

## Handout: 1A. The Necessity of the Creed

**LXX Gen 1.1-2** — In the beginning God made heaven and earth (ὁ Θεὸς ἐποίησεν τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ τὴν γῆν). Now (δὲ) the earth was invisible (ἀόρατος) and unfurnished (ἀκατασκεύαστος), and darkness was over the deep (σκότος ἐπάνω τῆς ἀβύσσου). And the Spirit of God was hovering (πνεῦμα Θεοῦ ἐπεφέρετο) over the water.

**Nicene Creed** — I believe in one God (Θεὸν), the Father Almighty (Πατέρα παντοκράτορα), maker of heaven and earth (ποιητὴν οὐρανοῦ καὶ γῆς), and of all visible things and invisible (ὄρατῶν τε πάντων καὶ ἀοράτων).

**MT Gen 1.1-2** — In the beginning God created (בָּרָא) heaven and earth. Now the earth was desolate and empty (תְּהוֹ וְבֵהוּ), and darkness was on the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering (תַּפְּחֻחֻחַ) over the face of the waters.

**MT Gen 2.1** — Now the heavens and the earth were completed and all their host (מְלַאכֵי-לְבָבָא).

**LXX Gen 2.1** — And heaven and earth were perfectly put together (συνετελέσθησαν) and all their cosmos (πᾶς ὁ κόσμος αὐτῶν).

**NRSV Gen 1.1-2** — In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

**NRSVue Gen 1.1-2** — When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

**Plato, *Timaeus* 30A** — The god, desiring that all things be good (ἀγαθὰ μὲν πάντα) and nothing worthless (φλαύρον δὲ μηδὲν), when he took hold of everything that was visible (πάν ὅσον ἦν ὄρατόν), seeing it was not at rest but in disorderly and discordant motion (κινούμενον), brought it into order (εἰς τάξιν) out of disorder.

**2 Maccabees 7.28** — I beseech thee, my son, look upon the heaven and the earth, and all that is seen (πάντα ἰδόντα) in them, and consider that God made them of non-existences (ἐξ οὐκ ὄντων); and so the race of men came to be likewise.

**Heraclitus, fragment 30** — Neither any of the gods nor of men made (ἐποίησεν) the cosmos (κόσμον) that holds all things, but it always was, and is, and will be ever-living fire (πῦρ αἰείζων).

**1 Corinthians 8.6** — For us there is one God (εἷς θεός), the Father, from whom are all things (τὰ πάντα) and we unto him (ἡμεῖς εἰς αὐτόν), and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things (τὰ πάντα) and we through him (ἡμεῖς δι' αὐτοῦ).