

5-3-1 Assignment 5 on Bird, Sec. 2.4

QUESTIONS

1. What are the four constituent parts under the heading of creational monotheism?
2. What is distinctive about a Trinitarian understanding of Creation?
3. What are the three stages of the new creation?
4. Who are three early Christians who affirmed Plato's "out of formless matter" creation?
5. To whom do signers of the Lausanne Cape Town commitment support?

Answers

1. Exclusive monotheism, regal monotheism, providential monotheism, and covenantal monotheism.
2. The Father involves the Son (intermediating) and the Spirit (source of vitality) in the act of creation.
3. Jesus' resurrection, the gift of the Spirit, consummation of all things at Jesus' return in glory.¹
4. Justin Martyr, Clement of Alexandria, and Basil of Caesarea.
5. Christians with a missional calling to environmental advocacy and action.

TERMS

providential monotheism: belief that God is intimately and constantly at work within creation.

henotheism: belief in a supreme god among a pantheon of lesser gods.

creatio ex nihilo: doctrine that God created all material things out of nothing.

SUMMARY

In this section, the understanding of God is further fleshed out by explaining both the importance of a God who creates, as well as the distinctiveness of the Trinitarian understanding of how God creates. After a section on creational monotheism, Bird elucidates the significance of the Triune God being the Creator, and now an understanding of a new creation is critical to Christians. The passage continues with the doctrine of *creatio ex nihilo* and particularly explains how this has not always been self-evident. Implications of *creatio ex nihilo* segue into final implications of the general act of God's creation.

¹ Bird, Michael F. *Evangelical Theology: A Biblical and Systematic Introduction*. 2nd ed. (Michigan: Zondervan, 2020). 212