

TTS Essentials – Session [4]: The Creation of Man NOTES

Welcome to the first session of TTS!

- Thanks for coming.
- Thanks to Freedom Church for hosting.

LOOK: Ps 65

- **DISCUSS:** What are your thoughts?
 - An ode to providence – re: S3!
 - Creation a dynamic, present-tense activity – as much how HAS created all things, as how he IS creating all things!
 - *“In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being”* [Job 12:10]
 - *“In him we live and move and have our being”* [Acts 17:28]
- **Once again – we’re not Deists or Unitarians!**
 - **LOOK:** Gen 1:1-2 (cf. John 1:3)
 - The Father creates all things – for his own glory.
 - Through + for the Son, by the Holy Spirit – re: Col.
 - *Creatio ex nihilo* – utterly gracious, undeserved.
- **A solution to the dull, reductive view of creation.**
 - Not a collection of things, but dynamic and upheld.
 - *“‘In our world’, said Eustace, ‘a star is a huge ball of flaming gas’. ‘Even in your world, my son, that is not what a star is, but only what it is made of’* [Lewis – *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*]
 - *“There is not one blade of grass, there is no colour in this world that is not intended to make us rejoice”* [Calvin] – cf. Jonathan Edwards’ vision.
 - There is joy in the ‘how’ – for this is your Father’s world.
 - [[SONG: This Is My Father’s World]]

[2] Theological Anthropology – Introducing the Matter

SO FAR THEN:

God graciously chooses to create everything from nothing.

Why did God create? For joy, for glory, for relationship and for Christ.

What did God create? Angels, demons, the cosmos, the earth, animals.

One big area left for us to examine: Humanity.

DISCUSS: What does it mean to be human?

How does the world answer this question?

READ: Rom 3:10-11

- “Your first ancestor sinned, and your interpreters transgressed against me” [Isa 43:27]
 - In the wake of the Fall, humanity can’t make sense of itself.
 - The folly of the “interpreters”!

“What does it mean to be human?” – it’s the question that dominates every inch of human inquiry.

[2A] The question at the heart of *ethics and morality*.

- **Abortion:**
 - What defines human life?
- **Eugenics, euthanasia (etc.):**
 - What is the value of man?
- **Animal rights:**
 - What is the place of man?

[2B] The question at the heart of *political theory*.

- **Human rights:**
 - What is owed to man? How? Why?
- **Nationhood:**
 - How should human beings govern themselves?
- **Society:**
 - How should human beings organise themselves?

[2C] At the heart of *economics*.

- **How do human beings flourish, financially?**
 - Should we focus on the rugged individual?
 - E.g. Hoover, Smith’s market economics.
 - Or should we focus on the care of the collective?
 - Motherland communism / fatherland fascism.

[2D] At the heart of *parenting*.

- **What does it mean to be a human creator of other humans?**
 - Rachel in *Friends* – “I can do what I want, I made her!”

[2E] At the heart of *pedagogy*.

- **Do we educate little humans primarily as citizens of state?**
 - Future market participants; British values, etc.
- **Do we educate little humans primarily as creatures of God?**
 - Re: the classical education movement.
 - Trivium (grammar, logic, arithmetic) → Quadrivium (arithmetic, geometry, music, astronomy) → Law / Theology.

[2F] At the heart of *scientific reflection*.

- **Evolution / evolutionary psychology, and human dignity.**
 - Ultimately animals like everything else?

[2G] At the heart of *culture and art*.

- **Classical instinct:** man as pilgrim in pursuit of alien beauty.
 - “[By beholding] beauty with the eye of the mind, [we] will be enabled to bring forth ... and [nourish] true virtue to become the friend of God and be immortal, if mortal man may” [Plato – *Symposium* 211d-212c]
- **Post-Modern instinct:** man as mere subject, reflecting chaos.

[2H] At the heart of modern ‘hot potato’ subjects.

