

Colossians 1:16 -- "For by Him (ἐν αὐτῷ) instrumental use) all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities -- all things have been created by Him (δι' αὐτοῦ) and for Him."

(3) All things are created by the agency of the Holy Spirit

Genesis 1:2 -- "And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Job 26:13 -- "By His Spirit the heavens are made beautiful."

Psalms 104:30 -- "Thou dost send forth Thy Spirit, they (the animals) are created; And thou dost renew the face of the ground."

d. Creation gives to all created beings a distinct, yet dependent, existence.

When God created, He brought into existence something that was not Himself. His creatures are created beings they have an existence distinct from His. His creatures are created beings; they are totally dependent on Him for their existence.

e. The concept of creation may be studied under distinct conceptions, which differ according to the use of primary or secondary efficiency and the employment of or non employment of preexisting materials.

- (1) Creation *ex nihilo* means the bringing into being that which is not God, using neither previously existing materials nor secondary causes. This is the primary sense of creation, in which God creates the original energy of the universe from nothing, or in which He creates spirits from nothing.
- (2) Immediate creation means the bringing into being of that which is not God, using previously existing materials, but not secondary causes. God creates form out of matter (or form in matter).
- (3) Mediate creation means the bringing into being of that which is not God, using both previously existing materials and secondary causes. God creates formed matter through creatures to whom He gives powers and abilities to reproduce His actions and to think His thoughts after Him, and to produce works of genuine sub creativity that reflect His goodness, His truth, and His beauty.