Key Texts from the Specification

Genesis 1:1-3

1**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.**

John 1:1-3

1**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning. 3Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.**

**Creationists** are Christians who believe that God literally made the world in six days. Other Christians believe in evolution and the Big Bang. They think that the book of Genesis is not literally true but picture language to explain that he was behind the whole process. (For more details, see ‘Summary Handout: Christian Attitudes on Scientific Cosmology’ in the Existence of God topic.)

The role of the Word and the Spirit

In Christianity the phrase, **‘the Word of God’** means either:

1. Some words spoken by God;
2. The Bible;
3. Jesus Christ himself.

In Genesis chapter 1 God creates using his words. In John chapter 1 it speaks about the Word as being the agent of creation of all things. The Word is with God and *is* God. John (a disciple of Jesus) writes that Jesus is this Word. In other words, **Jesus is God and made the world**. He is seen as God come to earth in human form.

The **‘Spirit of God’** means:

1. God’s life force;
2. God’s breath;
3. God’s presence (everywhere).

He is also known as the ‘Holy Spirit’ or the ‘Holy Ghost’ (older English). He is with Jesus and God the Father as members of the Trinity (one God in three persons).

The role of the Word is to **make creation** in accordance with the Father’s will. The role of the Spirit is as the one who **gives life** in the world. In Genesis chapter 2 God breathes (breath = spirit) into Adam’s nostrils and he becomes a living being. The Spirit is seen as being involved with creating as well because breath is how words are spoken and because of Genesis 1:2 above.