Receiving New Members [Questions from the Heidelberg Catechism)

What do you believe when you say,
“I believe in God, the Parent almighty, creator of heaven and earth”?

That the eternal Parent of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by God’s eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Parent because of Christ.

I trust God so much that I do not doubt, God will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity comes upon me in this world. God is able as almighty God and desires to do this because God is a faithful Parent

What do you understand by the providence of God?

The almighty and ever present power of God by which God upholds, as with God’s hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade,
rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty— all things, in fact, come to us not by chance
but by God’s parental hand.

How does the knowledge of God’s creation and providence help us?

We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well,2
and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Parent
that nothing in creation will separate us from God’s love.
For all creatures are so completely in God’s hand that without God’s will
they can neither move nor be moved.

Korean - Heidelberg Catechism Questions – Creator

제 26 문 : “전능하사 천지를 만드신 하나님 아버지를 내가 믿사오며”라고 고백할 때 당신은 무엇을 믿습니까?

답 : 우리는 우리의 주님, 예수 그리스도의 영원하신 아버지를 믿습니다.

그 분은 무로부터 하늘과 땅, 그리고 그 안에 있는 모든 것을 창조하시고,1

지금도 자신의 영원한 경륜과 섭리로 그 모든 것을 보존하시고 다스리십니다.2

그의 아들이신 그리스도 때문에 이 영원하신 창조주 하나님은 나의 아버지요 하나님이십니다.3

나는 하나님을 신뢰하므로 하나님께서 나의 몸과 영혼에 필요한 모든 것을 채워주시며,4

이 슬픈 세상에서 내게 닥친 모든 역경을 내게 선으로 바꿔주실 것을 의심하지 않습니다.5

하나님은 전능하시기 때문에 능히 이 일을 하실 수 있으며,6
신실하신 아버지이시기 때문에 기꺼이 그렇게 하십니다. 7

1) 창세기 1-2 장; 출애굽기 20:11; 시편 33:6; 이사야 44:24; 사도행전 4:24; 14:15
2) 시편 104 편; 마태복음 6:30; 10:29; 에베소서 1:11
3) 요한복음 1:12,13; 로마서 8:15-16; 갈라디아서 4:4-7; 에베소서 1:5
4) 시편 55:22; 마태복음 6:25-26; 누가복음 12:22-31
5) 로마서 8:28
6) 창세기 18:14; 로마서 8:31-39
7) 마태복음 7:9-11

제 27 문 : 하나님의 섭리란 무엇입니까?

답 : 섭리란 하나님께서 전능하고 무소부재하신 능력으로 1

하늘과 땅과 모든 만물을 보존하고 다스리시는 것을 말합니다.2

그렇게 다스리심으로 꽃잎과 풀잎, 비와 가뭄, 풍년과 흉년, 양식과 음료, 건강과 질병, 번영과 궁핍,3
이 모든 것들이 사실상 우연히 생기는 것이 아니라 4
아버지 하나님의 자애로운 손길로부터 오는 것입니다.5

1) 예례미야 23:23-24; 사도행전 17:24-28
2) 히브리서 1:3
3) 예례미야 5:24; 사도행전 14:15-17; 요한복음 9:3; 잠언 22:2
4) 잠언 16:33
5) 마태복음 10:29

제 28 문 : 하나님의 창조와 섭리를 앎으로써 우리는 어떠한 유익을 얻습니까?

답 : 우리가 역경에 처할 때는 인내할 수 있으며,1

모든 일이 순조로울 때에 감사할 수 있고,2
세상의 어느 것도 우리를 하나님의 사랑에서 떼어놓을 수 없게 하시는 신실하신 하나님 아버지께 대한 큰 확신을 갖게 합니다.3
세상 만물이 온전히 하나님의 손안에 있으므로 그의 뜻이 아니고서는 어떠한 일도 일어나지 않습니다.4

1) 욥기 1:21-22; 야고보서 1:3
2) 신명기 8:10; 데살로니가전서 5:18
3) 시편 55:22; 로마서 5:3-5; 8:38-39
4) 욥기 1:12; 2:6; 잠언 21:1; 사도행전 17:24-28

Chinese

Heidelberg Catechism Questions – Creator

26 当你说 “我信上帝，全能的父，创造天地的主” 时，你相信的是什么呢？

我相信我们主耶稣基督的永恒之父，从无中创造天地 ，以及其中的一切 (a)，又用祂永恒的预旨和护理托住并治理它们 (b)，祂因祂儿子基督的缘故，作我的上帝和天父 (c)。我相信祂必供给我身体和灵魂一切的需要 (d)，对此我毫无怀疑；此外，在这流泪谷，凡祂所降在我身上的灾难，都会变为对我有益的 (e)；因为祂既是无所不能的上帝 (f)，便能如此行，并且祂既是一位信实的天父，也愿意如此行 (g)。

1. 创1-2; 出20:11; 诗33:6; 赛44:24; 徒4:24; 14:15 (2) 诗104; 太6:30; 10:29; 弗1:11 (c) 约1:12-13; 罗8:15-16; 加4:4-7; 弗1:5 (d) 诗55:22; 太6:25-26; 路12:22-31 (e) 罗8:28 (f) 创18:14; 罗8:31-39 (g) 太7:9-11.

