



NICENE CREED

WEEK TWO

What is something
impossible for
humans?

Let's Read the Creed

Recap

- “We believe”
- Learned the context (historical and theological) for the Christians at Nicaea saying “We believe”
 - “Council” “Rule of Faith” “Constantine”
- Learned the context for us to say “We believe”
 - Unites our community, Ties our faith to those before us, Give us language to confess our faith

Reading

- What is something that stuck with you from the reading?
- What is a question you still have?
- What is something from the reading that we *need* to talk about today?

Outline Today

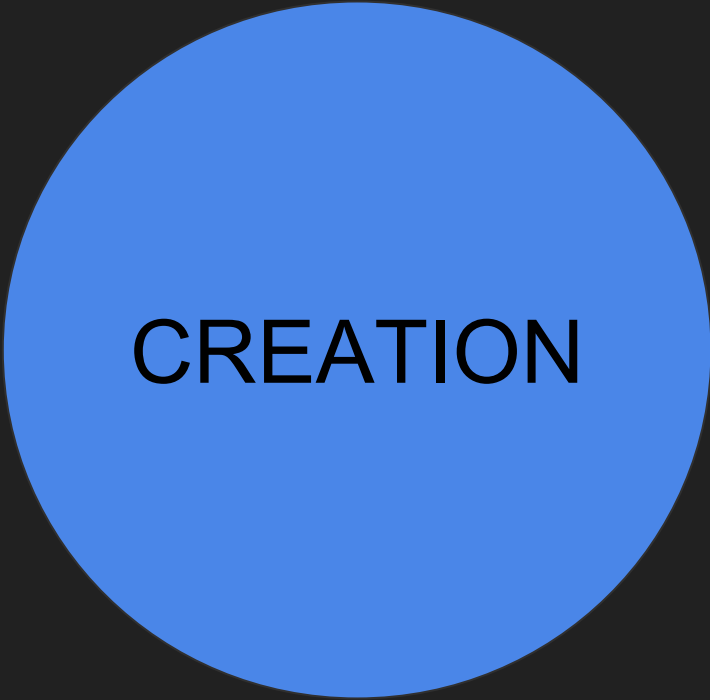
“We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible”

- Why is this an important point?
- What does this mean for us?
- Other Accounts of Creation

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the Father Almighty,
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GOD



CREATION

Creator & Creation is foundational

We make this distinction because of *how* God created:

- “Creatio ex nihilo” = Creation out of nothing
- There was nothing before God created it
 - Land nor sea
 - Planets nor galaxies
 - Matter nor singularity
 - Time nor space

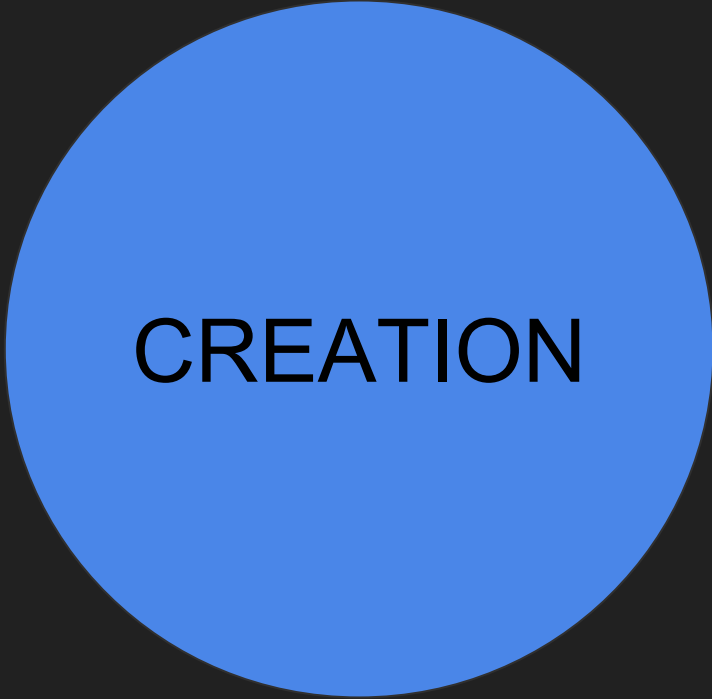
Creator & Creation helps us

It might seem simple and trivial, but it's important!

