

thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities -- all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

- n. Hebrew 11:3 -- "By faith we understand that the worlds (or ages) were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible."
- o. Revelation 4:11 -- "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."
- p. Revelation 10:5-6 -- "And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things in it, and the earth and the things in it, and the sea and the things in it, that there shall be delay no longer."

3. Development of the Doctrine

a. Creation is a free act of God

This implies three ideas:

(1) Creation is not a necessary act of God

Creation does not arise out of some necessity in God's nature (e.g., His omnipotence or His love)

In the absolute sense, necessity is only true in the *opera ad intra* (relationships within the godhead). In the conditional sense, necessity is true in the *opera ad extra* (works out of the godhead). This is true because the *opera ad intra* are based upon the divine nature; the *opera ad extra* are conditioned on the divine decrees. Thus creation does not spring from a necessity arising from God's nature, but does spring from a necessity arising from God's decrees.

(2) Creation is not an act out of a need within the godhead that had to be satisfied.

God did not create anything because He needed it. God does not need anything; everything needs Him.

Before creation, God did not need anything; He was perfectly self-sufficient and self-fulfilled. Within the Trinity there is always perfect oneness, perfect fellowship, perfectly sufficient objects of love, and perfect satisfaction.

God did not create other rational beings because He was lonely, or because He felt He needed someone to talk to, or someone to love, or because He had a compulsion to express His omnipotence.