



## CHRIST AND CREATION | MAY 23, 2021 | CRAIG REES

**Big Idea:** The Eternal Son is Lord over creation.

**Key Scripture:**

Matthew 6:45-51	Matthew 28:2	Luke 8:21-25	1 Corinthians 8:6
Matthew 8:23-27	Mark 4:36-41	Luke 19:40	1 Corinthians 14:9
Matthew 14:22-33	Mark 6:45-51	John 1:1-4, 14	Colossians 1:15-20
Matthew 21:18-22	Mark 11:12-14, 20-24	John 6:15-21	Hebrews 1:1-3
Matthew 27:45, 51-52	Mark 15:33;	Acts 2:16-21	Hebrews 11:3

1. Francis Shaeffer's in his book, No Final Conflict, talks about the possibility of God creating a 'grown up' universe, or a gap between Genesis 1:1 and 2 or Genesis 1:2 and 3. Remember, he's not claiming to hold these possibilities, but is seeking to challenging how we engage with them.
  - a. What do you make of his observation that our understanding of the natural world and of Scripture is inadequate when we hold too tightly to ideas about creation that have other theoretical explanations?
  - b. When do we go too far?
  - c. How do you respond when other believers have a different interpretation of Scripture to you?
  
2. Read Hebrews 11:3. How do you understand this verse?
  
3. Pastor Craig referred to the work of Simon Oliver. Oliver claimed that nature and human culture were frequently integrated in peoples' minds so that creation was seen as a gift. Oliver claims that in recent years individual freedom tends to see creation less as a gift and more as a playing field for individual expression. As you think about that claim, can you think of practical ways that could help you and your family, circle of influence, reclaim the idea of creation as a gift?
  
4. How would seeing creation as a gift make creation care easier?
  
5. In the person of Jesus, the divine presence, evident at creation, has come in flesh. That's the truth in a number of New Testament passages. As you consider that truth in the light of Jesus's words and deeds, what does the incarnation and life of Jesus say about how God values creation?
  
6. Pastor Craig shared that the more profoundly we understand who Jesus is, the more we discover about the means of creation through Him and the hope of all creation in Him.
  - a. How has your deepening understanding of Jesus shaped your views of people, our nation, and the world in which we live?
  - b. Do you think it's true that the more you understand Jesus the more you discover the hope of all creation rests in him?