

# Biblical Christian Worldview

## Assignments to enhance reading comprehension

Text: *Creation Regained*, by Albert M. Wolters

These questions are taken from John H. Kok, *Patterns of the Western Mind: A Reformed Christian Perspective* (Sioux Center, Iowa: Dordt College Press, 1998), pp. 253-256.

### Chapter 1: What is a Worldview?

1. Define “worldview” and explain the four basic components of your definition.
2. Describe the role of worldview in life.
3. Discuss the relation between Scripture and worldview. Be familiar with Romans 12:2 and 15:4.
4. What is unique about the reformational worldview? In which ways does it differ from other worldviews advocated by Christians.

### Chapter 2: Creation

5. Explain the meaning and importance of the correlation between creating activity and created order. Be familiar with 2 Peter 3:5, 7.
6. Law stands for “the totality of God’s ordering acts toward the cosmos.” Explain. Be familiar with Psalm 33:9.
7. Describe the distinction between “norms” and “laws of nature.” Take note of Psalm 147!
8. How has the distinction referred to in question 7 been distorted in the western and eastern world?
9. Distinguish between general and particular laws, explaining what is meant by each term.
10. As regards “Word,” be familiar with the relation between Genesis 1, John 1, Colossians 1, and Hebrews 1.
11. Briefly summarize what Wolters says about “the scope of creation.” Why does he refer to 1 Timothy 4, Romans 13, and 1 Peter 2?
12. What is creational revelation? Be familiar with Psalm 19, Acts 14:17, Romans 1:18-20 and 2:14-15.
13. Explain the following statements or terms and passages of Scripture:
  - a. conscience as intuitive attunement to creational normativity;
  - b. the two meanings of wisdom; and
  - c. Job 38-41 and Isaiah 28:23-29 as to creation.
14. Explain the nature and importance of the fundamental knowability of the creation order.
15. What is meant by “spiritual discernment”? Describe what kind of dualism must be avoided.
16. Explain how creational and Scriptural revelation are incommensurate and commensurate.
17. Indicate how “spectacles” and “a miner’s lamp” can be used to illustrate the relationship of God’s revelation in his word and works.
18. Explain the statement: “The Scriptures are like a verbal commentary on the dimly perceived sign-language of creation.” Take note of the images of blue-print and tape-recording.
19. How does the development of creation imply civilization?
20. What is meant by the creation (or cultural) mandate, especially in relation to history or the historical process?
21. Which image does Wolters use to avoid the false dilemma of cultural optimism and pessimism? Take special note of the statement: “The ravages of sin do not annihilate the normative creational development of civilization, but are rather parasitical upon it.”
22. Describe the meaning and importance of 2 Peter 3:10, especially in relation to Revelation 21:24, 26.
23. Describe how gnosticism and humanism deny the goodness of creation. Be familiar with 1 Timothy 4:4.

### Chapter 3: Fall

24. Describe the nature of the Fall and its effects on societal, cultural, and personal lives and on the nonhuman world. Be familiar with Romans 8:19-22.
25. Explain the importance of the following statements concerning the relation between sin and creation:
  - a. Sin neither abolishes nor becomes identified with creation.

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- b. The perversion of creation must never be understood as a sub-distinction within the order of creation, nor must creation ever be explained as a function of perversion and redemption.
26. Sin is alien in creation. Explain.
27. Explain the meaning of structure and direction.
28. With respect to the relationship of structure and direction, explain the following statements:
- a. Creation is like a leash which keeps the vicious dog in check.
  - b. Structure is never entirely obliterated by (mis)direction.
  - c. Evil is not inherent in the human condition.
  - d. The law is like a spring.
29. What are the three meanings of “world” in the Bible?
30. What does Wolters say about the compartmentalizing of life into sacred and secular realms?
31. Mention and briefly explain some of the different words used to refer to the perversion and distortion of creation.

### Chapter 4: Redemption

32. In connection with redemption, be familiar with the following:
- a. restoration and re-creation;
  - b. reconciliation, renewal, salvation and regeneration; and
  - c. *donum superadditionem*.
33. “If salvation does not bring more than creation, it does not bring less either.” Explain.
34. Regarding the Kingdom of God, be familiar with:
- a. its basic meaning;
  - b. its demonstration in Jesus’ ministry (Matthew 11:4, 5);
  - c. the meaning of “already present” and “not yet reality”;
  - d. its call for restoration, not repristination; and e. its claim on all departments and stages of creation.
35. Concerning the tendency to restrict the Kingdom of God, explain the following:
- a. pietism (Luke 17:21);
  - b. the view of Roman Catholics and many Protestants;
  - c. dispensationalism; and
  - d. liberal protestantism.
36. Explain the two-realm theory.
37. Explain the statement: “The contrast here is not between two realms but between two regimes.”
38. Summarize the illustration given on pages 69-70.
39. “The horizon of creation is at the same time the horizon of sin and salvation.” Explain.

### Chapter 5: Discerning Structure and Direction

40. Noting again what is meant by structure and direction (or creation and antithesis), take special note of the following two statements:
- a. “the religious conflict rages for the sake of the created structure.”
  - b. “they see abnormality where others see normality, and possibilities of renewal where others see inevitable distortion.”
41. Concerning the first meaning of “reformation” (of persons, society and culture), explain the following:
- a. the distinction between sanctification and consecration;
  - b. 1 Timothy 4:5; Romans 14:14; Zechariah 14:20-21; and
  - c. cultic reduction of sanctification.
42. Concerning the second meaning of “reformation,” explain the following:

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- a. the distinction between progressive renewal and violent overthrow;
  - b. the positive meaning of reformation, especially why it can reject both revolution and conservatism. Take note of the claim: “Conservatism leaves things internally untouched and revolution annihilates things. Reformation renews and sanctifies them.”
43. Concerning societal renewal, explain the following:
- a. why the order of society is not the result of invention and convention;
  - b. the distinction between structure and positivisation (give examples);
  - c. the meaning and importance of “differentiated responsibility”;
  - d. totalitarianism; and
  - e. two ways of perverting God’s order for society.
44. Using the example of aggression, describe the false dilemma of ailment or cure and indicate the solution Wolters suggests.
45. Describe the false dilemma that has arisen in connection with spiritual gifts and how it can be resolved.
46. Give a succinct and clear summary of Wolters’ discussion of sexuality.
47. Summarize briefly the discussion of dance. Take special note of the statement: “We are always in danger of rejecting the creational in the name of the fall, and of accepting the fallen in the name of creation.”