- **Gender:**
 - What is masculinity? What is femininity?
 - How do we know what defines a man / woman?
 - (Who gets to decide?)
 - Are men and women essentially different?
 - (Or are the differences mere social constructs?)
 - Do we get to choose our gender?
- **Sexuality:**
 - Is there such a thing as sexual identity?
 - Are all expressions of human sexuality to be embraced?
- **Attraction:**
 - What control have we over attraction?
 - (Preference? Feelings? Emotions? Etc.)
- **Technology:**
 - “[We] try to stay rooted, and to keep our devices connected to the humanity that makes us, ‘us’. ... Technology should be about human potential; it should be about optimism, and we believe the future should belong to those who use technology to build a better, more inclusive and more hopeful world” [Tim Cook – Apple CEO, Dec 12th 2018]
 - Should Apple get to define what makes us, us?

There's a futility in this obsession (and chaos) that's ripe for satire.

- **Douglas Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*:**
 - The supercomputer Deep Thought –
 - Spends 7.5 million years calculating “the answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe and Everything”.
 - The answer turns out to be 42.
 - The problem is no one knows what the question is...!

Hence Calvin's famous opener to the *Institutes* –

“Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. But, while joined by many bonds, which one precedes and brings forth the other is not easy to discern. In the first place, no one can look upon himself without immediately turning his thoughts to the contemplation of God, in whom he ‘lives and moves’ [Acts 17:28]. For, quite clearly, the mighty gifts with which we are endowed are hardly from ourselves; indeed, our very being is nothing but subsistence in the one God. ... [It] is certain that man never achieves a clear knowledge of himself unless he has first looked upon God's face, and then descends from contemplating him to scrutinize himself” [Calvin – Inst. I.I.1/2]

- A sentiment expressed on Bede school sign in Stockton!¹
 - “*Noverim te, noverim me*” (“[God] I would know you, [for] I would know myself” [Augustine – *Sol.* 2.1.1])

We're doomed to '42' because we start with ourselves!

- GIGAWAN and the Creator / Creature distinction.
 - Why we've structured TTS the way we have!

[3] Theological Anthropology – Prelapsarian Man

DISCUSS: imagine someone's asked, “What does the Bible say about being human?”. What do you say?

- Three chapters to the Bible's story of humanity.
 - [1] Prelapsarian Man;
 - [2] Postlapsarian Man;
 - [3] (Saving the best till last ...)

¹ “To know God is to know yourself” – in Latin, *noscere deum est te noscere*.

It's important to maintain this distinction between the 'chapters'.

- There *are* indeed some common features.
- But there are also some huge differences.
 - Easy to make too much of the commonalities.
 - Easy to make too much of the differences.
 - **BUT God's plan for humanity is one story, told over three chapters.**
 - Like any novel we need to read from beginning to end, paying attention to the details along the way.

We'll start with Prelapsarian Man.

[3A] How were we constituted? – **READ:** 1 Thess 5:23

- “*Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground...*” [Gen 2:7a] – a description of man's **body**.
 - Heb: בָּשָׂר (basar)
 - Gk: σάρξ (sarx) / σῶμα (soma)
 - **The life of the flesh, matter – corporeal and empirical.**
- “*... and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life...*” [Gen 2:7b] – **spirit**.
 - Heb: רוּחַ (ruach) / נְשָׁמָה (neshamah)
 - Gk: πνεῦμα (pneuma)
 - **The life of faith, spirituality, worship – invisible and untouchable.**
- “*... and the man became a living being*” [Gen 2:7c] – soul.
 - Heb: נֶפֶשׁ (nephesh) / Gk: ψυχή (psyche – soo-ch-ay)
 - **The life of reason, intellect, will – comprehension and knowledge.**

NOTE: there is a debate over this 'tripartite' interpretation.

- Many sound theologians have insisted on a bipartite model.
 - Spirit + soul = the same reality. (Tripartite owing to Plato.)
 - Cf. Augustine, Calvin, etc.
- Aren't we just dealing with approximate language?
 - Heart / kidneys as images?
 - A Greek over Semitic approach?

