

Awe of God in Creation

1/13/2018

This morning we're going to talk about the awesomeness of God we see in His creation. At the top of your outline, the very first question is: "*what aspect of God's creation creates a sense of wonder for God?*". At the close of the service this morning I'm going to ask you to turn and share your answer with at least 2 other people. So, as I preach this morning think about your answer to that question.

Psalms 19:1-4 (NIV) *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.*

Can't you just imagine David writing those profound words after lying on the hillside as a shepherd boy and gazing up at the stars in the heavens. Just using his eye under very dark conditions, David could have probably seen around 5,000 stars, and he was blown away by that. Fast forward to today. With the advanced technology we have today that allows us to see way beyond what David was able to observe with just his eyes – we've discovered that there are about **10 billion galaxies** in the observable universe, and we still haven't reached the end of the known universe.

There are an estimated **100 billion stars per galaxy** which means that there are about **1 billion trillion stars in the observable universe** (which is 1 with 21 zeroes behind it). That means that there are more stars in the universe than there are grains of sand on all of the Earth's beaches combined.

Understanding that alone might blow your mind but now consider God's outrageous claim in **Isaiah 40:25-26** *"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.* God not only created all of those stars and planets in the universe but He also named every one of them. That's incredible. Can we all agree that the Creator of all of this is amazing!!!

Earth:

Sometimes we may think that our planet is a pretty big deal. But let me give you a bit of a perspective for a minute. Compare our earth to our sun. The sun is so big that you could fit **1.3 million earths inside of it**. For a bit of perspective: if the sun were as tall as a typical front door, how big do you think the Earth would be in relation to that? The Earth would be the size of a nickel.

The **earth's diameter is 7,926 miles**. The diameter of just the Milky Way galaxy we live in is about 621 quadrillion miles (621,000,000,000,000,000.)

Christian astronomer, **Hugh Ross**, in his book, *Creator and the Cosmos*, cites **26 different characteristics** about the universe that enables it to sustain life. There are also **33 characteristics about our galaxy**, our solar system, and the planet Earth that are finely tuned to allow life to exist. So, we're talking about **59** different aspects of the universe that are being kept in perfect balance so that universe continues to stay together and exists and allows us to live in it.

- The earth was placed and kept just the right distance from our sun. Any closer and we'd incinerate and any further away and we'd become a big ball of ice. And yet it maintains this perfect distance while rotating around the sun at a speed of nearly 67,000 mph.
- The speed of the earth's rotation on its axis, completing one turn every 24 hours, means that the sun warms the planet evenly. If we didn't rotate at this rate we'd alternately burn up and then freeze.

- We are just the right size and distance from the moon. The moon creates important ocean tides and movement so ocean water does not stagnate and yet it restrains our massive oceans from spilling over and covering the land.

The story is told of **Sir Isaac Newton** who had constructed a perfectly scaled down replica of the then known solar system for his studies. A large golden ball represented the sun at the center, and the known planets revolved around it through a series of cogs, belts and rods. It was an incredible machine. One day while Newton was studying his model, an agnostic friend stopped by for a visit. The man marveled at the machinery and asked, “*Who made this exquisite thing?*” Without looking up, Newton replied, “*Nobody.*” “*Nobody?*” his friend asked. “*That’s right*” said Newton, “*all of these balls and cogs and belts and gears just happened to come together, and wonder of wonders, by chance they began revolving in their set orbits with perfect timing.*” Newton made his point that as complex as his model is, the universe is far more detailed and complex and yet many continue to believe that it merely happened by blind chance over millions of years.

Paul states plainly God’s intent in creation in the opening verse to Romans.

Romans 1:20 (NIV) *For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*

If we turn our attention to Earth there are certainly breathtaking and mind boggling things about our planet that should create awe for God within us.

- **Water:** water is a universal solvent which allows it to absorb chemicals, minerals and nutrients and transport them throughout our bodies.
 - Everything else in the world freezes from the bottom up, but **water freezes from the top down.** And water when it freezes floats, allowing fish to live in the winter in our lakes here in Minnesota.
 - God designed a system, called **evaporation** by which he takes water from one location and brings it up into clouds and then uses it to water plants and vegetation all over.
- All sorts of amazing things in created beings – like how do **butterflies know how and where to migrate** to every spring when they’ve never lived there and their parents are gone?

Consider the amazing diversity in the created world.

