


THREE ASPECTS OF CREATION

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EARTH WITHOUT END

The perfect riposte to "earth without end renewalists" is in the concept of creation itself. There needs to be a fundamental grasp of what is meant by the creation of what we know and see around us in the world; we call it the "space time continuum". Creation as we know it is subjected to vanity-to return to its raw materials or in the case of the earth itself by commutation to vanity. Its only hope and our only hope- is from above. Our hope is in *the one who came from above*-in the in-breathing of *the Spirit from above*-in birth from above-*in rapture from above* and in *the new Jerusalem from above* and in the new heavens and new earth which are created in another dimension and "*come from God*" instead of this earth which is travailing and wearing out. Nothing below will sustain us nor is anything below sustainable for ever or under the promise of being eternally "held together." (*See Colossians 1.17 and Hebrews 1.12*)

IRISH MISSION

During a mission in the early 1970's in Randalstown, Co Antrim we were privileged to have as our speaker Rev. Brian Kingsmore (The Billy Graham agent in N.I.) as our evangelist and Mrs Barbara Law (nee Chenault for our soloist. The latter with her husband Jim Law and whilst on their honeymoon formed a gospel duo to play and sing for each weeknight of the mission beginning on Saturday with a packed social evening when Barbara sang 19 gospel and classic numbers. The effort so tired her she was in bed next day but when I went to visit her, she reported that both children of her host had received the Lord as their Saviour. She attended a Southern Baptist Church up until her marriage and her pastor there had

taught Genesis 1-2 recently and stressed the significance of the three verbs for “create” in these chapters. Those meanings I lay out for you in the short paragraphs below.

BARA

In Genesis 1 we are introduced to three concepts of creation. The first is BARA-the notion of "creating *ex nihilo*"-really the root idea is "to build". and the concept links with **“the builder”**. We have to associate with this the notion of destruction-because that is fundamental to BARA. What is built can be knocked down. What is "created" can be destroyed. God says "I can create I can destroy"

ASHAH

The second word is ASHAH. This Hebrew word means "to make" or to "produce to offer ". The connection is with **“the farmer”** who produces cattle for food or to be offered wholesale or for slaughter. The offerings of beasts fall into this category. Their lives end and they are burned with fire or eaten. What God makes can be destroyed.

YOTZER

The third concept is YOTZER. The root of this Hebrew word is to be found in ceramics. God is described in scripture as **“the Potter”**. It is very plain that pots can crack and pots can break and pots will go back to the dust. For every piece of ostraca that is found there are millions of pots that have gone back to mere dust.

**IN THE BEGINNING FROM HIS HEAVENLY
THRONE GOD CREATED
A BUILDING DESIGNED FOR TIME THAT WILL
FALL DOWN IN TIME.**

In Genesis Chapter 1.1 all three words come into use. God created (BARA) the heavens and the earth which are underneath and above us in the known world-the "space time dimension".

MAN, THE PRODUCT OF GOD'S HAND DIES- GRACE NOTWITHSTANDING

God "made"(ASHAH) the firmament (1.7)-the whole atmosphere as originally settled above the earth was made to be destroyed. This was partially effect-ed by the deluge when the protection afforded by the atmosphere was diminished. Today the atmosphere is being eroded in a percentile manner by global warming and holes and huge gaps are developing in the glorious blue band that encircled our planet. This process will be completed by a devastating catastrophe when fire consumes the remainder understandably making life unsustainable on earth for a living soul.

God also made two great lights-the sun and the moon. They are also subject to the law of decay and have been created under the law of destruction.

God "made"(ASHAH) man(**Genesis1.27**) and HE has reserved the right to separate man's body and soul and do to bring upon man "death" and even the "second death" with its implications for the properties of the soul(namely will memory feelings mind) and of the spirit(namely enjoyment of and worship of God)

Also, in **Genesis 2.3** both verbs BARA and ASHAH are set in apposition and together express for us the temporality of this created order. All that God made pleased him but equally it was all to be an offering to him and it was all made subject to the law of ASHAH or dissolution or vanity. In **Romans 8 18-20** Paul sets out this doctrine concisely

OUR HOPE IS NOT IN MAN AND EARTHY BUT TO BE BORN AGAIN "FROM ABOVE" -A PERFECT MIRROR OF THE WORLD TO COME

"I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who has subjected the same in hope. Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God for we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." Paul clarifies by going on to show that our hope extends beyond the material universe for what we do not now see (v25)

THE REDEMPTION OF THE BODY

Paul writing to the Romans on the subject of "Life" begun through the Spirit in the "Abba Father" prayer Romans 8.15 goes on to speak of the creation being in bondage to decay and living in expectation of liberation. He is not just speaking of the earth but of the universe- κτισις. This may be taken as the earth or the wider universe in the sense below.

The realm of Sheol had been "groaning and travailing"-for even Hell will be granted "resurrection" for judgement. The earth and its inhabitants had been reflecting that pain of expectation and even the heavenly realm as reflected by the operations of the Holy Spirit who both garnished heaven and groaned for saints in heaven and in His ministry (to be strengthened by saints in the future as shown in **Revelation 11.17**)

This expectation APOKARADOKIA means literally "receiving or expecting of an encounter to take away from the head" of others (that is-to take away to heaven **above**-the idea being predicated on that expression found in the catching up of Elijah) **2Kings 2.3** Paul continues-"We have received the Holy Sprit of first-fruits - nevertheless we groan or howl-for we look for what is our right of heir ship -the placement -the full redemption from the slave market

of the world of each of our bodies. This as in Ephesians 4.30 is the time of the Rapture or day when the slave market of the world has no more who suffer under its trials and bondage of the flesh. We don't "go to heaven" for a holiday soon to return to earth. Our New Jerusalem is the place of "many mansions" and wherever it goes we go. If we rule from it docked with earth very well-but we are nevermore to be earthlings!

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Aramaic Bible Companion Classics