

0. WHO IS THE FIRST AND BEST OF BEINGS? Psalm 8

by Brett Baggett on Sunday, May 27th, 2020

A. God is the first and best of beings.

Q. What is God? A. God is the Creator and Sustainer of everyone and everything. (NCC Q2)

Q. WHY DOES THE CATECHISM BEGIN HERE, WITH GOD CLARIFIED AS THE FIRST AND BEST OF BEINGS? Because...

- We must begin where THE BIBLE begins (Gen.1:1)!
- We must begin where true WISDOM begins!
- Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
- Proverbs 9:7 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”
- Psalm 111:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!”
- **Stories are best begun in the beginning or confusion will abound.** Foundations are best laid on the ground or everything will fall apart. So it is when we are seeking to be grounded in the faith—
We must begin with God or confusion and crumbling will surely follow us all the days of our life!

Q. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT GOD IS FIRST?

A. God is first in Existence and Eminence.

I. God is first in EXISTENCE.

- **GEN. 1:1. JOB 38:1-4** 1 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: 2 “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? 3 Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. 4 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. **PSALM 90:2** “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” **COLOSSIANS 1:16-17** “16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” **REVELATION 22:13** “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”
- **Wilhelmus A Brakel:** “Do not elevate yourself beyond the reach of your comprehension, and do not limit God by your human conceptions. Acknowledge and believe God to be the One who dwells in incomprehensible eternity; lose yourself in this eternity; worship that which you cannot comprehend; and with Abraham call upon the name of the eternal God.”

II. God is first in EMINENCE (fame, superiority).

- **PSALM 97:9** “For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.”
- **COL. 1:18** “he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”

See the sad state of all who do not honor the first and best of beings!

- **ROMANS 1:21-23** 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.
- **ISAIAH 44:9,11** 9 All who fashion idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit. Their witnesses neither see nor know, that they may be put to shame...They shall be terrified; they shall be put to shame together.

Q. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT GOD IS BEST?

A. God is best in Glory and Goodness. (Psalm 8) Exposit Psalm 8.

- **See the happy state of all who are reconciled to God by His Son Jesus Christ!**
- **HEBREWS 2:9-11** 9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.
10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers.
- **THE GOSPEL SAYS, The first and best of beings was made a little lower than the angels in order to taste death for everyone. He debased himself in order to Redeem His bride.**
- **On the cross, the first and best of beings was treated like the last and worst of beings**—he was treated like we deserve for our sin! Why? So that you could be cleansed of your filthy sin and clothed with his pure white robes.
- The first and best of beings descended into sinners’ shame so that He could “[bring] many sons to glory.”
- **If you are in Christ, The first and best of beings is not ashamed to call you “brother.”**

BENJAMIN KEACH (1640-1704)

- Originally from Buckinghamshire, Keach worked as a tailor during his early years. He was baptized at the age of 15 and began preaching at 18. He was the minister of the congregation at Winslow before moving in 1668 to the church at Horsleydown (Horse-lie-down), Southwark where he remained for 36 years as pastor (1668-1704). This congregation later became the New Park Street Church and then moved to the Metropolitan Tabernacle under the pastorship of Charles Spurgeon. Keach's catechism was first published in 1693.
- **For a brief biography of Keach, see** <http://baptisthistoryhomepage.com/keach.benjamin.tbe.html>
- **For easy access to a digital copy of The Baptist Catechism, see** <http://www.ekkleliamuskogee.church/the-baptist-catechism/>
- **To purchase a hard copy of The Baptist Catechism, see** https://www.amazon.com/1689-Baptist-Confession-Faith-Catechism/dp/1599253771/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=The+Baptist+Catechism&qid=1590608161&sr=8-2

Hercules Collins (1646/7-1702)

- **For a brief biography of Collins, see** <https://founders.org/2012/07/12/baptists-and-1662-the-persecution-of-john-norcott-and-hercules-collins/>
- **To purchase a hard copy of An Orthodox Catechism, see** https://www.amazon.com/Orthodox-Catechism-Hercules-Collins/dp/0980217911/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1590608349&sr=8-1
- **For easy access to as digital copy of An Orthodox Catechism, see** [https://www.thecalvinist.net/etc/1680%20Orthodox%20Catechism%20\(Hercules%20Collins\).pdf](https://www.thecalvinist.net/etc/1680%20Orthodox%20Catechism%20(Hercules%20Collins).pdf)