

## **The Apostles' Creed, First Article: Creation**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

*What does this mean?* I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them; also clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods;

that He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

that He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil;

and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me;

for all which it is my duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

1. We confess, first, that God is the “Maker of heaven and earth,” that is, of “all things, visible and invisible.” (Gen 1—2) This sets God apart from and above all creation. There can be only one such God, and we contend that this God is the one who has made himself known to us as Father, that is, as the Father of Jesus Christ, our Lord. This God “I believe.”
2. Should we expect to understand God simply from looking at his creation? Rom 1:18–32. How does he inform us who he is, so we can trust him and be saved? Rom 1:16–17; Deut 6:4–9.
3. What does the creation and its present state have to do with our redemption in Jesus Christ? Does God look, from creation in general, like he can be trusted? What happens to every last person? Why can we trust him to do “all this...out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me”? Rom 8:18–30; Col 1:15–23.

### **From Luther's *Large Catechism* (II: Apostles' Creed)**

<sup>20–21</sup> Here we could say much if we were to expatiate, how few there are that believe this article. For we all pass over it, hear it and say it, but neither see nor consider what the words teach us. For if we believed it with the heart, we would also act accordingly, and not stalk about proudly, act defiantly, and boast as though we had life, riches, power, and honor, etc., of ourselves, so that others must fear and serve us, as is the practice of the wretched, perverse world, which is drowned in blindness, and abuses all the good things and gifts of God only for its own pride, avarice, lust, and luxury, and never once regards God, so as to thank Him or acknowledge Him as Lord and Creator.