



19 Minutes with Luther

The First Article

The Knowledge of God
Law and Gospel
Introduction to the Law
1st Commandment
2nd Commandment
3rd Commandment
4th Commandment
5th Commandment
6th Commandment
7th Commandment
8th Commandment
9th & 10th Commandments
The Conclusion
The Gospel & the Nature of God
The Apostles' Creed (Faith)
► **1st Article (Creation)**
1st Article (Preservation)
1st Article (Protection)
1st Article (The Fall into Sin)
2nd Article (Christ's Person)
2nd Article (Christ's Office)
2nd Article (Christ's Work)
2nd Article (Christ's Humiliation)
2nd Article (Christ's Exaltation)
2nd Article (Christian Life)
2nd Article (Saved by Faith)
3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)
3rd Article (Calls)
3rd Article (Enlightens)
3rd Article (Sanctifies)
3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)
3rd Article (Invisible Church)
3rd Article (Visible Church)
3rd Article (Forgiveness)
3rd Article (Eternal Life)
Baptism (Part 1)
Baptism (Part 2)
Holy Communion (Part 1)
Holy Communion (Part 2)
Keys & Confession (Part 1)
Keys & Confession (Part 2)
Keys & Confession (Part 3)
Introduction to the Lord's Prayer
The Address
1st Petition
2nd Petition
3rd Petition
4th Petition
5th Petition
6th Petition
7th Petition
The Doxology

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

1. Because God is the Creator, we call him the Father. The prophet Malachi wrote: *"Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us?"* (2:10). For what other reasons do we call God the Father?
2. Review what the Bible tells us about the instrument and the material that God used to create the universe? How long did it take God to create it?
3. Genesis 1:27 tells us, *"God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."* What does it mean that Adam and Eve were created *in the image of God*?
4. Review Luther's explanation of the First Article. In addition to creating man *in the image of God*, how did the Father show his goodness in our creation? Discuss how life would be different if God had not given us these blessings.
5. The theory of evolution opposes the creation account found in the Bible. Share what you know about this theory. What does it say about how our universe came to be? the length of time that this took? about people?

6. Agree or disagree:

It takes more faith to accept the theory of evolution than it does to believe in the Bible's creation account.

There are rocks on this earth that are six million years old.

The six days of creation mentioned in Genesis may actually be long periods of millions of years each.

"By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command" (Hebrews 11:3).

Luther said:

"My God is the Father, who made heaven and earth. I take nothing and no one else as God except him alone, for there is simply no one else who could have made heaven and earth." (Tappert, p. 412.)

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we praise you, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Lead us to see your power and glory in the things you have created. Fill us with your Spirit, who at creation hovered over the waters, that more and more your image might be renewed in us and that our trust in Jesus, the Living Word and Savior, might grow stronger and stronger. We ask this in his name. Amen.

At home

- Memorize the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's explanation.
- Read Genesis chapters 1 and 2.

Helps

(1) God is the Father of Jesus Christ and our Father through faith in Jesus. (2) In six 24-hour days, God created all things out of nothing; there was no pre-existing matter. God simply spoke; he used his almighty word to create the universe. (3) This was not a physical image, but Adam and Eve were like God in that they (a) were holy and sinless; (b) were able not to sin, that is, had a free will; (c) had an intimate relationship with God in which they shared his thoughts and wants; and (d) knew God's will perfectly. (4) God "gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears . . ." Without any one of these blessings (for example, the sense of sight or hearing), life would be entirely different. (5) The theory of evolution claims that all things came into being over billions of years by chance or accident, developing from lower to higher forms. According to this theory, people are the most highly evolved or developed animals. Share information about the big bang theory and Charles Darwin's theory on the origin of life. (6) A Christian who has been led by the Holy Spirit to trust God's Word would agree with the first statement. Even unbelievers must agree that the theory of evolution is nothing more than a hypothesis filled with inconsistencies. Christians understand that when God created the world (rocks, trees, humans), he created a world with considerable age. The statement used by theistic evolutionists, that each "day" in Genesis chapter 1 was actually a long period, robs God of his glory and is inconsistent with both the text and science. What the writer to Hebrews said is absolutely true: we accept God as the Creator, not because of scientific proof or visible evidence but because the Holy Spirit enlightened us and convinced us of this fact when he called us to faith.