

Maker of Heaven and Earth

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

How many stories have been told about the wonder and glory of heaven!
How often do we see the world as a preview of that place near to God!

When we read the first words of the Bible, in Genesis chapter one verse one, we see the table set for everything else in time and space. We see where we are to begin, and where we must go from where we are.

But more importantly than what it tells us about us, is what it tells us about God. Near the very beginning of the Apostles’ Creed, which many Christians affirm every Sunday, we say, I believe in God... the Maker of Heaven and Earth.

What would the church be like, what would the world be like if we lived and breathed that very reality? The fact that God spoke heaven and the world into existence belies the rest of genesis and skips over the details of heaven. And the details about water and land and animals and people and how we are to live as created and holy people who serve and love God call us to a new way of life.

We must reach for the glorious, the new, the wonderful, and the miraculous in life on this earth. We must reach for them, for they are previews of heaven. We must not spend our time on the meaningless but many pursuits the world may present to us.

There is an old legend of a swan that flew in to watch a crane seeking snails.

"Where do you come from?" said the crane.

"I come from heaven!" replied the swan.

"And where is heaven?" asked the crane.

"Heaven!" said the swan, "Heaven! Have you never heard of heaven?" And the beautiful bird went on to describe the grandeur. She told of streets of gold, and the gates and walls made of precious stones. Angels and God’s holy presence, what a wonderful place!

Finally the crane asked: "Are there any snails there?"

"Snails!" repeated the swan; "No! Of course there are not."

"Then," said the crane, as it continued its search along the slimy banks of the pool, "you can have your heaven. I want snails!"

How many a young person to whom God has granted the advantages of a Christian home, has turned his back upon it and searched for snails? How many a man will sacrifice his wife, his family, his all, for the snails of sin?

This curious connection between heaven and earth, and the proper perspective therein, is a subject which only God can make right. We must always be on guard against trying to pervert that relationship.

What would our lives be like if we actually realized that the fact that God made us in his own image? When will we adore our creator instead of trying, as each generation does to make God in our image, with all of our limits and imperfections?

We have seen the beauty of the seashore and the mountains. We have tried to count the stars in the sky. We marvel at the complexity of the human body and soul. Now we must take the next step of meeting the one who created all of this and walks with us at the same time.

We have seen the art of creation. Now meet the Artist. We have heard the music, shake hands with the Composer.

You see, the message of creation is not so much to tell us about how things were made as to introduce us to the one who made them. We learn he is infinite, all powerful, holy, not to be trifled with, and full of love.

We learn that Jesus was there at the creation, as Paul says "by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." Colossians 1:16-17

The God who created the heavens and the earth at the right time sent his son Jesus to save us from the ruination we have made of the earth. We have filled it with hate, misunderstanding, and pride. We have forgotten how beautiful it was made when things were fresh and crisp and holy.

The wonder is that now we can meet that same Christ, that same God who created the world, that same holy spirit in whom we live and move and have our being, by becoming a new creation.

“Therefore,” God says, “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, the new has come into being.” II Cor. 5:17

Now that, dear reader, is the wonder of creation. God created the world, and makes us new creations in Christ. It never stops!