

R.S. Essay

How do the writers of the Bible explain the idea of God as creator?

The Bible has many different aspects which revolve around the question of creation. God is one of the key figures that is shown throughout the Bible who has shaped things from the very beginning of time. The Bible has numerous accounts and writings that explain the formation of the universe through the view of God and his followers. From reading the Bible there are many assorted pieces of substantiation that converse about Gods construction. “Corinthian, Ephesians, Revelation” are a few examples of how the Bible provides proof of Gods design in the world. But one of the most compelling pieces of evidence is the first book of the Bible, “Genesis”.

Genesis is the first book of the Bible of Judaism and of Christianity, and the first of five books of the Pentateuch or Torah. It recounts Judeo-Christian beliefs regarding the world from creation to the descent of the children of Israel into Egypt, and contains some of the best-known stories of the Old Testament, including Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah's Ark, the Tower of Babel, and the biblical Patriarchs.

“Genesis” has two formation stories. Genesis 1 is centered on the creation of the Earth whilst the second book Genesis 2 is about Gods interaction and involvement with humanity in the universe.

I have collected a small sample of Genesis 1 which story-tells some of the first creation techniques God uses:

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters....”

As you can see from this first short part of “Genesis”, it clarifies that in the beginning of mankind God created the heavens and earth. The writers of the Bible specifically use “Genesis” as a way of describing Gods participation in the world’s ultimate conception. The writers also introduce the notion of “God the Spirit” which can later be found to be one of the three roles God plays in the Bible.

“Ex Nihilo” is also a concept used widely in the Bible. It is a latin term meaning “out of nothing”. Many Christians have a view that God created the universe from scratch. Prior to the beginning of the earth, “God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1), there wasn’t anything. God didn’t make the universe from preexisting building blocks, he started from nothing.

It is never stated in the Bible that God made all these beautiful and wonderful things around us from nothingness, but it is implied throughout. An example I have collected from Hebrews 11:3 reads: “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible”. It shows in this quotation the implication of the wonderful things that God made before the world was created. Scholars take this to mean that the universe came into existence by divine command and was not assembled from preexisting matter or energy.

In 2 Maccabees 7:28 from the Jerusalem Bible it reads: “Son, look upon heaven and earth, and all that is in them, and consider that God made them out of nothing”. This quotation can be seen as another insinuation concerning the implication of nothingness before the Earth. I have also collected four other quotations which will back up evidence suggesting the creation before nothing.

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

(John 1:3)

Even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

(Romans 4:17)

And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

(1 Corinthians 1:28)

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

(Hebrews 11:3)

My son, have pity on me; I carried you nine months in the womb and suckled you three years.... I implore you, my child, observe heaven and earth, consider all that is in them, and acknowledge that God made them out of what did not exist, and that mankind comes into being in the same way. Do not fear this executioner, but prove yourself worthy of your brothers, and make death welcome, so that in the day of mercy I may receive you back in your brothers' company.

(2 Maccabees 7:27-29 Jerusalem Bible)

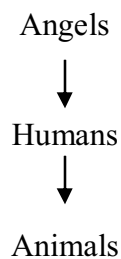
Another creatio ex nihilo similarity is the First Cause argument which can be summarised as:

Everything that begins to exist has a cause.

The universe began to exist.

Therefore, the universe must have a cause.

The writers of the Bible also write about God as a craftsman which ties in with the idea of creation. Both of the Genesis stories remarkably show that God places humans as the highest point of his creation. Genesis 1 shows that God created piece by piece the Earth and finally humanity was placed on the earth to rule it. In Genesis 2 there is a brief account of God's creation of the earth and plant life but it is soon seen to be set up for Gods most important formation, humanity. As animals were created next these were only a benefit for humans. Psalm 8:5-6 shows where God placed humans in the general order of things, it is echoed in Genesis 1:26.



It is said that humans are ‘made in the image of God’ (Genesis 1:26), it also says they have a responsibility for creation and can have a relationship with God on a personal level. I have put together a few small quotations to show how the writers have explained

God to be creator in the Bible:

“God is the creator of everything” (Genesis 1:1-2:4, Psalm 104:24, Hebrews 1:2, Romans 11:33-36)

“God creates by simple command so his word is certain” (Psalm 33:6-9)

“God put personal care into creation” (Genesis 2:4b-25)

“Human beings were created in God's image” (Genesis 1:27), “they were good” (Genesis 1:31), “and later they fell from that state” (Genesis 3)

“God created wisely” (Psalm 104:24, Proverbs 8:22-31)

“God continuously cares for His creation” (Psalm 104, Acts 17:26-29)

Some other quotations from the Bible also show his creation in the universe:

(Ephesians 3:9) “And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ”.

(Colossians 1:16) For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.

(Revelation 4:11) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

I have come to the conclusion that overall the writers of the Bible use many diverse ways to explain the concept of God as creator. Firstly it is used throughout Genesis which explains how God came to create the world right from the beginning. Secondly it used through the term ‘creatio ex nihilo’ which shows us that the God started from scratch and it is infact a key part of the Christian belief. Thirdly it is shown throughout Gods craftsmanship (the creation of humanity, and other objects such as plants and animals) and is employed throughout many other books in the Bible. Gods’ creation has echoed throughout the Bible and in the universe today. We don’t need to look around to find fingerprints of proof because all the evidence is around us at this very moment. The Bible has created a unique experience for every Christian in the world today and throughout the book we can tell that the writers have explained the concept of God to every point imaginable.

