

In the Beginning...
An Examination of the Genesis Account of Creation
and the Fall of Mankind
Psalm 104
3- The Delight of God in the Wonder of Creation

January 28, 2018

Psalm 104

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are very great; You are clothed with splendor and majesty,

2 Covering Yourself with light as with a cloak, Stretching out heaven like a *tent* curtain.

3 He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters; He makes the clouds His chariot; He walks upon the wings of the wind;

4 He makes the winds His messengers, Flaming fire His ministers.

5 He established the earth upon its foundations, So that it will not totter forever and ever.

6 You covered it with the deep as with a garment; The waters were standing above the mountains.

7 At Your rebuke they fled, At the sound of Your thunder they hurried away.

8 The mountains rose; the valleys sank down To the place which You established for them.

9 You set a boundary that they may not pass over, So that they will not return to cover the earth.

10 He sends forth springs in the valleys; They flow between the mountains;

11 They give drink to every beast of the field; The wild donkeys quench their thirst.

12 Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell; They lift up *their* voices among the branches.

13 He waters the mountains from His upper chambers; The earth is satisfied with the fruit of His works.

14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the labor of man, So that he may bring forth food from the earth,

15 And wine which makes man's heart glad, So that he may make *his* face
glisten with oil, And food which sustains man's heart.

16 The trees of the Lord drink their fill, The cedars of Lebanon which He
planted,

17 Where the birds build their nests, *And* the stork, whose home is the **1**fir
trees.

18 The high mountains are for the wild goats; The cliffs are a refuge for the
shephanim.

19 He made the moon for the seasons; The sun knows the place of its setting.

20 You appoint darkness and it becomes night, In which all the beasts of the
forest prowl about.

21 The young lions roar after their prey And seek their food from God.

22 *When* the sun rises they withdraw And lie down in their dens.

23 Man goes forth to his work And to his labor until evening.

24 O Lord, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all;
The earth is full of Your possessions.

25 There is the sea, great and broad, In which are swarms without number,
Animals both small and great.

26 There the ships move along, *And* Leviathan, which You have formed to
sport in it.

27 They all wait for You To give them their food in due season.

28 You give to them, they gather *it* up; You open Your hand, they are satisfied
with good.

29 You hide Your face, they are dismayed; You take away their spirit, they
expire And return to their dust.

30 You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of
the ground.

31 Let the glory of the Lord endure forever; Let the Lord be glad in His
works;

32 He looks at the earth, and it trembles; He touches the mountains, and they
smoke.

33 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I
have my being.

34 Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in the
Lord.

**35 Let sinners be consumed from the earth And let the wicked be no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!**

To the Glory of God

Now the fatal flaw of those who try to understand Creation from an *evolutionary* or *naturalist* position is that they make an assumption at the very beginning of their analysis that is simply wrong. Darwinian evolutionists and those seeking to understand Creation with the natural mind, apart from Scripture, *assume* that the various natural and physical “processes” that are going on right now have *always* been. Seeking to understand Creation apart from Scripture *assumes* that the physical world is all there is. And they *assume* that the way things *operate* now, the way things are *managed* now and the way in which the Universe is *conducted* now, is the way things have *always* been, and that is simply not true.

Creation is unique in that it did *not* flow out of the normal and natural way in which things operate now. Creation was a series of supernatural miracles that happened one time. And they are not connected in any way with the various “processes” that exist now in the ongoing operation of the created Universe.

For example, the Apostle John tells us in **John 11** that Jesus raised a man named Lazarus from the dead. And the *method* or the *way* that Jesus used, according to eyewitnesses, who were there, was that He spoke Lazarus’s name and then *commanded* a dead man to live. Now, on the one hand, we understand that what John tells us is *scientifically* impossible. But because we are Christians, and because we believe the Bible to be the infallible Word of the living God, we believe in miracles. And miracles, by definition, do not fit in with the normal and natural way in which things operate. And Science cannot handle miracles precisely because they operate *outside* the normal and natural way in which things exist.

