

**January 20, 2019**

## Faith in God the Creator

1 Peter 4:17-19

4:17 For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

4:18 And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

4:19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

### **1. God the Creator**

Nijjima Joe was a Christian who was known as the founder of Doshisha English School which later became Doshisha University. He became interested in the U.S. after the American fleet led by Perry came to Uruga and negotiated with Japan about opening ports and commerce. People called this historical incident “Arriving the Black Ships” which happened on June 3, 1853. Nijjima wanted to read the Bible which was the back bone of the American faith. He got a Chinese Bible. At the beginning of it, Nijjima was shocked by the words of Genesis 1:1 which said, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Many Japanese gods are creatures; they are mountains, forests, trees, stones, animals, etc. However, the Bible says that they are not God, but only what God made. Nijjima, who had been worshiping creatures as gods, had come to know God the Creator of everything through the Bible.

The main goddess of Japan is “Amaterasu Omikami,” which is the

sun. Not only Japan, but also other countries make the sun and the heavenly bodies gods. It was true in ancient Egypt and Babylonia, which were deeply involved in the Bible. In China it has been said that stars control the fate of the nation and individual's life. However, the Bible writes about the celestial body, "God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth." (Genesis 1:17) As we decorate the frames on the wall, the sun, the moon and the stars were arranged in the heavens. The Genesis depicts the wisdom and power of God with such expressions.

In Genesis, the word "generation" is repeated, and it is a division of Genesis. It is the Hebrew word "toledot," and it is Genesis 2:4 that comes first. The verse is translated to "These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created." Next is Genesis 5:1. It says, "This is the book of the generations of Adam." "Generation of Noah", "generation of Tera", "generation of Isaac", "generation of Jacob" follow after the "generation of Adam." However, Genesis chapter 1 is placed out of the series of these "generations." It tells us that Genesis 1 was written to convey the wisdom and power of God who created the world, and his loving kindness to the world he made rather than to convey a detailed story of the creation and explanation of formation of the world as we see now.

In addition Genesis 1 is written in the style different from the second chapter and later. It is poet style. It's better to focus on God, the "Creator" than "creation" itself, written as an anthem that praises God's great glory. Genesis 1 is very similar and common with Palms. Psalm 19 songs, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky

above proclaims his handiwork.... In them he has set a tent for the sun,” and Psalm 33 praises God the Creator of the world, “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.” as the Genesis 1 does.

## **2. The Wisdom of God**

Because the Bible is not a textbook of science, no one can say, “The Bible teaches Ptolemaic theory, then it’s wrong” when Psalm 19:5-6 says, “In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.” It seems that the sun is moving as seen from the ground, but in fact the earth is turning the sun. However, it is expressed as “the day rises” and “the sun will set” in our daily life. So when you read the Bible you need to understand that the representation of science and the expression of literature are different.

So, does the creation article of Genesis have no scientific grounds? It’s not. Rather, by the development of science it has become clear that Genesis is not one of the ancient “origin stories.” Every country has an “origin story” which is a myth how the world was made and ethnicity was born. In Japan there is a myth of the “birth of country” and the “birth of gods” by Izanagi and Izanami. In other countries there is a myth that the gods fought, envied, killed each other, then, a god made the world and human beings from the body and blood of the gods he killed. In such a myth, the world is thought to be chaotic and accidental. However, the Bible tells us that the world was created by

God with wisdom and power in times when various myths were believed. Therefore, science has been able to discover the order and law in this world. Science has been expressing it in mathematical formulas, so that many people can use it. If the world were made in the manner that the myth told, today's science has not been born.

Genesis stated that "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." Psalm 33:6 said, "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host." The Bible says, "God created the world by his word," and this is a perfect match for modern science. I do computer programming a little. The computer is running by the program. The computer has a keyboard and there is a display. Under the keyboard, there are computing devices, storage devices, display devices, etc. These are called "hardware." However, even if the hardware works normally, the computer does nothing. Only when the program gives commands to the hardware, the computer gives results.

