



5 June 2022

The Glory of God in Creation

Genesis 1:1-3

Psalms 19; Colossians 1:15-23

Pressing Forward into 2022

- Our goals.
- What are we doing to pursue our goals
 - Catechism Questions and Meditation
 - Scripture Memorization and Meditation

What Have We Learnt So Far?

- Attributes of God in one verse (Elohim) (Genesis 1:1)
- What is man that this Great God is mindful of him? (Psalm 8)

The Act of Creation-Creation and the Gospel

- In the beginning" cannot mean the absolute beginning, because God is ETERNAL and had no beginning. "In the beginning," therefore, must refer only to the beginning of creation-introduction to the concept of time.
- "In the beginning, there was God and only God." (Proverbs 8:23)
- When was the moment of God's creative work? "In the beginning." This means first that time too is a creation of God (Genesis 1:5).
- God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1)
- God made all things for His own glory (Genesis 1:2-25)
- The creation account points us to the Creator who alone is worthy of our worship, enjoyment and obedience (Isaiah 40:28)
- Remember Catechism Q 1: **'What is the chief end of man?' The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. Emphasis is not on believers! Man-creature** (1 Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 73:24-26).
- Connection with the GLORIOUS GOSPEL! You can't glorify one whom you don't know! MEDITATE!
- Creation is a major principal part of the Gospel message. Creation is a major part of our SALVATION (Isaiah 45:12).
- Man was put on the earth to make a name for God, not for himself. (Genesis 11:4). Creation is all about the Glory of God.

- Creation exists for the praise and glory of God, for God's enjoyment of His creation and its enjoyment of Him. Creatures exist to exalt/glorify their Creator. We must see our place as men and respond by humbling ourselves (Isaiah 43:7, 20)
- Creation sets the stage where God's work of providence will be performed in the theatre of creation and HISTORY (HIS-STORY) (Isaiah 46:10; 14:24).
- God created all things through Jesus Christ-for and through Him (Hebrews 1:1-4; Ephesians 3:9, Colossians 1:15-17, John 1:1-5)
- God is not only creator but also the sustainer of all things (Psalm 104)
- God DEMANDS all our worship and obedience (Luke 19:40; Acts 17:30-31)
- Even the non-living things bear testimony to the AWE of GOD (Psalms 8; 19)
- " • Storms, winds and waves all obey HIS WILL-Jesus. Thus, all these points out to HIM being Creator! (Matthew 8:23-27, Luke 8:22-25; Psalms 148:8)
- His greatness is further magnified (unique) when we see how He made the heavens and earth out of nothing-ex nihilo (Psalm 96:5; Psalm 115:15; Isaiah 42:5; Revelation 4:11).
- This establishes the incomparable difference between God's creating and "man's manufacturing". Man has to find his clay. He has to prepare his lump of clay from what he can find. He cannot make his own clay really.
- In contrast, the Sovereign Potter made His own clay and God made it from nothing (Genesis 1:1-3).

All things created for God

- There is MUCH MORE to Jesus Christ than Saviour. He is Creator! (Rev 4:11)
- Consider Catechism Q 25 - He is Mediator, Priest, Prophet, King, Heir of all things, Saviour and Head of the Church, Judge of the world, Redeemer and Lord. All things were created by, through and for Jesus Christ (The Son of God) - (Colossians 1:15-17)
- There is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist (1 Corinthians 8:6)
- God does everything for a purpose and a specific reason. He is the one "for whom we exist." He is the one "from whom....all things exist." (Romans 11:34-36; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Hebrews 2:10)
- God does not create out of need. He is a giver, not a taker (Acts 17:24-25). He gives to all mankind life and breath and everything (Psalm 104).
- For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever (Romans 11:34-36).
- God is self-sufficient. Not only do all things come "from Him" but their activity is also being carried out "through Him" (Psalm 146:6; Job 41:11; Romans 11:35-36; Psalm 50:10-12)
- The upshot of God's creating (from Him) and governing (through Him) all things is that all things are "to Him."

- All things were created and exist for God means they exist, are designed and governed so that God would be seen, known and worshipped as glorious forever (1 Corinthians 8:6).

God's glory expressed through the praise of HIS creation

- God created the world with the goal that it would display His Glory and finds an echo in the praises of His people (Romans 11:36; John 17:22, 24).
- Heaven responds to God's act of creation the way God intended when He created-praise (Revelation 4:9-11)
- His act of creation put this glory on display (Psalms 19:1).
- The creatures made in God's image see this glory, joyfully embrace the beauty and preciousness of it, and give it back in the form of praise, exultation and lives built on His supreme worth-all of which ascribes to God what He already is.
- The purpose of images is to image! (Genesis 1:27-28) **THINK HARD & MEDIATE!**
- We carve images of people and build statues of them in order to portray those people-to put them on display.
- Thus, when God creates human beings in His image, He puts Himself on display, and commands that the earth be full of such images of Himself. It is clear that God's goal in creation is the display of God.
- For sure, non-human creation-the world of nature-is everywhere revealing the glory of God (Psalms 19:1; 104:31; Rom. 1:20).
- And this is manifestly God's idea, since nature does not invent its own purpose.
- Nevertheless, in creation God is aiming at a display of His glory far greater than the wonders of nature-amazing as they are (Psalms 19).
- The best way we can **GLORIFY GOD** is by **OBEDIENCE!** (1 Samuel 15:22)
- God's purpose is for human beings to glorify Him by praising and worshipping Him (Numbers 14:21; Habakkuk 2:14). Such conscious, joyful knowing, loving and praising is the destiny of man, not nature.
- We are the ones destined to fill the earth with worship-worship of the God who made heaven and earth (Nehemiah 9:5-6).
- The Bible affirms that all creation already praises God and can be summoned repeatedly to do so (Psalms 145:10, 21; 148; 150; Psalms 19:1).
- Creatures praise and glorify God simply by being and doing what they were created for, and God is pleased and glorified when they do. **MEDITATE!**
- The non-human creation brings glory to God simply by existing, for it exists only by His sustaining and renewing power (Psalms 19)

God's glory seen in the fullness of creation

- The glory of God is sometimes linked to the fullness of the earth, in Hebrew, *'the filling of the earth'*. The rich abundance of bio-diversity itself is celebrated in Genesis 1 as creation moves from 'functionless and empty' to ordered and full. Here are some more examples:
- Psalms 24:1 'The earth is the LORDS's and everything in it'.
- Psalms 50:12 'The world is mine and all that is in it' (after listing animals of the forest, cattle, birds and insects).
- Psalms 104:31 'May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in all His works' (after a Psalm celebrating the diversity of creatures).

The only Proper Response to GOD:

- Repent today and continuously repent - Acts 17:30-31; Acts 20:21; Luke 13:1-5; Luke 24:47
- Believe God with all your heart (mind, will, and emotions) and grow your relationship with Him - Acts 8:37; John 3:18, 36; 1 Chronicles 28:9; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Daniel 11:32
- Submit to Christ as Lord (Owner, Master, Ruler, Creator) - Romans 10:9-10; Psalm 2:10-12; Matthew 7:21-23
- Glorify God for all He has done, is doing, and has promised to do - Psalm 115:1-3; Revelations 4:9-11
- Remain humble and seek the LORD - 1 Peter 5:5, Mathew 11:28-29, James 4:6, Proverbs 3:5-7.