27 你所了解的上帝的护理是什么？

上帝用无所不能，无所不在的能力 (a)，犹如祂的手一样，托住天地万物 (b)，并且管理它们，以致一草一木，天晴下雨，丰年荒年，饮食起居，健康疾病，富足贫穷 (c)，一切都非偶然发生 (d)，而是出于上帝之手 (e)。

28 我们知道上帝创造万有，并一直藉着护理之工维系万物，有什么益处呢？

答: 我们可以在患难中忍耐 (f)，在顺境中感恩 (g)；对于将来临到我们的一切，能坚定地信靠信实的天父上帝，任何受造物都不能使我们与祂的爱隔绝 (h)。因为万物都在祂的手中，祂若不许，它们动也不能动 (i)。

1. 耶23:23-24; 徒17:24-28 (b) 来1:3 (c) 耶5:24; 徒14:15-17; 约9:3; 箴22:2 (d) 箴16:33 (e) 太10:29 (f) 伯1:21-22; 雅1:3 (g) 申8:10; 帖前5:18 (h) 诗55:22; 罗5:3-5; 8:38-39 (i) 伯1:12; 2:6; 箴21:1; 徒17:24-28.

“Sophie and the Heidelberg Cat” by Andrew Wilson, Illustrated by Helena Perez Garcia

1. Sophie is crying. Her sister Michaela has broken her dollhouse, and nobody cares. To make matters worse, she’s pushed over her sister, then yelled at her parents, and stormed up the stairs.
2. She looks out the window and sees, on the chimney, the cat from the Heidelbergs’ house, next door. She stares at it, when, to her utter amazement, it suddenly asks her, **“You’re crying, What for?”**
3. Sophie is very surprised (but she knows that you cannot tell lies to a talking cat).

**“Michaela just broke my new dollhouse,”** she says. **“So I gave her a shove, and I knocked her down flat.**

1. **Then I screamed at my parents, and ran to my room, and now I feel guilty for doing all that. In fact, I feel worse about me than the dollhouse.”**

**“What do you mean?”** asks the Heidelberg cat.

1. **“Well,”** Sophie whispers, **“I’ve upset Michaela, I’ve upset my Mum and I’ve upset my Dad. And worst of all, I’ve even upset God! And the Bible says that means I’m really bad.”**

The cat puts its paws on the window-sill, grins, and says, **“Sophie, let’s go for a rooftop walk.”**

Quick as a flash, Sophie climbs out the window. (She knows you say yes to a cat that can talk.)

1. Scrambling up tiles and walking down roofs, they peer into houses and gardens, and chat. (The birds in the skies raise their eyes in surprise at a girl on the woof with a talking cat.)
2. **“Right,”** says the cat, **“you just mentioned the Bible. So what do you think it is trying to say?”**

**“Easy,”** says Sophie. **“It’s trying to tell us how we can please God, and be kind, and obey.**

1. **“Be bold like King David, be brave like Queen Esther, and do what God tells you, no matter how scary. Don’t fight God, like Pharoah, or trick God, like Judas. Be patient, like Paul, and respectful, like Mary.”**
2. The cat looks at Sophie. **“And are you?”** it asks. **“Not really,”** says Sophie, **“at least not for long. “That’s why I was crying before. It’s so hard to be good all the time, and it always goes wrong.”**
3. **“Aha,”** says the cat. **“Let me tell you a secret: There’s no-one who can. Not your mum or your dad, your friends or your neighbours. And even your teacher, when no-one else can see, is surprisingly bad.**
4. **Look around the street. Mrs Gubbins is rude. The Macintosh children are always in fights. The pastor gets angry, the shopkeeper’s proud, and the Joneses have horrible quarrels at night.”**
5. Sophie looks puzzled. **“That’s awful,”** she says. **“What hope is there, if things are really like that?”** She sits on a chimney and stares at the sky. **“I’m so glad you asked,”** says the Heidelberg cat.
6. **“The Bible tells stories of hundreds of people, and all of them disobey God… except one. So hope doesn’t come from the good things we do. It comes as a gift, from what Jesus has done.**
7. **“You’ve trusted in God, and Christ dealt with your sins, throwing them into the depths of the sea. By rising again, Christ broke the power of death, restoring creation, so you can live free.**

**God watches your life and makes things work out. God helps you make choices and tells you what’s true. God promises always to be with you and that’s why hope comes from God, not from you.”**

1. Sophie sits still, to make sure the cat’s finished. She has enough questions to talk for a week. (But know very well, as I’m sure you do too, that you always leave time for a cat that can speak.)
2. **“I’d better go home,”** Sophie finally says. **“And tell them I’m sorry. But thanks for the talk. I’m so looking forward to telling my friends that I spoke to a cat, and we went for a walk.”**
3. **“One other thing you should know,”** says the cat, as it silently crosses the tiles on all fours. “The best and most comforting news in the world is that I am not mine, and you are not yours.”
4. Sophie is shocked. **“What on earth do you mean?”**

**“Well, look at the tag on my neck,”** says the cat. **“It tells you my name, then it tells you my owners. The Heidelbergs bought me. I’m theirs, and that’s that.**

1. **The same goes for you. You’ve been rescued by Jesus, so you follow Christ from now till you die. God will love and protect you and never neglect you – but you’re not on your own, Sophie. Neither am I.”**
2. At last they arrive, right outside Sophie’s window. She clambers back in with her hands on the slat. **“When will I see you again?”** Sophie asks.

**“I’m not sure you will,”** says the Heidelberg cat.

1. **“But to help you remember our first conversation, I’ll give you my tag, with my name. Just in case.”** With that, it goes back to the Heidelbergs’ chimney. Sophie looks down at the tad. It says: “Grace.”