

The God-Christcentric Worldview

Some think that Greek civilization was the first to move beyond the *naturecentric* worldview, for in it the primitive nature-gods were “humanized.” In Greek thought, gods assumed human figures and characteristics such as love, hatred, envy and jealousy. The Homeric gods in the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* -- Zeus, Apollo, Hera, Artemis, Demeter, Aphrodite, Hermes and other deities -- looked like human beings and acted on their impulses and emotions much like men and women. Yet if we look into the Greek worldview with more intense scrutiny, we find that even the ancient Greeks could not completely free themselves from *naturecentrism*. Nature was still their central concern, the starting and end-point of their worldview.

To the Greek mind, the universe was the sum and substance of all there was. Even the gods were basically a part of, rather than the cause of, the universe. The cosmos was not made by any god but was always, and is, and shall be the same forever...

The cardinal point, however is this: that without God at the center of a worldview, the concepts of nature and man cannot be clarified.

The Bible clearly tells us that nature is the manifestation of God's power, glory, and goodness. Psalm 19 praises God: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork... His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit into the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.” Psalm 104 echoes the same: “Thou art very great; thou are clothed with honor and majesty: Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: Who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain: Who layeth the beams of his chambers and the waters: Who maketh the clouds his chariot: Who walketh upon the wings of the wind.” The doctrine of creation *ex nihilo* runs throughout the entire Bible.

No other worldview in the ancient world could speak of a real creation, not even Greek philosophy. Nothing, the Greeks thought, could come from nothing. In their view, matter retained a self-determining character hostile to the divine work of formation. The Greek gods, even including Zeus, were not omnipotent because their power was constantly checked by Anangke and Moira (blind faith). In sharp contrast, no power in the new universe could stand against Yahweh.

(Christian Worldview and Historical Change by Won Sul Lee, Singapore: Haggai Centre for Advanced Leadership Studies, 1992, 55-56, 57, Text Modified)