

V.O.C. – July 2017  
Rev. W. denHollander

## July 2, 2017: God is Almighty & Creator

Dear Listeners,

During this month of July I would like to speak to you about God, who has revealed Himself in His Word, the Bible. July being a beautiful summer month, a month in which many have the opportunity to take a vacation, to travel, to explore nature, and to enjoy the vistas and panoramas of many a scenic drive, I wish to draw your attention to God, the Almighty Creator of it all. Even if you can't afford to go on holidays somewhere and relax, then to admire a sunset, scenery, or spectacular view, close to home as well, yes in your backyard or in a park nearby, you can observe the beauties of God's handiwork! Indeed, that's what I would like you to see: God's work of creation, for we believe and confess that all things visible and invisible were created by God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth!

The church has believed and confessed this, based on what God has revealed to us in His Word, the Bible, and has done so at all times and is doing so in all places. The church did so, however, not without attacks. In the past philosophers and scientists have tried to *explain* the *origin* of the world. It's been done with the philosophy of materialism, the hypotheses of Darwinism, or the theory of evolution. Today it's the progress in scientific research that causes people to lose faith in God, the Creator. Scholars investigate the world of the smallest elements; they, also, explore the universe, the planets and stars, giving them the feeling of control, of disclosure, over the secrets, the mysteries of the world. By chance they research materials that hold the secret of a spontaneous generation of life! In all these ways the need for belief in God is taken away. They study *Nature*, its laws, its elements of life, to remove the necessity of a *creating power* in the beginning. With ideas about an incidental course of events and a process of evolution, this world and our existence can be explained without the need for a first mover, an intelligent design, or an almighty God, the *Creator*!

In the midst of these attacks, however, dear listener, the church continues to confess the faith in God, the Almighty Maker of heaven and earth. We accept God's Word; we accept God's self-manifestation and revelation, and we are comforted by it. We trust in Him, who was and who is and who will be the eternal God! Yes, we are comforted because He also is the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, whose name is the only name given under heaven by which we can be saved! That's what I want to speak about as well this month; that you, dear listener, may also find your confidence and trust in this God and Maker, in this God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ!

So indeed, dear listener, God is the Almighty One! This is one of the central and basic tenets of our faith and confession. We confess Him on the basis of God's Word in which He has revealed Himself. We know Him from His Word as the Maker of heaven and earth. God showed His love in this work of creation. He wanted people as His children to share in His love! Our faith in His work of creation, therefore, is decisive for our

whole existence. If we give up on our faith in God, the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth, we lose the origin of our existence; its sense and purpose also! We may know Him as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is so mighty that He created heaven and earth. It is important for us to realize that God Himself taught us to look upon Him that way for our comfort. When for instance Job, the wise and pious child of God, is all confused and upset in the midst of his suffering, the LORD God comes to him as the eternal God, the Maker of heaven and earth. "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations?" He said. Then He ends His address with the question, "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him?" Then, in response, Job puts his hand over his mouth. "Yes," Job replied, "I know you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted."

In the book of Isaiah we see the same, when Isaiah the prophet comforts his people, quoting the LORD God, "Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God?' Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth." Hence, Isaiah 40 shows, if that's so, apply that to your life! Look at this world, and see the stars, the seas, the mountains, and the rulers of this earth, and realize: the LORD your God created all this and governs them all! How great and almighty He must be! At one time He created the world through the Word! It is this Word that starts out with that majestic word, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth!"

The Bible, dear listeners, does not start out with an introduction about God, but immediately it poses with the greatest possible certainty: at the beginning of all things is God. He created heaven and earth - out of nothing! God did, the Almighty One; God did, and in that small word greatness, power, and majesty is expressed that cannot be described! He created all things; the word 'created' denoting an activity only God could perform. In this unique activity eternal powers were at work. He brought forth creation from nothing: "For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm." [Ps. 33:9] We know that! We believe and confess it, "For by faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible." [Hebr. 11:3]

This faith in the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, dear listener, in the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth, is not just a matter of choice between the evolution theory and the creation account; it is a matter of life and death! You either believe in God, the Almighty, or you don't at all! God is God the Creator 'out of nothing,' or He is no God! "For this is what the LORD says - he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited - he says: 'I am the LORD, and there is no other.'" [Is. 45:18] That's why it's so important that there are people, believers, who continue to confess this God as Father, the Almighty. God created this world to be inhabited, for His children! God upholds and governs this world for the sake of His plan with mankind. It is that sure knowledge that gives us also the firm confidence that not a power in this world, not a devil, not a god-forsaking mankind, can break up God's Almighty government and Providence. He is on His way to a new heaven and a new earth with this world, in or-

der that all His people will join in with the twenty-four elders in Rev. 4:11, the representatives of the church of all times, singing, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

With this faith in God as Almighty Creator of heaven and earth, dear listener, we are standing opposite all evolutionistic thinking in all sciences of our time. You cannot combine the two, as some thinkers have tried to do. In God's Word we find the answers about the origin of the universe. No, the Bible is not a Handbook of science, but it is *the* book for scientists! The Bible shows us the greatness and glory of God in His work of creation. Instead of the blind powers of nature, the whims of every natural phenomenon, we meet God in the universe! In this world with the haughtiness of modern man in his scientific research of man's genes and DNA and of the universe's secrets and mysteries, we must learn to take our place in humbleness before the Almighty God, the Creator of heaven and earth! With eyes of faith in Him we will see His glory and Almighty power in all of nature, His handiwork, which He displays all around us, for us to see and praise our Maker! Next week, dear listener, I will speak about this some more, especially about God our Creator who in Jesus Christ also is our Father! Thanks for listening, and please tune in again next week at this time and on this station!