



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

**An Introduction to Lutheran Doctrine
and the Church of the Lutheran Confession
Lesson 4.2 – The Triune God Revealed in His Word – God the Father**

IV. The Triune God Revealed In His Word

Father

God the Father is our Creator and Preserver. He loved the world, which was perishing in its sins, and from eternity planned the salvation of every sinner through God the Son.

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 145:14-15: The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Comments:

When the Bible speaks of “God” without specifying a certain Person of God (Father, Son, or Holy Spirit), it may mean the Triune God (all three Persons) or it may mean one of the Persons in particular (usually the Father). The context usually indicates what is meant. For example, the first verse of Genesis says that “God” created the heavens and the earth. The Bible makes it plain in many places, including in Genesis 1, that all three Persons were involved in the creation of the heavens and the earth, so “God” in Genesis 1 refers to the Triune God. On the other hand, when John 3:16 speaks of “God”, the verse is clearly speaking of God the Father, for it says that God sent His Son.

We may summarize the work of God the Father by saying He created all things in the beginning, He preserves all things He created, He protects His children, and, above all, He promised and sent His Son to be our Savior.

As far as creation is concerned, the Bible teaches that God, who is eternal, made all things out of nothing simply by speaking His Word. He created all things that have ever existed and exist now in six regular days.

Preservation means that the Father takes care of all the things He created. He keeps them alive by feeding them and satisfying their needs according to His will. This is stated clearly in Psalm 145:14-15. God’s preservation, of course, also includes all human beings, for they are His creatures as well.

God’s work of protection centers especially on those human beings whom He has adopted as His dear children. For this purpose, God uses of His mighty angels – spirit beings whom He created to serve to His children. **“Are they (God’s angels) not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”** (Hebrews 1:14). **“The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore”** (Psalm 121:8).

Above all, God the Father promised to send a Savior from sin on the very day that man first fell into sin (Genesis 3:15). In fact, the Bible tells us that God’s plan of salvation can be traced back even to eternity before the world was made. God **“has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time**

began" (2 Timothy 1:9). God's first promise of a Savior in Genesis 3:15 was followed by many such promises throughout the pages of the Old Testament. This promise became clearer and more focused as the time for its fulfillment drew near.

Then, when the fullness of time had come, God the Father sent His Son as the Savior of the world. God sent His Son to win salvation for all mankind. The only way for anyone to receive this salvation is by trusting in His Son, Jesus. Whoever believes in Him will not perish, but has eternal life.

Questions

1. What did God do in the beginning?
2. How did God create everything?
3. What invisible creatures did God make in the beginning?
4. What do we mean when we say that God preserves us?
5. How far does God's work of preservation extend?
6. Try to find at least four references in the Psalms to God's protection.
7. What is the main service provided by the spirit beings God created?
8. Where do we find the very first promise of a Savior?
9. How were the Old Testament believers saved from their sin?
10. How did God show His love for the whole world of sinners?