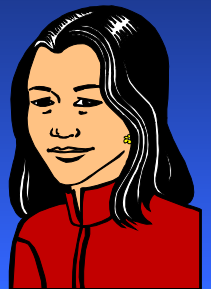


God Creating

Tell me about
language in creating.

For Lansdale Presbyterian Church
Vern Sheridan Poythress, Ph.D., Th.D.
Westminster Theological Seminary



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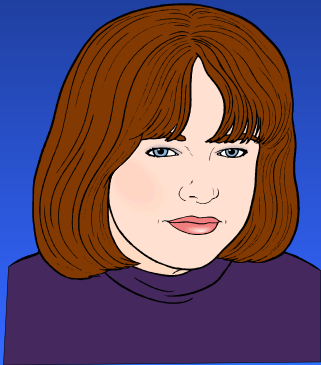
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Challenge: Appreciating Creation

How does God
use language?



In creating
the world.





1. God Speaking

For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

--Ps. 33:9

Examples of God Speaking

And God said, "Let there be light,"
and there was light. --Gen. 1:3

And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the
midst of the waters, and let it separate the
waters from the waters." And God made the
expanse --Gen. 1:6-7

Examples of God Speaking (2)

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together in to one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. --Gen. 1:9

God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. --Gen. 1:5

Summaries of God Speaking

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

--Ps. 33:6

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word
was with God, and the Word was God. He was
in the beginning with God. All things were
made through him, and without him was not
any thing made that was made. --John 1:1-3

God Speaking in Providence

Who has spoken and it came to pass,
unless the Lord has commanded it?
Is it not from the mouth of the Most High
that good and bad come? --Lam. 3:37-38

2. Aspects of God Speaking



Meaning, Control, Presence

And God said, "Let there be light,"
and there was light. --Gen. 1:3

meaning

specifying light

omniscience

control

There was light!

omnipotence

presence

light reflects God

omnipresence

God's Speech for Mankind

And God said, "Be fruitful and multiply ..." --Gen. 1:28

meaning

"fruitful"

control

power to be fruitful

presence

receiving God's blessing

God as Origin

- God originates language, not man.
- Creation is saturated with language (presence)
- Creation is controlled by language
- Creation is meaningful in language.
- God can speak to us.

Differing Views

- God originates.
- God is active in language.
- Analysis must reckon with God.
- Man is just there (self-creates).
- God is irrelevant to language.
- Science looks at "the facts" (excluding God).
- Language is just social (can't reach God)