

Awesome Creation Passages & Comments from Tom Woodward

I. Let's start by noting how God speaks from two books: Scripture and Nature. This central idea of **God's two books** is squarely in focus in Psalm 19:1: ***"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."*** Also, Romans 1:18-20 proclaims how God has revealed himself through the world. Verse 20 declares: ***"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."***

II. In the 1920s astronomers discovered that the universe is in a state of steady expansion—being stretched out. But God said it first: nine times in the Old Testament. These verses declare that God "stretched out the heavens"! Also, Isa. 42:5 & Zech. 12:1 point to **three levels of creation**.

1. **Job 9:8** [God..] alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea....

2. **Isaiah 40:22** He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

3. **Isaiah 42:5** Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it.

4. **Isaiah 44:24** Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself....

5. **Isaiah 45:12** I made the earth and created man on it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host.

6. **Isaiah 51:13** [You] have forgotten the LORD, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth...?

7. **Jeremiah 10:12** It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

8. **Jeremiah 51:15** It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

9. **Zechariah 12:1** The oracle of the word of the LORD concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him.

III. READ and MEDITATE ON THESE KEY CREATION PASSAGES:

1. **Gold Medal: Genesis Chapters 1 & 2:** This is creation's foundation, where in chapter one we progress through six days of creation, starting with the "raw materials" of just a planet covered with water, sitting in darkness. (We'll discuss the topic of "literal days." I take the view that they are true 24-hour days.) An amazing **echo of Genesis 1's creation by God's word, from nothing, is seen in Ps 33:6-9** (key parts in bold): ***⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. ⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.***

2. **Silver Medal: Job 36-41 gets this medal for length: see Job 36:22 through 41:34...a whopping 165 verses!** God's creation is in view, along with his activity of maintaining and ruling over each speck of nature.

3. **Three NT passages tie for Bronze Medals, featuring Christ as Creator. Feast on John 1:1-5 & John 1:10; then dine on Col. 1:16-18; for a sumptuous dessert enjoy Hebrews 1:1-4.**

Note also Heb 11:3: "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

4. **Honorable Mention: Acts 17:24-29** is Paul's powerful statement on God's creation of mankind from one man. It was the opening in Paul's speech to a gathering of philosophers in Athens. It even mentions God's ruling hand in shaping geopolitics (boundaries of nations).

5. **Last but not least, Eph. 2:10 and II Cor. 5:17 describe believers as a special "new creation"--as God's "handiwork" created for good works!**

P.S. Celebrate creation! Read about creation in Psalm 139:13-15, where it describes how God wove David's body in the womb.

Praise him! Here is a sampler of psalm passages that praise God as Creator: **Ps 89:11-12; Ps 90:2; Ps 95:3-7; Ps 100:1-3; Ps 104; Ps 136:1-9; Ps 147:4.**