

However, having said this, we must hasten to reaffirm the truth that Satan has great and manifold powers for evil, and for destruction!

C. Creation of the Material World

1. What does Scripture mean by "creation"?

Three distinct conceptions of creation should be noted:

- a. *Ex nihilo* creation -- (literally, creation from nothing) -- the bringing into existence of that which did not previously exist, either in substance or in form.
- b. Immediate creation -- (i.e., direct creation) -- the bringing into existence of that which did not previously exist in form, employing previously existing substance, but not secondary causes.
- c. Mediate creation -- (i.e., indirect creation) -- the bringing into existence of that which did not exist in form, employing both previously existing substance and secondary causes.

2. What did God create?

a. What kinds of things, nonliving and living, did God create?

Scripture tells us that God created all things, including the heavens and the earth, light, the earth's atmosphere, the dry land, the oceans, land plants, fruit trees, the sun, moon, and stars, aquatic animals, birds, terrestrial animals, the Garden of Eden, human beings, and the spirit world.

Scripture does not specify the creation of atoms or subatomic particles, microscopic organisms, sea plants, amphibians, wingless birds, flying insects, disease causing bacteria or viruses or funguses or parasites, galaxies, quasars, or black holes.

The Bible simply tells us that God created all things; and then breaks down the "all things" into general categories of nonliving and living things.

b. What are the "kinds" or basic categories of living things that God originally created?

The basic categories of living things specified in the original account of creation (Genesis 1:2) include the following:

- (1) seed yielding herbs (Genesis 1:11-12)
- (2) seed containing fruit trees (Genesis 1:11-12)
- (3) aquatic animals (Genesis 1:21)
- (4) winged birds (Genesis 1:21)
- (5) cattle (Genesis 1:24-25)
- (6) creeping land animals (Genesis 1:24-25)