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Revelation 4:11

God the Creator – Why Believe?

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How many of you know what an “Invisible Fence” is? Have any of you ever seen an “Invisible Fence”? Of course you haven’t! They’re invisible! But some of you know what I’m talking about. Some pet owners, instead of fencing in their yard, have a so-called “Invisible Fence” installed – a buried wire that establishes a perimeter for their pet, and transmits a little jolt if the animal tries to stray out of the yard.

I would suggest to you today that we Christians have an “Invisible Fence” for what we believe. It’s called the Apostles’ Creed. Not that we’re going to give you a little shot of electricity if you start straying in your personal beliefs and religious views. But the Creed establishes a kind of perimeter, a boundary, for what we believe as Christians. It lays out the basics of what it means to be a believing Christian.

Our sermon series, in this season of Lent, is called “Why Believe?” Why do we believe these particular truths in the Apostles’ Creed? Why do we accept these as our faith boundaries? Why is it important for modern-day Christians to stay in the same basic spiritual yard as our forefathers?

Today, we explore the first little section of our yard: “I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.” A fundamental Christian teaching is articulated here. We’re saying that we believe that our all-powerful God is the one who made the universe, who fashioned this earth, who created you and me. Why do we believe that?

Two answers: (1) It says so in the Bible; and (2) it helps me know who I am. Let's look at both of these answers for why we believe God is our maker.

First, the Bible says so. The very first sentence lays it out: *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* Genesis 1 tells the story. Genesis 2 retells the story. Genesis 3 expands the story, and tells how God's perfect creation was ruined and polluted by human sin.

But it's not only in Genesis. All throughout the Bible, it's stated over and over again. More than a hundred times it says that God is the Maker. God is the Creator. It's in Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, 1 Chronicles, Nehemiah, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, Zechariah, Malachi, Matthew, Mark, John, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 Timothy, Hebrews, 1 & 2 Peter, and Revelation.

From start to finish, there's a consistent truth laid out in Scripture – that our almighty God is the one who created our universe, and who created us. That's 101 Bible verses right there! Revelation 4:11 says, *"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."* That's the worldview presented in the pages of the Bible: God is our maker.

Science offers us a different, competing worldview, doesn't it? The scientist's worldview tends to leave God out completely, and to lean on other theories -- such as evolution, and the big bang – to explain the formation of the universe, and our unique place in it as humans.

Now, this is not an anti-science sermon. I know that there are many scientists in our congregation, and there are a

great many smart people in our church who've done a lot of reading and study on these topics. I'm not asking you to give up on the scientific method, and I'm not suggesting that the first three pages of the Bible should be our one and only science textbook. Christians like us don't have to be covering our ears and closing our minds to any talk about scientific methodologies and concepts.

But let's get to the heart of the matter. The Apostles' Creed begins with a statement about God as the Creator for a reason. He's either a part of your worldview, or he isn't. He's either responsible for our universe, and for us being here, or he's not. We may not have all of the final answers for exactly how God created the world, and when he created it; but it is a fundamental article of Christian faith, proclaimed in the Scriptures over and over, that God is the creator.

Now, some Christians try to have it both ways. They'll say, "I believe in God; but I just don't believe the creation story." I would just offer you a word of caution. There's some danger in that particular stance. Think about what you're really saying. Is this part of God's Word true, but this part is not? Are those 101 verses that say God created the world all off-base? Do you think that God's not capable of creating a world out of nothing, but that he's capable of answering your prayers and saving your soul?

Look, I'm not standing up here pretending to have all the answers about God's creation. I sure don't. But I can tell you this. I am utterly convinced that God is real. I believe with all my heart that God is all-powerful, that God has a capacity that is millions and billions of times greater than my own. So I'm going to stand with Christian believers through the centuries, and hold to this article of faith: I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. Why? My first answer: it says so in the Bible.

And here's my second answer – it helps me know who I am. I'm 6'-3½". I have brown hair, quickly turning gray. I've got long arms, and skinny legs. I've never liked the taste of coffee, but I've never met a donut I didn't love. I've got a wonderful Michigan accent, and I have all sorts of personality quirks. That's who I am. But where did I come from? And where am I going?

Those are important questions, for all of us. Where did you come from? Some random evolutionary process? A chance lightning strike in the primordial soup? Or did God make you?

God made you, and when he made you he broke the mold! God made you just the way you are: with your body, your brain, your accent, your skin tone, your quirky personality, your calling in life. God created you in an absolutely unique way! You're an original, one-of-a-kind, a limited edition of one.

We were all made by God, friends, and we belong to God. We'll never really know who we are, we'll never be happy and fulfilled, until we know him intimately. God made you, he loves you despite your sin, and he sent his wonderful Son Jesus to die on the cross and rise from the dead for your forgiveness and your eternal life. Your Creator has become your Savior. That's how much God loves the person you are!

It all starts with the God who created us. When you know who he is, then you can start to know who you really are, and know where you're going. May God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, help us on the way to believe. Amen.