

“The Beginning of the Creation of God”
Introduction to Laodicea
(Rev 3:14)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

Scripture Reading



Revelation 3:14-22 (NASB)

14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.

Scripture Reading



19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. 21 He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

Exposit 3:14



14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

- ✧ “To the angel (aggelos)”
- ✧ Jesus 1st addresses the angel over Laodicea and declares that He is
- ✧ “The Amen”
- ✧ “The faithful and true Witness”
- ✧ “The Beginning of the creation of God”



"The Amen"



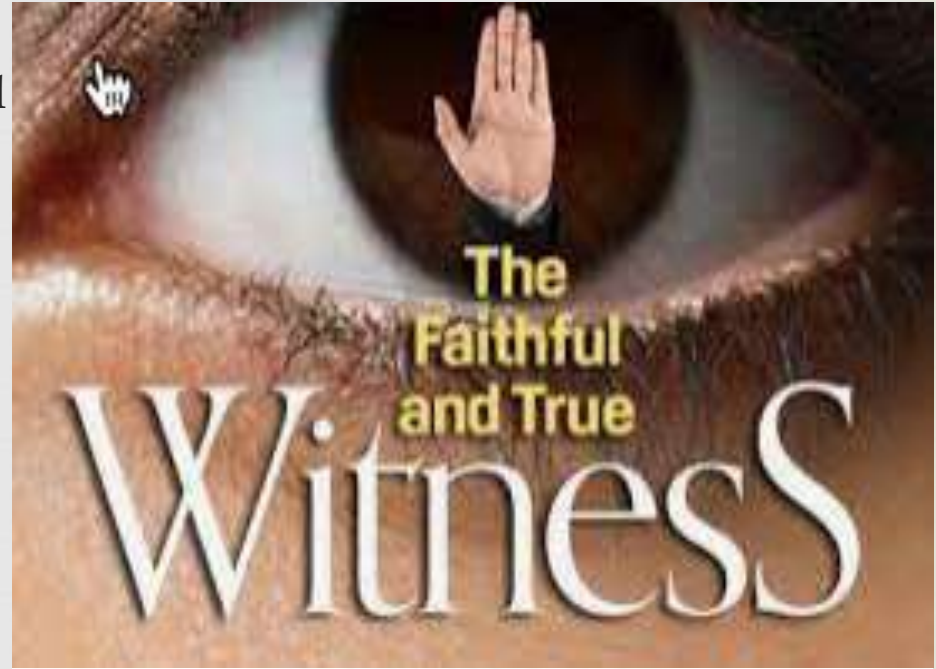
- ❧ Our Lord Jesus has many designations and titles and one of them is "the Amen"
- ❧ "amen" in English is amēn in Greek
- ❧ It means certainly, truly, indeed, it is true
- ❧ It could be rendered "the Truth"
- ❧ When our Lord calls Himself "the Amen" He is declaring that He is "the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth"
 - ❧ TMC = Truth Matters Church
 - ❧ TMC = Jesus Matters Church ☺



“the Faithful and True Witness”



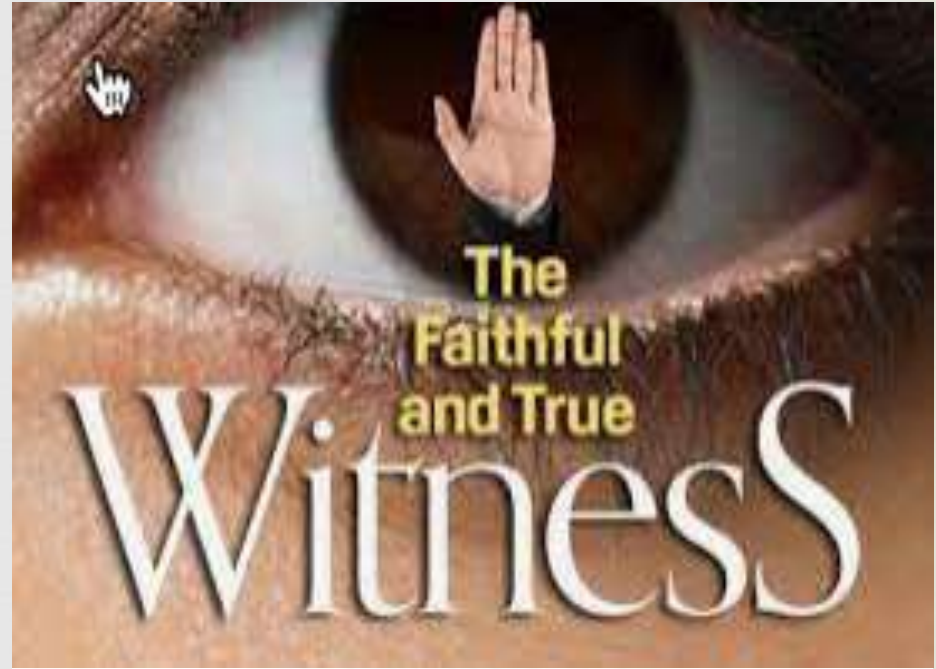
- Another one of our Lord's many designations and titles is “the Faithful and True Witness”
- I'm not going to spend too much time on this as we've covered this in our “the Faithful Witness” study (Rev 1:5) and is fairly self-explanatory
- But I will touch on this briefly



