

DA Carson – a theology of creation in 12 points

1. God comes first. He was before all, he needed nothing, and he is not dependent on us or anything else for his existence (the only “non-contingent being.”)
2. God speaks. He creates all by means of his word, and he reveals himself to his creation by means of his word. He is not utterly other-than and unknowable to us for he has made himself known.
3. God made everything. Contrary to pantheism (God *IS* everything), God is distinct from and over all of creation.
4. God is good and the world he made was likewise good. There is no Eastern Dualist (e.g. Buddhist), yin/yang conception of good and evil. God is ultimate, evil is a corruption of it; a derivative reality.
5. Man is accountable to God, because he made us.
6. Hints of God’s complexity, as in “Let *US* make man...” These chapters contain the early seeds of important Biblical themes that only become fully visible as they’re developed later, such as the Trinity, temple, covenant, kingship.
7. Man is created in God’s image. In some ways we’re like creation (taken from the dust of the ground) and yet in some ways we’re unique in the way that we reflect God to and rule in God’s place over the creation. Speaking of...
8. Man’s role as the stewards over creation.
9. The ordered structure between man and woman: both equally created in God’s image (chapter 1), yet she is created after him, from him, to help him (chapter 2).
10. Eschatology: the New Heavens and New Earth is the end game of scripture, which hearkens back to the original heavens and the original earth as created “very good” by God before sin.
11. Sabbath rest. The 7th day is consecrated to enjoy the goodness of God in the experience of his creation.
12. Worship: the greatness of God as seen in what he created. He is exalted over all and worthy of all praise as his goodness and glory are reflected in creation.