- Nevertheless, this has been the classical Christian anthropology.
 - Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, Gregory of Nazianzus, etc.
 - Luther on Tripartite constitution:
 - “Scripture divides man into three parts, as says St Paul (1 Thess. v. 23)... i.e. nature has three portions spirit, soul, and body... In the tabernacle fashioned by Moses there were three separate compartments. The *first* was called the holy of holies: here was God's dwelling place, and in it there was no light. The *second* was called the holy place; here stood a candle-stick with seven arms and seven lamps. The *third* was called the outer court; this lay under the open sky and in the full light of the sun. **In this tabernacle we have a figure of the Christian man.** His *spirit* is the holy of holies, where God dwells in the darkness of faith, where no light is; for he believes that which he neither sees nor feels nor comprehends. His *soul* is the holy place, with its seven lamps, that is, all manner of reason, discrimination, knowledge, and understanding of visible and bodily things. His *body* is the forecourt, open to all, so that men may see his works and manner of life” [Luther – On the Magnificat]

[3B] What did we possess? – *Spiritus Dei* and *Imago Dei*

- The breath of God.
 - Re: Ps 104 and animals.
 - Re: Plato and us being pilgrims, of alien birth.
- **READ:** Gen 1:26-7 - **DISCUSS:** what is the image?
 - Literal:
 - E.g. Mormons – but John 4:24, God is spirit.
 - Official:
 - Describes man's rule of the earth.
 - Ontological:
 - Ambrose, Augustine + Calvin – soul as “proper seat”.
 - Athanasius – image descriptive of our rational *Logos*.
 - Relational:
 - Irenaeus, Tertullian, Origen, Aquinas – distinction between image + likeness.
 - Barth – Trinitarian. (Also Augustine in COD XI.26.)

Two further notes on the *Imago Dei*:

1. **READ:** James 8-9
 - a. **Image of God grounds ethical obligations.**
 - i. Lactantius [c.250-325AD] – “Now I shall speak about what is due to other people, although what is due to people still equally relates to God, since humanity is the image of God” [Divine Institutes]
2. **LOOK:** Gen 1:27
 - a. **Image of God includes men and women in fellowship.**
 - i. Re: 1 Cor 11, and general human flourishing.

[3C] What were we called to be?

- **READ:** Psalm 8 – a summary of our creation-vocation
 - **Image Bearers:**
 - Priestly, representing God to creation
 - **Viceroy:**
 - Princely, ruling creation on God's behalf
 - **Stewards:**
 - Caretakers of all creation (prophetic? Munus triplex?)
 - **Covenant Partners**
 - What was the covenant? **LOOK:** Gen 2:15-17
 - Covenant of Works – “The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to his posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience” [West. Conf. VII.2]
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[4] Theological Anthropology – Postlapsarian Man**BUT THEN ... the Fall happened – a desperate tragedy.**

- The Scriptural authors testify to it:
 - **LOOK:** Isa 24:4-13 / **READ:** Rom 3:10-18
- The greatest poets have described it:
 - John Milton:
 - “Up they rose as from unrest; and each the other viewing, Soon found their eyes how opened, and their minds how darkened / Innocence, that as a veil had shadowed them from knowing ill, was gone / Just confidence, and native righteousness, and honour from about them, naked left to guilty shame / He covered, but his robe uncovered more” [*Paradise Lost* IX.1055]
 - Andreas Gryphius: [1616-64, witnessed 30 Years' War]
 - “What then is man? A house of grim pain / A ball of false hopes, a madness of this time / A theatre of bitter fear filled with keen sorrow / A soon melting snow, a burnt-out candle” [*Human Misery*]

DISCUSS: How did the Fall change things?

Image Bearers → Broken Mirrors [Irenaeus, Origen, Hilary, Cyril]

Viceroy → Rebels [Rom 1:30]

Stewards → Saboteurs [against God first – hence Social Injustice texts]

Covenant Partners → Covenant Breakers [Hos 6:7]

This is otherwise known as ‘Total Depravity’.

