

## Holy Creatures Living Among Other Holy Creatures In A World That Is Holy

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Are we “holy creatures living among other holy creatures in a world that is holy,” as Wendell Berry argues, drawing upon Christian Scripture and tradition? We had better get our answer right for, as Thomas Aquinas reminds us in his lesser known summa, “Any error about creation also leads to an error about God.” We had better get our understanding of creation right, lest our understanding of God be wrong. But what would it mean to get our understanding, our doctrine, of creation right? In the past I have attempted to spell out the Christian doctrine of creation in terms of what I call “The Seven D’s”: dependence, distinction, decision, duration, design, defect, and delight. An adequate doctrine of creation must meet all of these criteria of adequacy. Or so I argued.

But this attempt, like most such articulations of the doctrine, is much too abstract. While perhaps helpful in certain ways, it is bloodless and lifeless--a living, breathing, Holy Spirit-inspired world away from warblers and waxwings and woodpeckers. In this paper I will attempt to convey some of the richness of the biblical Story of creation and redemption, set forth a few theological conclusions based on that Story, especially in light of our rapture-infatuated culture, and draw out an implication or two for our orthopraxy.

Joseph Sittler once claimed: “I have never been able to entertain a God-idea which was not integrally related to the fact of chipmunks, squirrels, hippopotamuses, galaxies, and light years.” My thesis is that more of us need to say this same thing.