“the Faithful and True Witness”



- ✧ “faithful” is pistos which means faithful and reliable
- ✧ “witness” as we learned is martus (martyr) which means to bear witness (eye witness testimony)
- ✧ Jesus is the Faithful and Reliable One
- ✧ Your witness and testimony is only as good as your reputation
- ✧ Jesus came to earth to bear witness to what He has heard, seen, and experienced in heaven and these very Words are the very testimony of the glorified Son of Man



“the Beginning of the creation of God”



- ✧ And yet another one of our Lord’s many designations and titles is “the Beginning of the creation of God”
- ✧ “beginning” is archē and means origin
- ✧ archē also has the idea of “power”
- ✧ The construction of this sentence does NOT mean Jesus was created, or the first of God’s creation
- ✧ Rather this is to be understood that Jesus is the Origin and Beginning and Author God’s creation
- ✧ John in the opening of his gospel captures what our Lord is communicating here



“the Beginning of the creation of God”



John 1:1-3

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

✧ Let's insert the Persons of the Trinity



“the Beginning of the creation of God”



John 1:1-3

1 In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word [Jesus] was with God [the Father], and the Word [Jesus] was God [the Son]. 2 He [Jesus] was in the beginning with God [the Father]. 3 All things came into being through Him [Jesus], and apart from Him [Jesus] nothing came into being that has come into being.

TRUTHS:

- ✧ Jesus eternally existed with God the Father in the very beginning
- ✧ At the beginning of creation, the Father and the Son were together



“the Beginning of the creation of God”



TRUTHS from the opening of John’s gospel:

- ✧ God the Son eternally existed with God the Father before creation
- ✧ All created things came into being through the eternal Word spoken through God the Son

BROWNIE POINTS:

- ✧ Who was working through the Word, the Son of God?
- ✧ HINT: He was the same God who was in Christ during His entire earthly ministry



“the Beginning of the creation of God”



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GOD THE FATHER!



“the Beginning of the creation of God”



Did not our Lord Jesus say this very thing:

John 14 [Jesus speaking]

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? **The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.**

∞ Who is the Creator?



CONJECTURE



- ✧ Just as there is a lot of confusion of Who God is
- ✧ There is a lot of confusion of Who the Creator is
- ✧ I made the comments before that there is/was a tendency in the church to oversimplify the Godhead, and just point blank say Jesus is God
- ✧ I think this oversimplification has skewed our view of the Trinity and even unintentionally robbed the Father of glory during Christ's earthly ministry
- ✧ I made the argument that instead of saying "Jesus is God" it is more appropriate and balanced to say that Jesus is the eternal Son of God who eternally existed with God the Father and when He came to earth, He was fully divine, fully the Son of God, and His Father was in Him the entire time during His earthly ministry
- ✧ That said, let's allow the Scripture to tell us Who the Creator is...

CONJECTURE



Colossians 1:15-17 [Paul speaking concerning Christ]

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

☞ You know the drill, let's insert the Person's of the Trinity

CONJECTURE



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15 He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him [Jesus] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him [Jesus] and for Him [Jesus]. 17 He [Jesus] is before all things, and in Him [Jesus] all things hold together.

- ❧ So Jesus is clearly the Creator! The Amen! Right?
- ❧ Is Jesus the SOLE Creator?
- ❧ HINT: Just as Jesus did NOT operate alone during His earthly ministry, there is another Party involved in Jesus's creative work. Does anyone want to take a guess who that is?

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- ✧ TRUTH: it was the Father who initiated creation through Christ, the Word of God who became flesh, and all of creation was FOR CHRIST!

CONJECTURE



So Who is the Creator?

- ❧ God the Father + God the Son!
- ❧ God the Father created through God the Son
- ❧ God the Son spoke the Father's will into existence
- ❧ God the Son, the Word of God who was with the Father became flesh and dwelt amongst us
- ❧ God the Father was in Christ during His earthly ministry
- ❧ God the Father was in Christ when God spoke the world into existence!
- ❧ So both the Father and the Son are the Creator!

Exposit 3:14



Back to our key verse:

14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

- ✧ Our Lord Jesus declares to the angel over this church and to those in it, that He is the Amen, the Truth, the whole Truth, nothing but the Truth
- ✧ He is not only the Amen, the Truth, but He is also the Faithful and Reliable Witness, as the One Who has a first eye witness account of the things which He has seen and heard and is declaring it to them
- ✧ He is the Origin and Beginning and Author of God’s creation, Co-Creator with God His Father Who initiated all things through the Living Word of God Who became flesh and dwelt amongst us

Exposit 3:14



- ✧ It is this very Jesus Who examined all 7 churches, including the church in Laodicea and has rendered a verdict
- ✧ Unlike the previous letter, Philadelphia, who had no condemnation, only commendation
- ✧ We will find that Laodicea was the opposite
- ✧ Laodicea had no commendation, only condemnation
- ✧ And as we continue in our look into the last letter to these 7 churches, we will learn what our Lord had to say, and He had a lot to say
- ✧ More on that next week