

Al Wolters, *Creation Regained*
Chapter Two: Creation

Introduction:

The Law of Creation

A. Question: what word can be used to describe these acts of God by which he created and continues to uphold the totality of reality?

B. Answer: LAW (Heb: *Torah*; Gk. *Nomos*--even over the word wisdom)

C. Distinctions in the broad category of Law

1. Direct and indirect rule of law

a. Directly

b. Indirectly

2. Laws and norms

a. Laws of nature:

b. Cultural/social norms:

c. Difference between laws and norms:

D. Laws and norms in the secular Western world

1. Laws of nature and socio-cultural norms

2. Natural sciences and social sciences

3. Oddity of this division in the West

E. Distinction between general and particular application of God's laws and norms

1. General application of God's laws and norms

2. Particular application of God's laws and norms

F. Implications and applications of this discussion on God's law

1. Provides basis and motivation for the study of the natural and social sciences

2. Alternative to the anti-realism of modern and postmodern outlooks

3. Christian theistic realism

The Word of God in Creation

A. Importance of the Word of God in creation--(Hebrew *rbd*—*debar*).

B. Distinction between primary and secondary acts of creation

1. *Creatio prima*

2. *Creatio secunda*

C. Christological understanding of *creatio prima* and *creatio secunda*

The Scope of Creation

- A. The extent the application of God's laws and norms

- B. Examples

- C. The bottom line

The Revelation of Creation

- A. Key point:

- B. General revelation

- C. Divine and human wisdom
 - 1. Objective divine wisdom

 - 2. Subjective human wisdom

- C. Example of divine and human wisdom in the area of farming (Isa. 28)

- D. The concept of spiritual discernment expanded to include the whole of life

- E. Harmony between the book of Scripture and the book of nature

The Development of Creation

- A. First, second, and third creation

B. Genesis 1: 26-28; 2

C. Description of the cultural mandate

D. What sin has done to the task of having dominion over the earth: illustration of the sick child cured

E. The biblical notion of progress

The Goodness of Creation

A. The inherent goodness and value of the whole creation

B. Genesis contra gnosticism/manicheanism

C. Paul on the inherent value and goodness of creation

D. The enormous implications of the doctrine of the inherent goodness and value of creation

1. Sin, not the creation itself as the ultimate source of the human predicament

2. Freedom in Christ

Conclusion:

A. creation as starting point for the biblical worldview

B. Sin as culpable shalom breaking