



## Family Catechism Day

20<sup>th</sup> April 2017: CCC 315-324—God the Creator

CCC 315 Creation proclaims God's Wisdom & Goodness. It is aimed at a new Creation in Christ

CCC 316 Creation is the shared work of the indivisible Trinity

CCC 318 'ex nihilo'

CCC 320-323 Creator & Sustainer. Providence

CCC 324 evil not substantial, not created

### בְּרֵאשִׁית

- Gen 1:1 “בְּרֵאשִׁית” Rosh Hashanah means “Head / First of the Year” (New Year). Christ is the Head, the First, the Alpha
- Gen 1:2 Two mentions of ‘Face’—personalised creation:  
 “וַחֲשֹׁךְ עַל-פְּנֵי תְהוֹם וַיְהִי אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֵף עַל-פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם:”
- Gen 1:6-8 “וַיְהִי רָקִיעַ בֵּתוֹךְ הַמַּיִם” Firmament between the waters. Dry land? Planet earth? These come later. Rather it is Heaven. The more real is the invisible / spiritual. *Firmament >> waters as Heaven >> earth*
- This account is the pattern of creation. Multiple levels / interpretations (though not whimsical). Firmament also form / existence amid potencies. Objects in act. The waters below and above may be read as “what was not” and “what will not” while the Firmament is “what is”.  
 Emerging land can signify spirits created for eternity
- Gen 1:7, 9 The obedience of creation: וַיְהִי-כֵן
- Gen 1:9 The ‘assembly’ (as in People / Church) to ‘one place’ (as in the Temple / Christ) for the emergence of dry land (whereby the ‘seas’ here can stand for grace):

“וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יִקְוּ הַמַּיִם מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם אֶל-מָקוֹם אֶחָד”



- The importance of sacred language, set apart: words like 'place' take on great depth. We make a connection between this and the 'place' of the Akedah and then the Temple
- Gen 1:10 God pronounces Judgement'—He sees what is 'good', makes a separation and assigns names:
  - 'Day' v 'night' (Gen 1:4-5) good v evil;
  - 'Earth' v 'seas' (Gen 1:10) nature & grace OR life & death
- Gen 1:12 Creatures participate in generating, each according to its kind. The highest generation of creatures is virginal / interior (as God receives nothing from outside)
- Gen 1:13 "and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind". If acts of charity be the fruit of our life, they are also the seed for new life
- Gen 1:14 Sun, moon, stars as tokens of [Jesus, Mary and the Saints] seasons, days, years. Moon and Earth's shadow rising to converge in Virgo in AD 33 with the Sun in the Ram. God's arrangement from the beginning—Jesus chose the date and time of His death
- Gen 1:15 "to give light upon the earth" = Church Triumphant cares for Church Militant

“וַיְהִי לַמָּאוֹרֹת בְּרִקְיעַ הַשָּׁמַיִם לְהָאֵיר עַל־הָאָרֶץ וַיְהִי־כֵן:” (cf. v.17-19)

- Gen 1:16 BVM to crush satan's head:

“וְאֶת־הַמָּאֹר הַקָּטָן לְמַמְשַׁלֵּת הַלֵּילָה”
- Gen 1:20 Life from the waters
- Gen 1:21 Life is an act of divine creation: “וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים”
- Gen 1:22, 28 Upon the beasts a blessing and the command to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth; then upon man the same, with the added command to take dominion. Cf 'two brothers', and the elder shall serve the younger
- Gen 1:31 “וַיְהִי־טוֹב מְאֹד”—very good