So, if Lazarus was raised in our day, the first thing that doctors and scientists would do would be to get Mr. Lazarus to a clinic as soon as possible. And at the clinic, they would take a sample of his blood so they could try to understand why a dead man is now alive. They would check his blood pressure, and they would analyze his sleep and eating habits, they would put him through a series of X-rays and MRI’s and

Ultrasounds, and they would, no doubt, interview his parents to see if there was some *natural*, some *normal*, some *scientific* explanation as to *why* a man who had been in his tomb for four days is now alive and breathing.

And they would uncover a lot of things. For example, they would discover Lazarus' blood type, and they would, no doubt, find some genetic information that was attributed to his ancestors, and they would find some degree of hardening of the arteries, and they would find some arthritis accumulating around his ankles, and that he probably eats too much sugar and not enough fiber.

But after they had exhausted themselves in analyzing the normal and natural and scientific way the human body operates, they would have no idea why Lazarus was alive. And that is because there is no "connection" in the way that the human body normal *operates* and the supernatural miracle that allowed Lazarus to live. None.

Now I have no doubt that some of these people would be very sincere and genuine. And they would, no doubt, write books about this experience, and they would go on the lecture circuit, and they would postulate all sorts of ideas and theories, but they would never understand, *scientifically*, why a dead man now lives. And in the words of that great "theologian", Satchel Paige, "*You simply cannot get there from here*".

And that is the fatal flaw that is made by all of these people who try to understand Creation without believing what the Bible says about it. There is no connection, none, with the way that the created Universe *operates* today and the way that God made it in the beginning. You simply cannot find an answer to Creation by examining all of the various "processes" that are in place now that the Universe has been created.

Now, when we discuss this, we must, sadly, come to the conclusion that all "Science" is not created equal. There are, today, genuine people who are truly seeking after knowledge based in facts. And I not only *applaud* these people, I join in with them, because, *ultimately* all knowledge is God's Knowledge. I want Truth. I seek after Truth. And all Truth is God's Truth. My belief in the Deity of Jesus Christ and the Resurrection and in the miracles described in the Bible and in Creation is *not* based in superstition or fairy stories or even blind faith. My belief is based in historical facts. It is based in first hand observations

and reliable witnesses, and in the undeniable veracity of 66 infallible and inerrant Books. And that reality doesn't make me to be "anti-intellectual", it makes me to be a believer.

One thing I have found out over the years is that Truth, Divine Truth, Objective, Propositional, Absolute, Truth does not fear questions. It doesn't fear analysis and it doesn't fear criticism. Truth can withstand "any and all comers", precisely because Truth is true. And you can *reject* the Truth and you can *condemn* the Truth and you can not *like* the Truth, but you can't change the Truth, precisely because Truth is true.

So, I am a thinking, rational man, who has done his homework, and has come to the reasoned conclusion that the Bible is the Word of God out of a sincere and ongoing search for Truth. But there are some people, who *pose* as "intellectuals", and who *hold themselves out* as "academics" and real smart people and "scientists", who engage in real dumb things to arrive at their conclusions. And it is precisely because I am a rational and thinking man as to why I categorically *reject* what these people put forth. And these kind of "pseudo-scientists" have always been around. Two thousand years ago, the Apostle Paul warned Timothy about them when he said:

1 Timothy 6:20&21a

20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge" —

21 which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith...

Now there are noble and good and honest and correct pursuits of Knowledge. And Christianity promotes this kind of pursuit of the Truth. But there are human efforts at gaining Knowledge that *depart* from an honest search for the Truth. And this "pseudo-science", this *false* pursuit of Knowledge is *political* and it is *anti-intellectual*, and it goes *against* the very Truth that it claims to embrace. And those who engage in this don't receive any Knowledge, but their faith goes astray.

And what many of these people say and teach and write in books, *especially* about Creation, is absurd and silly, and not worth the paper it is printed on. And what they teach is much more a reflection of their own dark heart than it is some "scientific proof" they have supposedly

found. It is almost laughable when people, who supposedly hang their hat on being so smart and so technologically accurate, stoop to such ridiculous lengths and go through “evolutionary gymnastics” trying to “prove” something that Science itself says *cannot* be proven.

