

## GENESIS: ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- Reading Genesis
  - Conflicts with science
    - Fundamentalist/Young Earth
    - Intelligent Design
    - Evolution or Creator
  - Patristic readings
- Establishing God as the source of the world
  - Verse 1 is not necessarily about creation out of nothing (Westermann, May, Gunton)
  - An event of the past (Gunton, 15-16)
- Heaven and earth
- Seven days
  - Instantaneous or taking time?
  - Structuring principle (Gunton, 17)
- Spirit of God
- Sun and moon as creatures
  - De-deification of the heavenly bodies (Gunton, 18, following Jenson, 22)
- God's dominion over the waters
- Humanity as the crowning jewel of creation
  - In relationship to God
  - Ontologically creature

## THE PSALMS AND OTHER WISDOM LITERATURE

- Psalm 19
- Psalm 24
- Psalm 33
- Psalm 104
  - Spirit as creator of life
- Psalm 139
- Proverbs 8
- Wisdom 7, 10
- Job 38-41

- Isaiah 40:28

## THE GOSPELS

- Nature miracles
  - Nature is responsive to Jesus
- Healings
  - Jesus has the power over human constitution
- Exorcisms
  - All the powers of the world obey him
- John
  - Opening verses
    - Christological ground of creation
  - Signs
    - Abundance at the Wedding at Cana
  - Light, Water, Life

- Resurrection
  - Anchors Jesus to the fate of the world
  - Reveals Jesus as the power of creation

## THE LETTERS OF PAUL

- 1 Corinthians
  - Verse 8:6: Christ as co-creator
- Romans
  - Verse 4:17

## PAULINE TRADITION

- Colossians
  - Christ as summary of creation and agent of creation
- Ephesians
  - Eternity of Christ
  - World created in Christ
  - Christ as the framework of all (Gunton, 22)

## THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

- Opening verses
  - Agency of the Son in creation
- Verse 11:3
- The opening verses of the Letter to the Hebrews “is a classical statement of the double function of Christ in creation, at once to mediate the creation of the world and to sustain it once it is made. It brings out again the point that Christian belief in creation is not a general product of reason, but a very specific creedal affirmation which implies both origination and continuing interaction and upholding.” (Gunton, 21)

## REVELATION

- Verse 4:11
  - Creation as freely willed by God
- Chapter 21
  - New creation
  - Connection with the end of Isaiah

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Colin E. Gunton, *The Triune Creator: A Historical and Systematic Study* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1998).
- Zachary Hayes, *The Gift of Being: A Theology of Creation* (Collegeville, MD: The Liturgical Press, 2001).
- R. W. Jenson, *Story and Promise: A Brief Theology of the Gospel about Jesus* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1973).