

Theology Pub – Creation

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Discuss humanity's role in the creation and perfection of this world. In the beginning, God created....but NOW what? Do we have any role in the continuing creation of this world? Is the work of creation complete? If not - how do we continue to join in on that?

Creation is completed: There are some who believe that God created. Period. Creation is complete, and now we just have to live into our role as humans present on the world.

Complete / Static / Closed / Constant

Creation continues: Others believe that the God who created, who "began to create" is still at work. God's Spirit is still present in the world - and instead of playing the role of passive observer, it is our role to be active co-creators with God, to be discerning of WHAT we create in this world, and to participate WITH an active, changing, dynamic God.

Continuing / Dynamic / Open / Surprising



The first word: Bereishit

Hebrew: בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ

Transliteration: Bereishit bara Elohim et hashamayim ve'et ha'aretz

Translation: When God **began** to create heaven and Earth ...

Q. Is this a different interpretation than "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth..."

Process Theology:

God changes: Because God interacts with the changing universe, God is changeable (that is to say, God is affected by the actions that take place in the universe) over the course of time. However, the abstract elements of God (goodness, wisdom, etc.) remain eternally solid.

Q. Does God change?

Connection to the Environment / Creation Care:

"...to be co-creator with the "living God" who always actualizes in his creation new possibilities, previously unimagined humanly speaking, is to be prepared always to adjust creatively and deliberately to the changes necessary for God's purposes to be fulfilled which includes maintaining the environment in such a way that it can go on being the medium through which life can continue and explore new modes of existence under the guidance of God. (p.316)

From: Peacocke, Arthur R. Creation and the World of Science: The Bampton Lectures, 1978. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1979.

Q. What is humanity's role to creation? Do we have responsibilities?