

God and His Creation

Commentary for March 17, 2012 — How God Learns

Look how God regards His physical creation in Genesis chapter 1:

- The formation of light, verses 3–4: **“And God saw the light, that it was good.”**
- The lights in the heavens and separation of sea and land, verses 6–10: **“and God saw that it was good.”**
- The grass, seed bearing plants, and fruit, verses 11–12: **“and God saw that it was good.”**
- Lights in the firmament of heaven, verses 14–18: **“and God saw that it was good.”**
- Animal life in the waters, verses 20–21: **“and God saw that it was good.”**
- Living creatures and beasts on the earth, verses 24–25: **“and God saw that it was good.”**
- God concludes all in verse 31: **“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was VERY good.”**

The last statement in verse 31 does not just say His creations were good, but very good. He is self-evaluating His own creation. God is giving His opinion, and His opinion is fact. He is proud of His creation and these statements of “goodness” tell us that God is pleased with the result. **“The glory of YHWH shall endure for ever [*olam*, “for the age”¹]: YHWH shall rejoice in his works”** (Psalm 104: 31). Indeed He does.

God’s Pride of Creation in Job

Another time in Scripture when God demonstrates His pride in the physical creation He made for man is in the Book of Job. Even the most casual reading of Job shows that God is proud of His creation. In chapters 38–41 God tells Job about the wonders of His creation, describing them with fierce pride, even challenging Job regarding his ignorance of God.²

As one scientist (who was a Christian) put it: “God decides and we measure.” Indeed, we are limited in being able to discover the wonders of God’s creation. Yet we are commanded: **“But be you glad and rejoice for ever [*olam*, “for the age”] in that which I create ...”** (Isaiah 65: 18).

¹ The heavens and earth that presently exist are only temporary. They do not last “forever.” A new heavens and earth will be created. See Isaiah 65: 17 and particularly Revelation 21: 1:

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”

² The words of God are vivid in their imagery. It almost seems as if Job was shown, perhaps in vision, what God was describing. Yet the text gives no hint that is the case.

God Will be Glorified

God will be glorified both in His physical creation, but more importantly through His spiritual creation of us through Christ, the last Adam. It has been said that it is the role of a parent, **“to rediscover the universe while first watching a child discover it.”** I think this is true. This is how God is glorified by His creation of mankind, His sons and daughters: He observes us as we discover His creation for the first time. This occurs slowly in our mortality now, but it will occur much faster after our resurrection to spiritual life that Christ possesses at this moment.

I repeat, this is how God is glorified, by observing His children (the spiritual objects of His creation, made in the image and likeness of Himself) as they discover the creation He has made for them — the physical creation now, and the creation of the new heavens and earth to come (Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1–3) which will be better suited to our future spiritual life. And it pleases our Father greatly to do so as part of His purpose of the eons (Ephesians 3:9–11, Greek).

The result of the fulfillment of God’s plan for every human being will be **“that God may be all in all”** (1 Corinthians 15:28; Ephesians 4:6), for **“there are apportionments of operations, yet the same God Who is operating all in all”** (1 Corinthians 12:6, Concordant Version). This means that God operates as He sees fit to accomplish His goal. Every intelligent creature shall praise God the Father, and it shall be done to His glory (Philippians 2:11). In fact, it is required: **“That you would walk worthy of God, who has called you unto his kingdom and glory”** (1 Thessalonians 2:12). So, what are we to do now? **“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”** (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

As you learn and grow in grace and in knowledge of God throughout your future, especially after your resurrection from the dead, you will be like a 2 or 3 year-old child looking at everything that you encounter, whether it be the equivalent of a small bug on the ground, a flower, or a small creature. You will be fascinated by every aspect of God’s love, nurturing, and care through Christ and the *ekklesia*, while you thought He was absent from your life. Our Father will be glorified as He pleases and fascinates us with His creation, designed for us.

“That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory.”

• **Ephesians 1:10–12**

Conference Cancelled

Unfortunately I must report that the April 6-8 Richmond Bible Conference in Richmond, Virginia has been cancelled. Repairs are being made to the hotel meeting room, and the repairs will not be completed in time for the conference. I have looked forward to this conference for the past few years and I am disappointed, but I pray it will take place again next year.

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