

Wisdom and Christ: Creation
Proverbs 8:22-31
November 8, 2015

Introduction 1

I want to take a few minutes to talk about the resurrection in the light of our friends departing from us to be with the Lord. I just want to remind everyone that our Lord Jesus believed in the resurrection and there was no doubt in His mind. This is what He said.

Matthew 22:31-32 *But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, **32** 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.*

He said this in response to the Sadducees.

Matthew 22:23 *The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him,*

This is a profound statement! Sadducees have been arguing with the Pharisees that the first five books of the Bible (Torah) do not talk about the resurrection. Since there is no mention of the resurrection, they do not believe in it. Their practice is that their life is over when they die, so they focus on getting as much wealth and power in this life because that is all there is. Jesus neatly and wisely punctures their beliefs.

Here are the points that Jesus makes about what God says in **Exodus 3:6**:

- Present tense—"I am," not "I was"—important point because Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are dead at the time God says this. They must still be alive for God to be their God today.
- God singles out the men individually—"of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob"
 - He is saying that God has a personal, intimate relationship with each of them
 - "of" means two things: 1) they belong to God and 2) God belongs to them
 - God continues to have a personal intimate relationship of life with those who are dead—which means that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are alive!

So what do we take from this? Christ, the eternal Son of God, the Wisdom of God, the Creator of the Universe, affirmed that Scripture is true and reliable. He tells us that there will be a resurrection for those who believe in Him, and they will be alive and continue in fellowship with God and the Lord Jesus Christ forever. This is our hope and it is the strongest anchor that we could ever have!

Introduction 2

Our Lord Jesus Christ could not have answered the Sadducees if He was not the Wisdom of God—Jesus is Wisdom Incarnate. He could not have answered the Sadducees if He had been a mere man because the most knowledgeable and the smartest of the Pharisees and rabbis could not answer them. Jesus is God become man. Jesus was full of wisdom.

As we continue our study of Wisdom on **Proverbs 8**, Solomon tells us that Wisdom was there at creation of the universe. Then we will look at how Christ Himself is the Creator of the universe.

I. Wisdom in Creation (22-31)

- **Proverbs 8** and **Genesis**
 - Wisdom before creation (**22-26**)
 - The beginning

22 *The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old.*

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

- Everlasting

23 *I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth.*

- No depths

24 *When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water.*

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

- Mountains, hills, dust

25 *Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth; 26* *While as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, or the primeval dust of the world.*

Genesis 1:9-10 *Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. 10* *And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.*

- Wisdom existed before the world was formed
- Wisdom during creation (**27-31**)
 - Skies above and deep below

27 *When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, 28* *When He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, 29* *When He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth,*

Genesis 1:6-8 *Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." 7* *Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. 8* *And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.*

- Creation of the world

30 *Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him,*

- Joy of creation
- His delight

Genesis 1:10 *(see also verses 12, 18, 21, and 25) And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.*

- Creation of man

31 *Rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men.*

- Pinnacle of creation
- His supreme delight

Genesis 1:31a *Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.*

- What is Solomon telling us?
 - Wisdom calls us to know her, to learn from her (**8:1-11**)
 - Wisdom that was there at creation is the same Wisdom that we receive!
 - Wisdom is the skill of living in the fear of God
 - Living in the fear of God the Creator—submission and obedience and worship

Transition: Wisdom is only a personification, a metaphor. Wisdom is not a person. However, Jesus Christ is Wisdom Incarnate. He is a real Person. He is greater than Wisdom.

II. Jesus Christ and Creation

- Jesus is Eternal

John 1:1-2 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.*

John 8:58 *Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."*

- Jesus is Creator

John 1:3 *All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

Colossians 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

- Jesus is Sustainer

Colossians 1:17 *He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

Hebrews 1:3 *who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

Coram Deo

Consider this: If Solomon is saying that the same Wisdom that God uses to create the universe is available to us, how much more beneficial to us that the Creator of the Universe, Lord Jesus Christ, is available to us! We can have a personal, intimate relationship with God through Jesus Christ. His power, His wisdom, His love are all available to us as Christians!