

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH

CHAPTER I

Of the Holy Scripture

I. Although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men unexcusable; yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of his will, which is necessary unto salvation. Therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manners, to reveal himself, and to declare that his will unto his church; and afterwards, for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing: which maketh the holy Scripture to be most necessary; those former ways of God's revealing his will unto his people being now ceased.

II. Under the name of holy Scripture, or the Word of God written, are now contained all the books of the Old and New Testaments, which are these:

Of the Old Testament:

<i>Genesis</i>	<i>II Chronicles</i>	<i>Daniel</i>
<i>Exodus</i>	<i>Ezra</i>	<i>Hosea</i>
<i>Leviticus</i>	<i>Nehemiah</i>	<i>Joel</i>
<i>Numbers</i>	<i>Esther</i>	<i>Amos</i>
<i>Deuteronomy</i>	<i>Job</i>	<i>Obadiah</i>
<i>Joshua</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Jonah</i>
<i>Judges</i>	<i>Proverbs</i>	<i>Micah</i>
<i>Ruth</i>	<i>Ecclesiastes</i>	<i>Nahum</i>
<i>I Samuel</i>	<i>The Song of Songs</i>	<i>Habakkuk</i>
<i>II Samuel</i>	<i>Isaiah</i>	<i>Zephaniah</i>
<i>I Kings</i>	<i>Jeremiah</i>	<i>Haggai</i>
<i>II Kings</i>	<i>Lamentations</i>	<i>Zechariah</i>
<i>I Chronicles</i>	<i>Ezekiel</i>	<i>Malachi;</i>

THE LARGER CATECHISM

Q. 1. *What is the chief and highest end of man?*

A. Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.

Q. 2. *How doth it appear that there is a God?*

A. The very light of nature in man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; but his Word and Spirit only do sufficiently and effectually reveal him unto men for their salvation.

Q. 3. *What is the Word of God?*

A. The holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and obedience.

Q. 4. *How doth it appear that the Scriptures are the Word of God?*

A. The Scriptures manifest themselves to be the Word of God, by their majesty and purity; by the consent of all the parts, and the scope of the whole, which is to give all glory to God; by their light and power to convince and convert sinners, to comfort and build up believers unto salvation: but the Spirit of God bearing witness by and with the Scriptures in the heart of man, is alone able fully to persuade it that they are the very Word of God.

Q. 5. *What do the Scriptures principally teach?*

A. The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

What Man Ought to Believe concerning God

Q. 6. *What do the Scriptures make known of God?*

A. The Scriptures make known what God is, the persons in the Godhead, his decrees, and the execution of his decrees.

Q. 7. *What is God?*

A. God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection; all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy,

THE SHORTER CATECHISM

Q. 1. *What is the chief end of man?*

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Q. 2. *What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?*

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Q. 3. *What do the Scriptures principally teach?*

A. The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Q. 4. *What is God?*

A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Q. 5. *Are there more Gods than one?*

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

Q. 6. *How many persons are there in the Godhead?*

A. There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Q. 7. *What are the decrees of God?*

A. The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Q. 8. *How doth God execute his decrees?*

A. God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

Q. 9. *What is the work of creation?*

A. The work of creation is, God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.