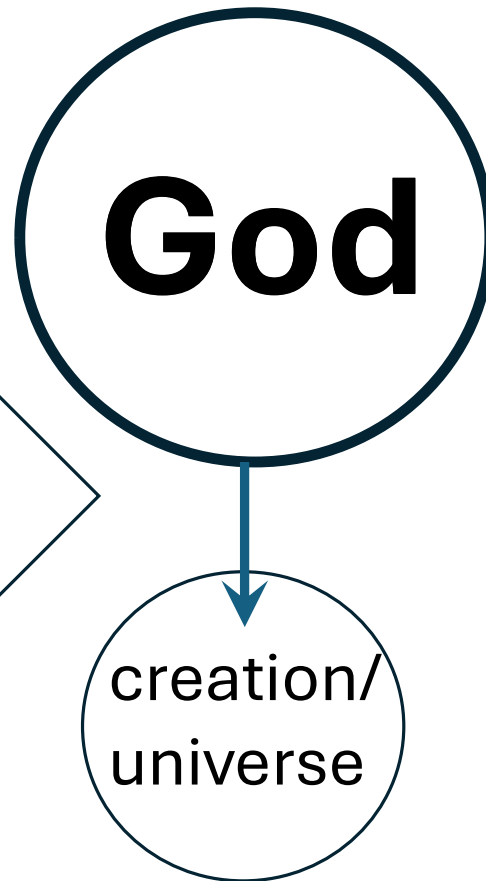
***He created Adam and Eve***

***The Son & Holy Spirit (TRINITY), were all involved in creation***

*Creation is distinct from God,  
yet always dependent on God*

Maker of \_\_\_\_  
Ruler over \_\_\_\_!

Biblical accounts,  
ie. & ie. & ie.



**Transcendent:**

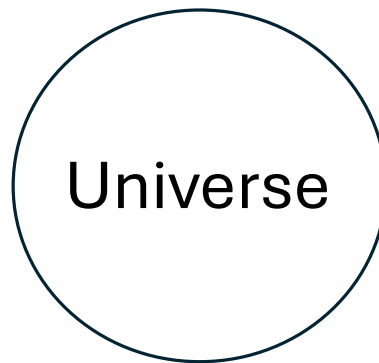
something that goes beyond normal limits or the material world. It refers to qualities or concepts that surpass usual bounds—meaning they are supreme in excellence, extraordinary.

**Immanent:**

existing or remaining within something; referring to qualities, characteristics, or powers that are inherent, intrinsic.

# *No God, Materialism*

“...there is no God.  
There is only the  
universe (that which I  
can touch, “real  
things”).”