Dis-believing what the Bible clearly and repeatedly teaches about Creation is *not* intelligent and it *isn't* based in Science. Darwinian evolution and naturalistic attempts at explaining Creation have no connection to the Truth about the beginning of all things. None. And therefore, what these “so-called sciences”, these “pseudo-sciences” say should not be believed. I have said this before, but it bears repeating now, Darwinian Evolution is not only *incompatible* with the Bible, it is *incompatible* with Science. And it should be laughed at and mocked, not embraced and accepted.

You see, true Science is based on three aspects:

1. That which is observable
2. That which can be repeated
3. That which is provable, using other known “laws” of Science

But Creation is unique in that it involved several supernatural miracles that are *not* observable; no one was there except God. Creation *cannot* be repeated, not even using computer aided graphics. It was a non-repeatable, one time series of supernatural miracles over six different “Evening and Morning” divisions of time called “days”. And Creation *cannot* be proven using *any* of the other known laws of Science. So, if you're trying to understand Creation, you simply *cannot* use Science, because Science is ill-equipped to explain it. You simply cannot “get there from here”.

And yet, they continue to try. And the reason they try is *not* an honest effort at arriving at Truth. Men go out of their way to *disbelieve* the Bible, because in their fallen nature they are at war with God. And they simply cannot stomach the notion that God made them, and therefore, they are accountable to Him for the way they live their lives.

But God was there. And God spoke plenty about how and why He performed those spectacular miracles. Whoever the psalmist was, who wrote **Psalm 104**, he was “moved along” by God the Holy Spirit to say in verse 31:

Let the glory of the Lord endure forever; Let the Lord be glad in His works;

... which tells us two things:

1. God's Glory, like God Himself, is eternal.
2. God not only created the Universe, but He *delighted* in creating it.

So, first, the radiance of God's Holiness, that flows out from God, when one or more of His pristine Attributes is manifested, is as eternal as God Himself is. So, there will never be a moment, in all of time, when God's Glory will not be manifested and seen and marveled at. And that tells us that the underlying Reason behind why God does what He does is so that His Holiness, His Uniqueness, His Value and Worth will be seen and understood and treasured.

And the only thing that stops that from happening is Sin. Sin blinds the eyes so that we do not see the Glory of God. And Sin hardens the heart so that we do not value God. And Sin deceives the mind so that we take pleasure and delight in things that were made and things that are passing away, and *not* in God, Who is the supreme Treasure of the Universe.

So, if God's Glory is to be seen and understood and marveled at, God Himself must take on flesh and live among us and die to satisfy the Justice of God, brought about by our belittling God's Glory and trampling it underfoot.

So, Salvation is simply another way of understanding how important God's Glory is to God. It took nothing less than the slaughter of the Darling of the Trinity to so radically change fallen man that wicked rebels now have the privilege and honor of beholding the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ, and to now love what we see! It is an unspeakable miracle.

And, as we have studied many times, God delights in His Son. For all eternity God has been exuberantly happy in the Fellowship of the Trinity. He has been overflowing with the fullness of Satisfaction as He looks out over the endless panorama of His Own infinite Perfections reflected in the Radiance of His Son's Face.

And this is why I tell you that it borders on blasphemy to suggest that the reason that God saves sinners was because He was lonely and wanted a family. God has never known loneliness. From Eternity Past

until now, and into Eternity Future, God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are in perfect Harmony, perfect Unity, perfect Fellowship, perfect Love, perfect Joy, perfect Fulfilment, and perfect Satisfaction. And to suggest that created humans could add *anything* to that is absurd.

But one of the great lessons that we learned from that Divine Happiness is that God is complete *in Himself*. God has no deficiencies. God has no lack. And therefore, He *cannot* be bribed with something He craves, or blackmailed with some secret weakness, or coerced by some superior power.

And so, all that God does, He does without the slightest bit of constraint or obligation but according to His Own Good Pleasure. God delights in all that He does, because God only does what He pleases. And that means that, not only is God the happiest Being in the Universe, He is also, the freest. And the Bible tells us clearly and repeatedly that God takes Pleasure in all that He does.

