

## Creation as an Act of Love

**Psalm 136:** <sup>1</sup> O give thanks to YHWH, for he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> O give thanks to the God of gods,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>3</sup> O give thanks to the Lord of lords,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>4</sup> who alone does great wonders,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>5</sup> who by understanding made the heavens,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>6</sup> who spread out the earth on the waters,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>7</sup> who made the great lights,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>8</sup> the sun to rule over the day,

for his steadfast love endures forever;

<sup>9</sup> the moon and stars to rule over the night,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Thomas Aquinas:** God loves all things that exist. For all things that exist are good, in so far as they are. The very existence of anything whatsoever is a good, and so is any perfection of it. Now God is the cause of all things. A thing must therefore be, and be good, to the extent which God wills. It follows that God wills some good to each thing that is. Now to love is just to will good for something. Clearly, then, God loves all things that are.

But God does not love as we love. Our will is not the cause of the goodness in things, but is moved by their goodness as its object. Consequently, the love by which we will good for anyone is not the cause of his goodness. On the contrary, it is his goodness, whether real or imagined, that inspires the love whereby we will both the preservation of the good which he has and the provision of the good which he lacks, and whereby we also work to this end. God's love, on the other hand, creates and infuses the goodness in things.

**Ulrich Zwingli:** God "by His nature loves not only man but all His creatures. For unless He loved them, He would not create them, sustain them, live and work in them."

**John Calvin:** After learning that there is a Creator, faith must forthwith infer that he is also a Governor and Preserver, and that, not by producing a kind of general motion in the machine of the globe as well as in each of its parts, but by a special providence sustaining, cherishing, superintending, all the things which he has made, to the very minutest, even to a sparrow.

**Psalm 104:** <sup>10</sup> You make springs gush forth in the valleys;

they flow between the hills,

<sup>11</sup> giving drink to every wild animal;

the wild asses quench their thirst.

- <sup>12</sup> By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;  
they sing among the branches.
- <sup>13</sup> From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
- <sup>16</sup> The trees of the field are watered abundantly,  
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
- <sup>17</sup> In them the birds build their nests;  
the stork has its home in the fir trees.
- <sup>18</sup> The high mountains are for the wild goats;  
the rocks are a refuge for the coneys [rabbits].
- <sup>24</sup> O YHWH, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.
- <sup>27</sup> These all look to you  
to give them their food in due season;
- <sup>28</sup> when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

**Psalm 147:** <sup>7</sup> Sing to YHWH with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God on the lyre.

- <sup>8</sup> He covers the heavens with clouds,  
prepares rain for the earth,  
makes grass grow on the hills.
- <sup>9</sup> He gives to the animals their food  
and to the young ravens when they cry.

**Matthew 6:** <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life! <sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

**Psalm 148:** <sup>1</sup> Praise YHWH!

- <sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!
- <sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens  
and you waters above the heavens!
- <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of YHWH,  
for he commanded and they were created.
- <sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!
- <sup>10</sup> Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!
- <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of YHWH,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.