

Belgic Confession, Article 12, “Of the Creation of the World (part 1)”

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 8

Lesson Aim	To understand three things: First, that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit created out of nothing into nothing, second, how the structure of creation supports the creation mandate and third, how creation relates to the doctrine of providence.
Steps to Learning	Read Belgic Confession, Article 12 and Psalm 8. Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may work best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	What are some Scriptural passages revealing that each person in the Trinity creates? 1 Corinthians 8:6; John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:2,3; Genesis 1:2; Psalm 104:30. What does it mean that God created out of nothing? It means that before God commenced creation, there was no preexisting material; there was nothing (no space, time, matter, darkness, light, etc.). Only God existed. Therefore, there was nothing out of which to create. What did we learn in the sermon about the structure and order of creation? According to the Genesis chapter 1 account of creation, there are two triads (categories): creation kingdoms and creature kings. The creation kingdoms are composed by light (day 1), sky and seas (day 2) and dry land and vegetation (day 3). The creature kings, as it were, rule over these different kingdoms: Sun and moon (day 4), Sea creatures and birds (day 5) and animals and mankind (day 6). What is the creation mandate? It is found in Genesis chapter 1, verses 26ff. It is the command God gives to all people to produce children, cultivate the earth and have dominion over it. This is the primary purpose all people have. What is the providence of God? This refers to the fact that God orders and maintains the world that he created. God is in control of all that happens.
Bible Reading	Judges 13-16 (covering the great Bible stories)