

Jesus Christ, the Creator

All things were made by him;... John 1:3a.

Review: An overview of verse 3a:

"All things..." Has no article. Lenski calls this word (*gk = panta*) "immense." This use points to the absolute subject of the universe - with no time considerations - and all of the reality of the universe - both seen and unseen. So this portion of 1:3 covers the entire universe - both seen and unseen. The writer of Hebrews has a point to be made in this regard.

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. Hebrews 11:3.

Understanding the universe is a matter of faith not empiricism or theories alone. As we shall see in a moment science must consider the Creator-God in his approach to the origins of the universe or he will be lost in incomplete data and incorrect conclusions.

Through faith: *gk - dative of possession with advantage* = through faith alone to one's advantage. Rational thought in the sense of today's atheism is ruled out here. The thoughtful scientist recognizes the Creator-God. It is to his advantage to assume the approach of belief that Jesus Christ is the Creator of the Universe. The majority existing science is actively trying to read out the hand of God (Jesus Christ) in creation. John in his prologue states the case succinctly and profoundly that without Christ the universe and indeed science would *not* exist - we would not exist. Faith has no article,¹ referring to the non-meritorious thought process of believing that something is so because God, in His Word, said it was. It does not refer to the body of beliefs that the Christian body possesses but rather the volitional act of accepting the revelation of what God said He did. Vincent says "Faith is the real seeing."²

"...we understand...": *gk = dative, act. of noeo*. In the classical the usage frequently meant to see, to perceive with the eyes. Gradually, the usage came to mean to understand. In the LXX *noeo* is used to translate "Wisdom." "The purpose of Proverbs is, in fact, 'for understanding works of insight (1:2; cf. 1:3, 6).'"³ New Testament usage especially when Jesus was chiding his disciples about not "getting it" He would use this word - "do you not yet *understand?*"⁴ So the thought in Hebrews is not a blind conclusion of considering as a done deal that the universe was created by Jesus Christ and closing the subject - but rather accepting the Creator-role of Jesus Christ and *then applying scientific* investigation. Not to necessarily just prove that the

¹ Anarthrous use.

² Vincent, WORD STUDIES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, Vol III and IV, Page 510.

³ The Complete BIBLICAL LIBRARY, Greek English Dictionary. Comments on *noeo*.

⁴ Mat 15:17; 16:9; 24:15.

Bible was right but to have an accurate overall idea of the origin of things and to have an accurate idea of how the universe works and *exists* and to have a serious scientific mind toward discovery of God's wonderful creation.

"...that the worlds were framed by the word of God...": lit.. "having been framed." A completed, creative act not only describing the very act of creation itself but the idea of Jesus Christ being the Architect and builder of the universe. The sense here is of His creative setting in place not only the "stuff" of the universe but the laws. My house is called New England style. Which is to say that not much thought went into its design - in fact - I can take you on a tour (you really don't want to do this) and show you the different stages where the builders started with one section - then bumped out to another section and finally built a third section. Each section had a door with places for hinges where there was a door to shut off the elements of the outdoors. New England style, indeed - more like the house that Jack built - there isn't a square corner anywhere nor is there a level floor. Not so with the universe - Jesus Christ designed it - spoke it into existence and set in place the laws that govern the universe. The true scientist is out to discover the wonders of God's creation not in the business of ruling out God to a point of "singularity" where the universe started out with a single BANG. All this was done by God's uttered word.⁵

"...so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear..."

Putting it simply - things which are seen is the universe that we observe. These things were not made from anything - they were spoken into existence. The writer is putting this in a way that will be explained in a moment. But the Big Bang theorist are dead wrong! The universe did not start from an infinitesimally small particle and suddenly bang itself into existence. No. Jesus Christ spoke it into existence.

Note the wording especially "seen" and "unseen." Going back to John 1:3, had John used the article (*ta panta*) in Jn. 1:3 he would have been referring to the present universe - the universe in the present state. The anarthrous usage (no article) removes all limitations and refers to both the universe and to time itself. John is referring to the *entire* creation and time itself.

Let's look at Hebrews 11:3 and this phrase. There is an interesting play on the words "things which are seen" and "things which do appear."⁶ "Things which are seen" are things we as empirical beings observe. "Things which do appear" is the universe that is showing itself to us - an interesting personification of the universe. But not really a personification for Paul had this emphasis in Romans 1:19, 20 where the truth of God is *shown* to unbelieving men through His creation - in that tragic case man just doesn't "get it." So Hebrews 11:3 give further light on the passage from John 1:3 - (the word "All things"). In the interesting interplay in Hebrews 11:3 between man as God's creatures observing that which they see and God's universe - both seen and unseen, God is causing the universe to show itself to man. I hope that is not too confusing - such is the depth of the original language.