- There are **900 thousand different species of insects** discovered in the world, but most experts believe that there are likely at least 2 million that have not yet been identified.
- There are **28,000 recognized species of fish** in the world
- There are **9,000 to 10,000 species of birds**
- There are **5,416 species of mammals.**

Consider the complexity of our human bodies:

Psalms 139:14 (NIV) *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

- Each of our bodies has **7 octillion atoms** (7 followed by 20 zeroes)
- Everyone has a **unique tongue print** – just like fingerprints
- We have **9,000 taste buds** on our tongue, throat and the roof of your mouth
- The **eye** is simply amazing. If it were a camera it would have about **570 mega pixels** (in comparison a top camera has about 50 mega pixels, my I phone camera has 12 mega pixels).
- You have **2.5 trillion red blood cells** in your body.
- **1 square inch** of your hand has within it **9 feet of blood vessels, 600 pain sensors, 9,000 nerve endings, 38 heat sensors and 75 pressure sensors.** When you touch something a message is sent to your brain at **124 miles per hour.**

- You have a total of **60,000 miles of blood vessels** in your body (which if placed end to end would reach around the world with some left over). Imagine building a machine with 60,000 electrical wires and having it work when you were done.
- **1,800 gallons of blood** are pumped throughout your body by your heart daily.
- Your heart pumps over **1,000 times per day**.
- White blood cells rush to identify enemy agents in your body and mark them for destruction.
- **Ear**: you have an outer ear which takes in sounds and then the inner ear converts these sound waves into electrical impulses and sends them to your brain.
- Your **nose** can detect and remember 50,000 different scents
- Your body has **60 trillion cells** and each second **10 million cells die** and are being replaced by your body
- Your **liver** has 500 different functions
- It takes **17 muscles to smile** and **43 to frown**.
- Our **brains** are remarkably complex objects with a **hundred billion neurons**, **100 trillion connections**, and can do a **quadrillion calculations per second**

Perhaps the most astonishing evidence for the Creator is our **DNA** which is basically the coding within us that makes each of us who we are. In 1953 James Watson and Francis Crick became the first scientists to formulate an accurate description of the DNA molecule's complex structure. Since that day the study of DNA has been fascinating. On June 26, 2000,, President Bill Clinton congratulated those who completed the human genome sequencing and acknowledged DNA as God's creation. **Clinton** said: *"Today we are learning the language in which God created life. We are gaining ever more awe for the complexity, the beauty, and the wonder of God's most divine and sacred gifts."*

Dr. Francis Collins, the director of the Human Genome Project, followed the president to the podium, stating, *"It is humbling for me, and awe-inspiring, to realize that we have caught the first glimpse of our own instruction book, previously known only to God."*

The discovery of DNA and the subsequent study of molecular biology have led many scientists to completely reverse their views on the origin of life, from Darwin's evolutionary theory to a belief in some sort of designer behind all of creation.

- **Dean Kenyon**, a biology professor, early had written a book supporting Darwinian evolution but as the result of the discover of DNA, he repudiated his earlier book and now stated, *"This new realm of molecular genetics is where we see the most compelling evidence of design on the Earth."*
- One of the world's most famous atheists, **Professor Anthony Flew**, admitted he couldn't explain how DNA was created and developed through evolution, and came to accept the need for an intelligent source to have been involved in the making of the DNA code.

I want to close with a quote from **John Piper** who captures the awe and wonder we ought to have for the Creator. *"What is the universe but the lavish demonstration of the incredible, incomparable, unimaginable exuberance and wisdom and power and greatness of God! And what a God he must be. God means for us to be stunned and awed by his work of creation. But not for our own sake. He means for us always to look at his creation and say: If the work of His hands is so full of wisdom and power and grandeur and majesty and beauty, what must this God be like in Himself? In other words, God wants us to be awed and blown away by His creation so it leads us to being awed and drawn into a relationship of awe with Him. Being awed is not the end in itself. Awed by creation is intended to create within us a profound awe of the Creator."*

Close of the service:

Share with 2 people what aspect of God's creation creates a sense of wonder for God.

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Stars:

Earth:

Water:

Diversity in this world:

- Insects:
- Fish
- Birds
- Mammals

Complexity of the human body:

- Atoms:
- Tongue:
- Taste buds:
- Eye:
- Red blood cells:
- Ear:
- Nose:
- Liver:
- Smile _____ vs. Frown: _____
- Brains:

When have you experienced the awe of God through His creation?

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