

Apostles' Creed: The First Article

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

The Creed says that God the Father is the Maker of heaven and earth. So, what has He created? (*Everything and everyone.*) **Genesis 1** tells us how God created everything in the world. (Read **Genesis 1:1—5**). This tells us what God did on the first day. Notice how *God said, "Let there be light," and there was light (v. 3)*. God spoke light into existence by the power of His word. When the light came appeared, *God saw that it was good (v. 5)*. The word "good" means "excellent." For the next five days, the pattern of what happened stays the same. God spoke everything into existence and saw that everything He made was excellent. When God was done creating, he looked at *everything He had made, and behold, it was very good (v. 31)*. That means it was "exceedingly excellent." Everything God made was perfect.

Even though the world has been messed up by sin, it is still God's creation, and He still cares for it.

Since we believe that God made everything, He made it all perfect, and still cares for it, how should we treat the world around us? (*With respect, care, and thanksgiving.*)

Prayer:

Father, You have made everything. Help us to be grateful for all that You have made and given to us. Help us to treat Your world with care and respect. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.