- Not as bad as we possibly can be – **LOOK:** Gen 20:6.
 - Rather, “there is no health in us” [BCP].
 - Affects every aspect of human nature, society + experience, even from birth.
- Remember the Tripartite Constitution?
 - Body: suffering and death.
 - Soul: intellect and will in rebellion.
 - Spirit: given ourselves over to idols.
 - Again – it’s affected every aspect of human existence.

Paul’s description in Rom 3 reflects this comprehensiveness:

- *“Together they have become worthless”* [Rom 3:12]
 - **Sin has corrupted how we form society.**
 - “Sin will pluck on sin” [Richard III – Act 4, Scene 2]
- *“Their throats are opened graves”* [Rom 3:13]
 - **Sin has corrupted our speech.**
- *“Their feet are swift to shed blood”* [Rom 3:14]
 - **Sin has corrupted our relationships with one another.**
- *“There is no fear of God before their eyes”* [Rom 3:18]
 - **Sin has corrupted our relationship with God.**
- BUT ALSO – *“There is no one who seeks God”* [Rom 3:11]
 - **IT’S CORRUPTED OUR DESIRES!**
 - Luther (Bondage of the Will) / Calvin (Inst. II.II.8).
 - Canon 1 of Council of Orange, 529AD.

The Fall has made us broken mirrors. (Re: Gender.)

The Fall has made us rebels.

The Fall has made us saboteurs.

The Fall has made us traitors.

The Fall brought disobedience, futility, curse, brokenness, pain.

The Fall brought violence, war, conflict, division.

The Fall brought death and captivity.

Here's the million-dollar question: **how will God put things right?**

- The mistake of many – the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.
 - What was THEN is our goal NOW.
 - God's job is to re-set the balance and then we'll be with him forever, **like Adam.**

EXCEPT there's a sword in the way.

We're never going back.

Eden is not our destiny.

Adam is not our prototype.

God's creation in Gen 1-2 is not our salvation template.

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; not it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
[Isa 43:18-19]

[5] Theological Anthropology – The New Creation in Christ

READ: Isa 65:17-25

We **MUST** understand this in order to understand creation.

At the heart of theological anthropology.

At the heart of Biblical theology.

At the heart of the Gospel.

There is not just one creation – but TWO.

There is not just one humanity – but TWO.

The first creation? In sin and futility.

The first humanity? In Adam, under his headship.

The second creation? In Christ!

The second humanity? In Christ, under his headship!

- *"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"* [2 Cor 5:17]
- *"[These are the] words of [Christ] the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation"* [Rev 3:14]

- “[Just] as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous” [Rom 5:18-19]
- “He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace” [Eph 2:15]

A new creation and a new humanity – IN and FOR Jesus!

Christ becomes human FOR us – the True Man, our Second Adam!

- Image Bearers → Broken Mirrors → Image of the Invisible God
- Viceroy → Rebels → True King
- Stewards → Saboteurs → Perfect Son
- Covenant Partners → Covenant Breakers → The ‘Yes’ and ‘Amen’
 - God on the prophesied Messianic servant: “I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations” [Isa 42:6]

He went through the Garden FOR US but remained obedient.

- **LOOK:** Rev 21:1-4 – through Christ, this new creation is possible!
 - Not a new Eden, but a new heaven and a new earth!
 - There God will be with us like he never was in Eden.
 - We in him and he in us!

God’s plan is not to ‘re-set’ creation – but to RECREATE it in X!

- Like a chrysalis, the new is better than the old!
 - “Where he displays his healing power / Death and the curse are known no more / In him the tribes of Adam boast / More blessings than their father lost!”
 - [Isaac Watts – *Jesus Shall Reign*]

“It is [for us, humanity], that God shall be all in all. ... There now intervenes a new nature, which began in Christ with his birth. ... His humanity which advances towards this goal is ours also. We shall be promoted to a glory conformable to that of him who became man for us, being renewed unto the knowledge of God, and created again in the image of the Creator” [Hilary of Poitiers, De Trinitate XI.49]

A second creation. With a second humanity. Under a 2nd Adam!

“See, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice” [Isa 32:1] (Re: 1 Cor 6:3, judging angels)

Behold, I am about to do a new thing? Do you not perceive it?