

created. The Christian concept of creation is that God alone is eternal & that existences other than God had a beginning. It took its origin from the sovereign fiat of his will. Prior to this nothing existed or had been but God himself.

### 2. Two requisite considerations,

a) This fiat is not a production or an emanation of the being of God, nor an extension or modification of his own being. Nor is there any inherent necessity in creation. That which came to be was absolutely distinct & did not possess any attribute or predicate which belong to him.

b) This creative fiat is not the phenomenal expression or realization of things which had ideal or archetypal existences prior to this creative fiat. The Christian doctrine of creation has no affinity with the Platonic theory of ideas or types in the noumenal realm, with creation simply the making of the ideas concrete, giving them phenomenal forms. But it is according to a divine plan.

### 3. Two necessary distinctions between the divine thought & the divine action.

a) God decreed to create from eternity. Consequently his purpose or counsel was eternally prior to creation. This is the divine thought, eternally.

b) The divine action is the execution of the decree alone. It is not the decree itself. The decree itself does not bring anything into existence.

### 4. Certain key passages implied but not expressly stated.

a) Ps. 90<sup>2</sup> - produced earth & world. God alone is eternal.

b) Ne 11<sup>3</sup>

i. Phenomenal world is not made from phenomenal reality.

ii. Visible heavens & earth are made by the Word of God, the Word of his creative fiat.

iii. Ps 33<sup>6-9</sup>. Word of God is contrasted with