The work of making a list of commands is called "programming." The computer understands only "ON" or "OFF", "1" or "0" signals. Because it is impossible to write a program with a combination of the signals, many people made many ways of writing a program that human beings can read. they are called "programming languages." There are vocabulary, grammar and style for each programming language since it is a "language." I learned "C," but mainly use "Perl" and "Python." Software runs the hardware. And the software is made by "word" of "programming language." So, words make "computer world." Anyone who are involved in information technology (IT) can nod to what the world was made by the "words of God."

When I write a program for a computer, I first create frameworks and then I write commands that will complete each framework. Genesis teaches that God also made the world with such a method. Genesis tells that God made the world during the six days, but indeed, there is a spectacular contrast between the first three days and the rest three days. Let's make it into a table.

(Day 1) Light and Darkness	(Day 4) Sun, moon, stars
(Day 2) Sky and Sea	(Day 5) Birds and Aquatic Organisms
(Day 3) Land and Plants	(Day 6) Domestic Animals, Wildlife, and Humans

The frameworks were created in the first three days and what fill the frameworks on the other three days.

It is the same in architecture that the framework is created first. When we build a house, we first made a plan. Next we make frame according to the plan. Then we proceed to exterior and interior, then we bring furniture in, and finally we live or work there.

What we can tell from these facts is that the world has never happened to be chaotic by chance. It was designed by purpose of God. Science teaches us how precisely this world was designed. Many scientists have praised the splendor of God's creation. Einstein said, "I believe that the universe is tremendously wonderful, there is only God who can create such things."

Those who actually went out into space and saw the earth said that their views on life changed. Jim Erwin, an aviator of Apollo 15, said, "Until the cosmic flight, my faith was as crowded, while at the same time I had a skeptical doubt in God's existence, but by the astronomic

flight, those skepticism blew away. I was surprised myself by such spiritual internal change ... I knew that God was there and talked in a personal relationship ... It is more amusing that his figure can not be seen, I looked back and searched for him. “

A Japanese astronaut, Kimiya Yui, said, “I am a typical Japanese who does not believe any particular religion, but when I see the earth and its beauty from space, I thought that God must exist.” Certainly, the creatures witness the Creator. The order of creation can be explored with science, but the witness that the creation tells us can not be heard with the power of science. It is by faith alone.

### **3. Trust in the Creator**

The Bible teaches everywhere that this world was created by God and that God is the creator. And, because God is the creator of the world, he can protect, lead and save us. So, we can trust in God the Creator. It is encouraging fact to remember that God is the Creator, especially when we meet sufferings. Through Isaiah’s mouth, God said to the Israelite who had lost their country and had the depths of despair. “But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.’” (Isaiah 43:1) Because God is the Creator, he can be our Redeemer and Savior.

Peter foretold the coming persecution and advised Christians in his letter, saying, “Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.” (1 Peter 4:19) His words of encouragement are based on his actual experiences. Peter was withdrawn to the Jewish parliament at his first

persecution, and interrogated, and obliged. After Peter was released, he went to where the disciples gathered and reported. Then, all of them began to pray in one voice, “And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them.” (Acts 4:24) This prayer can be summarized, “We trust in God the Creator. We never be afraid of creatures.” If God is the Creator, all things except God are creatures. And the creatures have no power against the Creator. As Paul says, “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

”I believe and trust in God the Creator of the heavens and the earth.” We can live on earth by the faith in the Creator even we have difficulties and sufferings

### **(Prayer)**

The Creator of the heavens and the earth and the Father of Jesus Christ, the world is truly your works. Even the testimony of your works let our eyes turn to you and encourage us, how are your direct words more powerful to inform us that you are the Creator and your purpose for us? Please, guide and help so that we can know your will, and rely on you, and give ourselves into you. We pray this in the name of the Lord Jesus.