

Psalm 104:24,25 The TESTIMONY of CREATION

PRELIMS. It is **summer** time!! We **did** get a glimpse of summer these past few weeks! I always feel that the summer brings us nearer to God in the sense that we see His works in **creation!** We are so used to seeing God's work in creation, that like so many other things in life, we take it for granted! In the **winter**, we are **indoors**, and many of God's handiworks are **hidden** from us. The Psalmists, living in their outdoor culture were much more aware of the **witness/testimony** of God's creation than we are today.

Psalm 29 tells us about God's Voice! *“The voice of the Lord is...powerful...is full of majesty...breaks the cedars of Lebanon... makes the deer give birth and strips the forest bare”*[3-9] That is exactly how King David 'read' the world around him. What many people today call 'nature' David believed it was **God's voice** to us!

So Scripture tells us that every time we see a stream, a river, a mountain, a calf, a bird, a desert, a tree – God is **speaking** to us! He is saying 'Look at My handiwork and be amazed'. Every time **you** go outside your house, you are **confronted** with God's hidden qualities! That is what Paul believed - listen to him: *“for His invisible attributes namely His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made”*[Rom 1:20]

Again King David would agree *“When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your hands, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place what is man that You are mindful of him?”*[Psa 8:34]. I had a cousin who said every time he saw the '5 Sisters of Kintail' and the 'Coolins' in Skye, 'My, you are a **nothing** because they were so majestic! As [Psa 95:4] *“the heights of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for He made it and His hands formed the dry land”* and then what? *“Oh come let us worship Him”*!!

God actually wants us to **enjoy** His creation – He wants us to see the **beauty** of His creation *“One thing have I asked of the Lord...to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord”*[Psa 27:4] Wherever it is! In the sky or in the sea, or in ground, or in the elements and weather

about which we so often **complain** and **grumble!** How do **you** feel about the recent weather conditions – the **rain** and **flooding?**

Listen to the Psalmist *“He makes the clouds His chariot; He rides on the wings of the wind; He makes His messengers winds...You make springs gush forth in the valleys”*[3-10] The clouds, wind and rain are God's **servants/messengers** to **fulfill** His purposes! Look: *“Praise the Lord from the earth...fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling His Word”*[Psa 148:7,8]

There is **no inherent power** in 'nature', or for that matter in the universe! It is **God** who puts **His power** in them and **uses** them to fulfill His purposes! When people talk about 'Natural Law', they are just referring to God's **common/normal use** of His power over the elements on a **regular** basis – and which He **can suspend** at will! The Burning Bush/Red Sea/Sun/Ass speaking, etc!

Some **environmentalists** believe God is **in** the earth, or God **is** the earth – thus they pray to 'Mother Earth'! But 'No!' God is **separate** and **above** His creation *“You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate that he may bring forth food from the earth and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart... the trees the birds...the stork...the high mountains...the rocks...the moon...the sun...”* are all God's doing. For He **planned** and **designed** them to carry out their own particular **function!** There are **no magical powers** in the creation – it is **God behind** them!

Look at how Job (the ancient) described the elements *“Behold, these are but the outskirts of His ways and how small a whisper do we hear of Him”*[Job 26:14]! No wonder the Psalmist here said *“O Lord, how manifold are Your works...I will sing to the Lord as long as I live”*[24 & 33]

Note *“in wisdom have You made them all”*[24] **Not** in **folly**, or **accidentally** but **deliberately!** God is wisdom itself. He is the wholly wise One. To say that those who believe in creation by God are naive and simpletons and that to believe the Bible is irrational, is nothing but pride, prejudice and arrogance. It was interesting to

read Melanie Phillips article last week in the 'Daily Mail'. She was saying that Richard Dawkins book, and similar writings are going 'off-track' completely. In the article 'Why Science Has Become the New **Enemy of Reason**' she makes out that 'science itself has become unreasonable'. She says 'Science cannot explain the origin of the earth...so when Dawkins fulminates...it is the image of pots and kettles that comes irresistibly to mind'. She warns about such prejudice as Dawkins 'Arrogance and contempt for faith has led to the creation of a dangerous new dogma...' [9 Aug 07].

To believe that an 'accident', or an unintended 'power' brought about such order, beauty and sophistication as we observe in the universe, is very brave and requires much faith!! In creation, 'God invites us to feast our souls on His glory!' Creation is there for us to admire and marvel – not to carelessly 'ignore' as a mere accident of nature. God in invites us to look up and observe the 'heavenly gallery of the most unimaginable, exquisite and breathtaking art' *“The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims His handiworks”*[Psa 19:1]

How **fast** is **fast**? Planes travel at over 500 miles per hour – great feat! But compared to the speed of light 186,000 miles per second, 670,000,000 miles per hour! The **moon** is 240,000 miles from earth so when God said *“Let there be light”*, it took 1.33 seconds to come these 240,000 miles – quite slow actually – for God!

How **far** is **far**? Travelling in our 747 at 500 miles per hour, to reach the **sun**, a mere 93million miles away, it would take 21 years to get there. For Pluto, the furthest away planet in our solar system, it would take 900 years!! The nearest **star** is 4.3 light years from earth. Travelling 24/7 on our 747 would take 6 million years!

That is just **our galaxy** - and there are **over** 150 billion stars in our galaxy 'The Milky Way'! And there at least **150 billion galaxies**!!

How **heavy** is **heavy**? A star can weigh 50 billion times the mass of earth! Whose **holding it all up**? Our Great God! When you believe in God, you are believing in a **Big God**! It **needs** Someone big!! Yes, our God has made all things *“both great and small”*[25]

Great and majestic and powerful though God is, He invites poor, weak, insignificant sinners to behold and enjoy His creation!

Imagine it, this great God **wants** you to be **His friend** – for life! He made the world to **share** the joy He was getting out of it. Sharing is all part of our being made in the image of God. Just as when a husband gets some very interesting news, or sees some excellent film, he rushed home to tell his wife about it – because he wants to share. That's what **widows/widowers** feel most – when they are excited and want to share it but no one to share it!

God created the earth – not primarily for us to **exploit** its resources and enhance our comforts but to **increase** our **faith** and admire His beauty and strengthen our faith!

The Holy Spirit through Paul called us to **think/meditate** on whatever was beautiful and lovely and good and true and excellent and worthy of praise![Phil 4:8] because it **strengthens** faith. It **confirms** that our **faith** is **not based** on an idea only but a material creating God! The Greeks revelled in **ideas** - but the Xn faith is based on **facts** – facts of **history** facts of true **science**!

All these facts that we have given you here **should** make you **sing** your heart out on **Sundays**! It should help you **not** to **sin** against God on Mondays! It should make you love and obey the Lord!

What is **your** view of God? Are you afraid of Him? He certainly has the power – and the reasons – to dismiss you as a nothing! But His chief desire is to have **you** truly **worship** Him for who He is!

If creation testifies to such a great and powerful God – then remember that the Scriptures testify to a **most merciful and gracious God**! This great God is waiting to receive **you** into His fellowship! Won't you come?