- What is sin?
 - Not recognizing your creatureliness; unbelief
 - Not living as we were designed; disobedience
 - Failing to take care of creation; poor stewardship
 - Loving a created thing improperly; idolatry



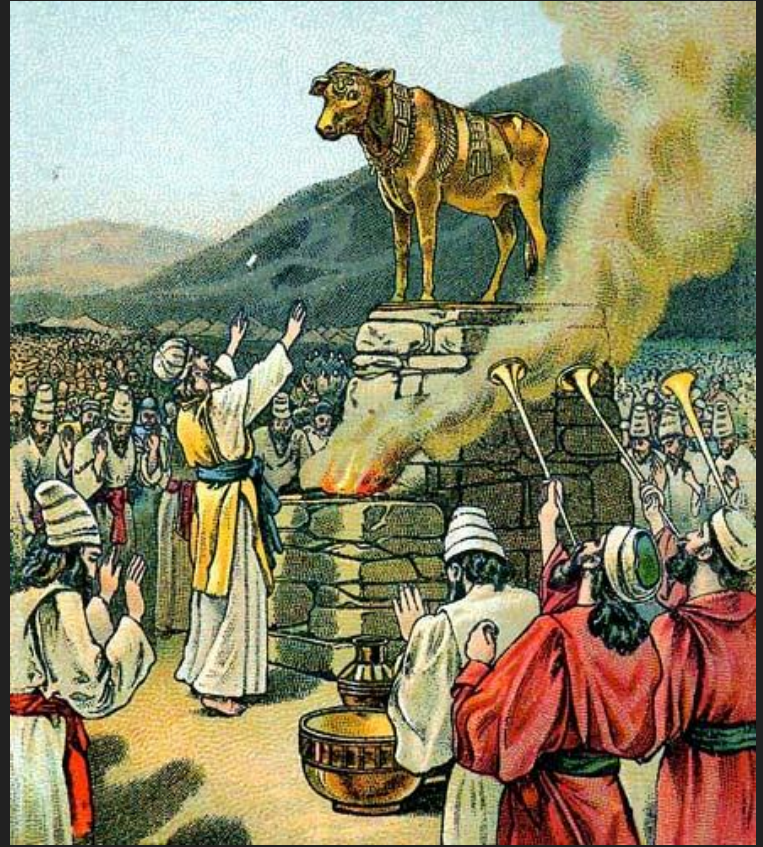
GOD



CREATION

“Our God is in the heavens;
he does all that he pleases.
Their idols are silver and
gold, the work of human
hands. They have mouths,
but do not speak; eyes, but
do not see.” *Ps 115:3-5*

- Idols are *created*



Creator & Creation helps us

It might seem simple and trivial, but it's important!

- Understanding our creatureliness means understanding that we have limits, and it's a *good* thing!
 - The perfect pastor doesn't save the world, that's God's job
 - My role as a father is different from Adele's role as mother, and that's beautiful!

Creator & Creation helps us

It might seem simple and trivial, but it's important!

- Understanding our creatureliness means understanding who our Creator is!
 - He's the real authority
 - He's our salvation
 - He's your personal creator

Other Accounts of Creation

- They all get the division wrong in some way or another
- I want to briefly touch on:
 - Ancient pagans
 - Gnosticism
 - Atheism (“functional atheism”)

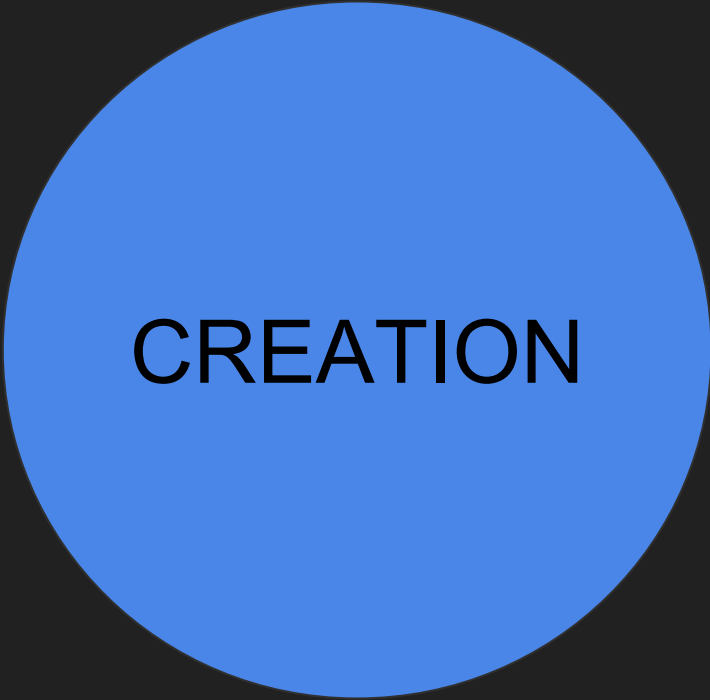
Other Accounts of Creation

Pagan Myths:

