

Through His Handiwork

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Can you define God? Although the answer to that question is no, it is possible to describe God. He has revealed Himself both through His Word and through His handiwork, which is His amazing creation and providence. While each of these display aspects of God, the creation is the unique foundation. In Romans 1:20 the Lord's attributes are said to be shown to all through His creation: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Authorized King James Version). Not only His power, but His goodness and wisdom shine forth brightly throughout His glorious work that first week.

The Lord God's attribute of power is strongly portrayed in His magnificent creation. "Power, or the ability of performing, belongs essentially to God, who is All-powerful, the Omnipotent" (Unger, 877). Creating all the vast universe by "the word of the Lord," God performed what some men believe took four billion years, in only six days (Ps. 33.6). Marvelously God created all of nothing, "so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Heb. 11.3). This is impossible for man! In the last century, the simple splitting of an atom has unleashed such power as can explode entire cities. Atomic bombs and nuclear energy have revealed a sample of not only the Lord's ability, but His power of strength, that has always been present. From subatomic particles to enormous galaxies, man has exceedingly limited knowledge of the potential energy in creation. "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding" (Job 38.4). A God that can hang the world on nothing and hurl tens of thousands of shining stars into space, is truly a God of power.

"The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord" (Ps. 33.5b). Clearly represented in His creation, the Lord's goodness was proclaimed throughout the first week. In Genesis 1, God saw "that it was good" in verses 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, and 25, and "very good" in verse 31. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, together formed everything perfectly and all in complete harmony and beauty. Creating everything in pairs, the Lord, who made male and female of all animals and of humans, provided food, water, air, light, and heat for every living creature. Not only the physical needs, but the spiritual needs of people were wholly met as they communed with their Maker. Although goodness has this idea of perfection, the word also has another sense, without sin. This is shown in creation as God wonderfully created all in the beginning sinless, with no transgression of His law to cause pain or death of animals or humans. At the end of the six days of creation, all was complete, perfected, with all the spiritual and physical needs met, even to overflowing.

Not only is the Lord described in the Bible as being all-powerful and good, but also He is spoken of as all-wise. "Wisdom, as distinguished from knowledge, is that which directs knowledge to a proper end" (Green, 469). In Proverbs 8:22-31 wisdom is personified as being with God both before and as He created all things. It is not difficult to encounter the Lord's

wisdom in His handiwork! For example, the cycles of the seasons, and that of day and night, show the wisdom of God because He gave all living things times for rest during the night, and during the winter. Studying the human skeletal structure, people have uncovered the intelligence of the Lord in that realm, as He created our bones to protect vital organs. We are fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps. 139.14). When God created trees and all vegetation on the third day, He made a protection for the seeds, an outer layer, which is what is now called fruit. Certainly there are numerous examples more, yet even from these few examples, God's great wisdom is displayed.

Imagine the pleasant, perfect, and peaceful first week of the world. All is new, all is good, and all is wisely designed. Clearly manifest through His handiwork are the attributes of the Lord. Through His power, His wisdom, and His goodness, God had made all. It was, and is, plain to see that He who can create such an immense spectacle as the whole universe is sovereign, ruling over all. He deserves worship and glory. Therefore let us glorify and magnify this God, who, creating us for that very purpose, has all the right to our praise forever and ever.

Bibliography

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