

Creation care meditation, 3/12/23

I've been paying attention in my devotional readings during the last couple of weeks with the goal of discovering how the Bible reveals God's nature and His actions through references to creation. What I found is awesome! Most of the references to creation that I encountered are in the Psalms, which astound us with glorious creation poetry.

Of course, I started with Psalm 19 where "the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork." One of the young preachers I follow had a wonderful definition for "glory." He said that "the glory of God is the manifestation of His presence that can be perceived by us!" The creation isn't just something beautiful for us to enjoy. If we pay attention, through creation we can perceive His presence among us! The heavens declare his glorious presence!

In the Psalms God takes a very active part in His creation! Continuing in Psalm 19, days tell stories to nights and one night imparts knowledge to another night even though they exchange no words in an audible language. The sun is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber. Once out of his chamber, he rejoices as he runs across the sky!

In Psalm 135 God brings up rain clouds, sends out lightning with the rain, and brings wind out of his storehouse. It would seem from these passages that God is responsible for the weather! In addition to counting the stars, Psalm 147 says God covers the heavens with clouds and brings rain. He makes grass grow, which provides food for wild animals. He brings snow, frost, and hail. Then He melts the snow and blows with His wind.

In Psalm 95 God holds earth's caverns and hills in His hand. And it says the sea belongs to Him!

Psalm 18 boldly uses creation to illustrate God's anger, which causes the earth to reel and rock. A consuming fire comes from His mouth! He parts heaven and comes down with a storm cloud under His feet. He swoops on the wings of the wind. He wraps darkness around Himself, dark waters and thick clouds. Hailstones and fire burst from His presence! He thunders out of heaven with lightening.

But, unless you think this Psalm is far too violent for 21st century sensibilities, the Psalm concludes with deeply comforting words: This great God reaches out of heaven and grasps me! He brings me to an open place of rescue. He delights in me! Oh hallelujah! What a God we serve!

Psalm 29 tells us that God's voice is a voice of power and splendor! His voice breaks cedar trees, makes land skip, splits flames of fire, shakes the wilderness, makes oak trees writhe, and strips forests bare. Through all this demonstration of power, the Psalm says God sits enthroned above the flood.

And how do we respond to this awesome God?

Psalm 29 tells us what to do. We cry glory! There's that word again. And the Psalm ends with the confident declaration that this Great God gives His people strength and peace!

I would like to end this meditation by praising God together for His creation using the Canticum of Creation from the Book of Common Prayer. I would sing it for you,

but Zoom isn't really designed for music! If I may share my screen, perhaps we all can recite this beautiful canticle together.

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