- Brought gods into creation in some way or another
- Creation is chaos



GOD



CREATION

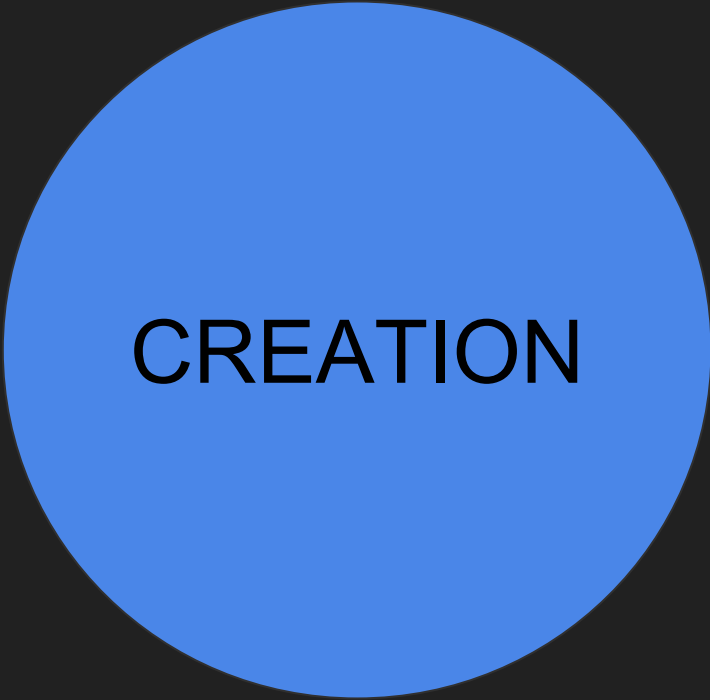
Other Accounts of Creation

Gnosticism:

- A frequent error combated by early Christianity
 - Gnostics wrote their own “gospels”
- Divided the world between matter and spirit
- Matter is either:
 - Evil and must be overcome
 - Unimportant and gets in the way



GOD



CREATION

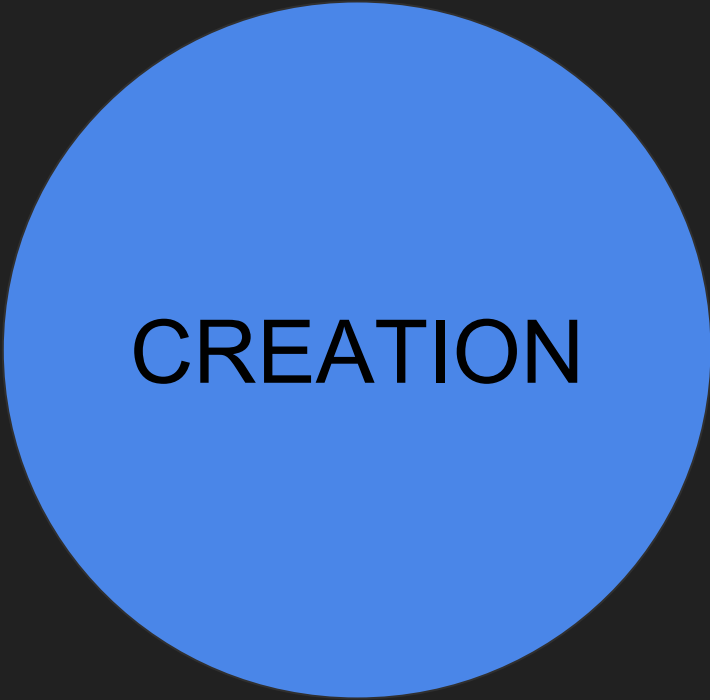
Other Accounts of Creation

Atheism:

- Doesn't acknowledge a creator at all
 - What fills that gap?
- Doesn't acknowledge our own creaturliness and limits
 - Leads to arrogance, or despair!
- "Functional Atheism" is the threat for Christians
 - Living as if God didn't exist



GOD



CREATION

Pause... Questions?

RECAP

1. Why is this an important point?
 - a. Helps us understand God, ourselves, and sin
2. What does this mean for us?
 - a. Live as God made you! Limits and all
3. Other Accounts of Creation
 - a. In many unique ways, they miss the same distinction
 - b. Don't kid ourselves and think we won't make similar mistakes