⁵ Lenski.

⁶ KJV has the translation right this time!

The Fingerprint of Jesus Christ.

...and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1:3b

I have used this verse before in previous lessons but please bear with me as I go over what John is saying in this part of the verse. In the first half of verse 3 we are considering the entire universe. Now we are zooming in on *each particle* of the universe.

"...any thing made..." I have to quote from Lenski; "Whereas the plural πάντα covers the complete multitude or mass, the strong singular οὐδε ἓν points to every individual in that mass and omits none."⁷

In previous lessons I have used the example of the celestial zoom lens - with this imaginary zoom lens allows us to go to the very edge of the universe and observe everything that the Logos has created - that's the "All Things" of John 1:3.

Now we crank this zoom lens down to more than the most powerful microscope that we now possess and look at the tiniest particle. John says that the tiniest particle would not even exist without the Logos' creative work. The fingerprint of Jesus Christ is on the tiniest particle - whatever that is. We are still lurching around with our theories about that. Vincent says of this part of our zoom experience, in the microscope mode, "The reference is to the infinite detail of creation, rather than to creation as a whole."⁸

"...was made..." Finally let's look at the word "was made." This has the ultimate sense of being completed in every detail. The tense is in the perfect - meaning there was nothing more to be done. Does that bring to mind a passage from Genesis? You bet it does:

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.
Genesis 1:31.

God's work was done - it was perfectly done and complete with nothing left to do but to rest. Not because He was tired and needed rest but because there was nothing left to do in His creative work. Let's develop this perfectly done and complete work (perfect tense of "...was made" of John 1:3) of every particle of the universe.

Jesus Christ, the Upholder and Maintainer of the Universe

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; (my underline) Hebrews 1:3.

The middle part of this passage refers to Jesus Christ's upholding or Conservator work of the universe. I like Lenski's translation of this part of verse 3: **"...as bearing all**

⁷ Lenski, Interpretation of ST. JOHN'S GOSPEL, page 36.

⁸ Vincent, Word Studies in the New Testament, vol. II, Page 36, Par. 3.

the (existing) things by means of the uttered word of his power,...⁹ This is the completed existing state of the universe throughout all of time. The universe is not in a self-maintaining state where laws that are in place are the governing force for the ongoing state of the universe. No. It is the "uttered word of his power" that is keeping the universe in a state of existence. The word upholding ('bearing' in Lenski's translation) has the force of the Conservator in the sense of administrating and ruling - enforcing the existence of the universe.

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: [17] And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
Col. 1:16-17.

Remember we are developing the perfect tense of John 1:3, the last two words **"...was made"** - a completed and continuously existing state.

Note Paul's commentary regarding the universe. Everything, everyone, all powers, all authorities - everything visible and invisible has been the result of Jesus Christ's creative word. All of this was created *for Him*. Not for man - but for him.¹⁰

"...And he is before all things..." All of what is shown to us and all that has not been shown is **before His face**. We as stewards are in a state of discovery - Jesus Christ as the Conservator is completely and intimately face to face¹¹ with His creation - nothing escapes His observation and conserving power.

"...and by him all things consist." Perfect tense *sunistemi*. A compound word *sun*, a preposition meaning together with, and *histemi*, which means to bid to stand by "STAY THERE!" In my job as an engineer we have a saying "every job is 90% preparation / setup and 10% testing. Where I spend most of my time setting up for an antenna test - making sure that the setup is exactly correct - with correct alignment and calibration and then a relatively short time is spent doing the actual testing. My point is this. The entire universe is the Lord's engineering feat - all of it is constantly being maintained by His creative work. It just requires His uttered word and it remains in perfect "setup."

Jesus Christ in His Conservator's role in the universe is by His Omnipotence causing the universe to "STAY THERE." There is also the sense of appointing the details of the universe and establishing it. This phrase is very rich in meaning regarding Jesus' role with His universe.

That is the perfect tense of John 1:3 **"...was made."** How rich is the Word of God - How masterful is this section of the Gospel of John.

⁹ Lenski, Interpretation of ST. JOHN'S GOSPEL, page 29.

¹⁰ We are merely the stewards of His creation. Hebrews 2:7.

¹¹ Greek *pros* literally meaning "face to face."