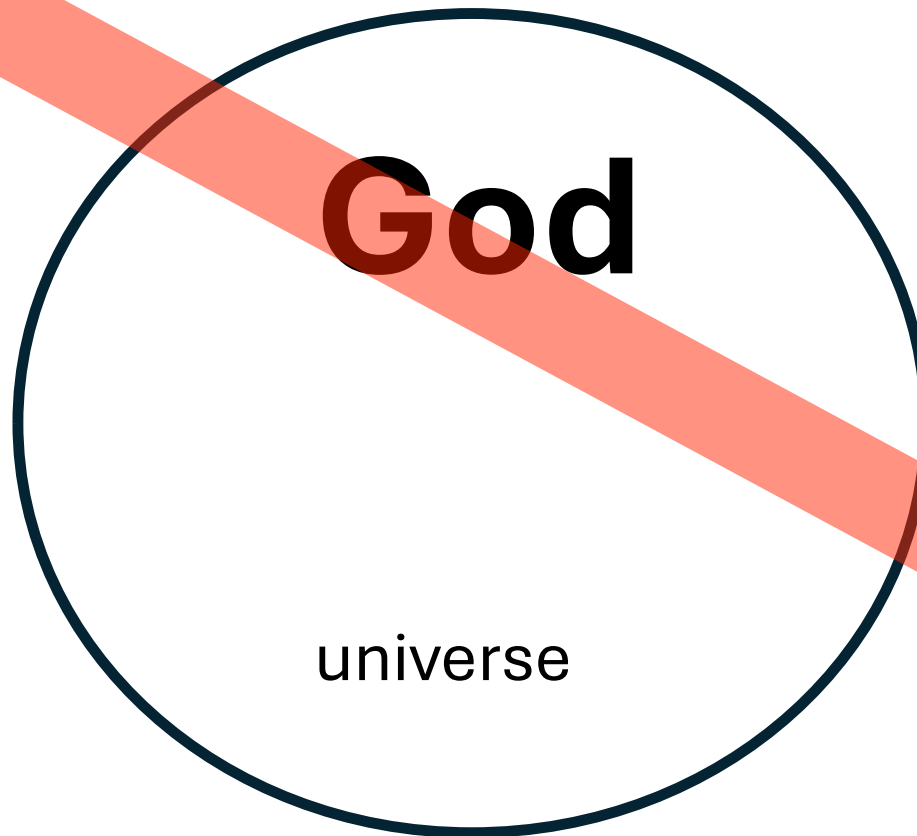


(Christians: who focus  
their lives on earning  
more \$ and acquiring  
more stuff ... “practical  
materialists”!)

# *All is / or becomes God, Pantheism*

If everything becomes god... then God has issues with his character:

- he would be ever changing
- he would not be Holy
- evil is just another part



ie. Eastern religions: individuals should blend in with universe and unite with it.

**God & Creation Coexist eternally,  
Dualism**

**Two Forces** (*Good and Evil*)

“Struggle between the forces; who will win?”

**God**

*(Satan is thrilled with anything that is short of the Truth)*

“..there are spiritual / supernatural forces in play in the world... Visible and invisible...”

**Creation**

*Creation is distinct from God,  
Deism*

Transcendent  
~~Immanent~~

God is not involved  
with creation;  
other than maybe  
a final judgement!

God

~~Biblical account after  
account showing  
involvement~~

Creation

God is a divine Clock  
maker; he wound it all  
up and let go! ( he is the  
originator of the BIG  
BANG)

*God is Transcendent; Creation is distinct from God  
yet God is immanent; we are dependent on God*

Maker of \_\_\_\_  
Ruler over \_\_\_\_!

Biblical accounts,  
ie. & ie. & ie.

**God**

creation/  
universe

Creator

Sustainer

Provider

Defender

Justifier

Councilor

Redeemer

*God created the entire universe out of nothing; it was originally very good; and He created it to glorify Himself!*

*Isaiah 43 But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you;...7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created **for my glory**, whom I formed and made.”*

Is it only mankind that brings glory to God?

*Psalm 19:1 The **heavens** declare the glory of God, and the **sky** above proclaims his handiwork.*

*Revelation 4:11 “**Worthy** are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you **created** all things, and by **your will** they existed and were created.”*

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Who can compare to God?

*Jer 10 ...2 “learn not the way of the nations...3 for the customs of the peoples are vanity. A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of the craftsman. They decorate it with silver and gold...they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.”*

*6 There is none like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is great in might... 12 It is he who **made** the earth by his power, who **established** the world by his wisdom, and by his **understanding** stretched out the heavens*

*God created the entire universe out of nothing; it was originally very good; and He created it to glorify Himself!*

*Genesis 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was **very** good.*

If everything was created to show his glory, why doesn't it?

*Genesis 3: 17 And to Adam...**cursed** is the ground **because of you**; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; **thorns and thistles** it shall bring forth for you*

So there in now sin in the world, material creation is still good?

*1 Timothy 4: 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.*

Was creation impacted by man's fall?

*Romans 8:19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was **subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its **bondage to corruption** and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in pains of childbirth until now.*

## But some of “creation” is bad – like riches

*1 Tim 6:9-10 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For **the love** of money is a **root** of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs...*

*1 Timothy 6:17 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, **who richly provides** us with everything **to enjoy***

# The relationship between Scripture and the findings of Modern Science

- Down through history, we have thought science was at odds with scripture and then later we have come to see synergy
- When all the facts are rightly understood, there will be “no final conflict” between Scripture and natural science.
- Some theories about creation are clearly inconsistent with the teaching of scripture
  - anything with origins other than God
  - anything denying intelligent design
  - Theistic evolution – add God whenever you need to get past something

***God created the entire universe out of nothing; it was originally very good; and He created it to glorify Himself!***

Application for us today:

God created the material universe good and we can use it, and see how it points back to Him and his nature.

We should not be afraid of science and should be involved in its proper understanding of God's creation.

We should enjoy his creation and be remind of the glimpses of God's character reflected in nature / universe.

God We are image bearers, and we have joy in the creative abilities has allowed us to participate in.

Right theology helps us understand God better!