And nowhere is that shown more clearly than it is with Creation. So, I want to move way past the Truth that God made all things, and focus on two concepts, two ideas, two questions:

1. Does God Delight in Creation?
2. And if so, why?

1. Does God Take Pleasure in His Creation?

Now I'm not asking if you believe that God created the Heavens and the earth here. We're way past that. Yes, God created the Universe through a series of supernatural miracles. That is the clearest and the most natural and the most normal rendering of the first two Chapters of **Genesis**. And to reject that, to disbelieve that, and then to embrace Evolution and alien seed pods and the Big Bang and all of the other silly ideas that are out there, and reject what the Bible says is a form of apostasy. It is an attack against the veracity of the Word of God. And for weak and vacillating people to go through all the theological contortions to try to "marry" Darwinian Evolution and Genesis is a form of cowardice.

People ask me all the time, "*Could God have used Evolution in Creation?*" And the question itself is not only silly, it's irritating,

because it's irrelevant. The simple reality is, He didn't. God told you how He created all things and you're the one with the problem. And the problem that people have with what the Bible says in **Genesis** goes way beyond the issue of Creation. Because, most of those who reject Biblical Creation also reject Biblical Salvation and Biblical Holiness and Biblical Judgment.

But the first question today is not even about "did God create all things", the question is:

Did God *delight* in Creation?

In other words, is Creation not only an example of God's Power and Wisdom and Might and Glory, but is Creation also an example of His Joy and His Pleasure and His Happiness? And I will tell you that the Bible clearly says that He does. God takes Pleasure in His Creation.

But how do we know this to be true? **Genesis 1** describes for us not only the fact of an ordered creation by God, but also God's *Response* to His Creation. Five times, God stands back, as it were, and takes stock of His Creation. And every single time the text says:

"And God saw that it was good" (vv. 4, 12, 18, 21, 25).

And when God was finished, and Man and Woman were created in His Own Image, **Genesis 1:31** says:

God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

And this means that God didn't simply *create* all things, but that He *delighted* in doing it. Creating all things brought God Pleasure. It made Him happy. When He looked at it, it gave Him Joy. He was pleased and happy with His Own creative Effort.

And **Psalms 104** is an inspired Song that expresses the Joy and the Delight and the Pleasure that God has in His Creation. And the key verse for our purpose is verse 31:

Let the glory of the Lord endure forever; Let the Lord be glad in His works;

Now this is not some form of prayer for something that may or may not happen. The psalmist does not mean:

"O, I sure hope God will rejoice in his works, but He may not"

... because then the first line of the verse would have to have the same sense:

"O, I hope God's glory will endure forever, but I am not sure it will."

The psalmist didn't say that. The rock-solid Confidence of the entirety of Scripture is that the Glory of the Lord will not only endure forever, but that it will cover the whole earth... **"like the waters cover the sea"** (**Numbers 14:21; Habakkuk 2:14**).

The psalmist is *not* praying about some *uncertainty* that *might* come to pass. He's *exulting* in an *absolute* certainty that has *already* come to pass, and one that *will always* come to pass. There is no doubt behind his shout:

Let the glory of the Lord endure forever

And there is no doubt behind the shout:

Let the Lord be glad in His works;

So, the answer to the first question is, **"YES!"** God *absolutely* does take great Pleasure in His Creation. And this is what King David said:

Psalms 19:1

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

... God delights in the Work of His Hands.

2. Why Does God Delight in His Creation?

But now the question remains, "WHY?" What is the purpose behind God delighting in Creation? And this "why" can be expanded into two more questions:

1. Why is it important that God delight in His Creation?
2. Why is it important that we understand that?

And there are two reasons why this question is very important to me.

- A. I think it is important to explain why God taking Pleasure in His Creation is NOT an act of idolatry or egotism.
- B. To understand God's Character *biblically*, we need to understand why God takes Pleasure in certain things,

So, why is this Divine Pleasure that God the Father has in Creation *not* a *dishonor* to God the Son? Why shouldn't the Son be jealous? Is it incumbent on the Father to share His Affection with the created world? Should God not be totally satisfied in the Beauty of His Own Perfections reflected back to Him in the Person of his Son? Why does He need the created Universe? And why do we need to understand it?

So, let's try to answer the question why God takes Pleasure in His Creation. And I'll try to sum it up in five statements based on this Psalm and some other parts of Scripture. And we need to understand that these five statements about why God delights in His Creation are not really separate reasons because they overlap so much. But they each express a little differently the basic fundamental Reason. So, let's begin with the basic reason that seems to me to be right here in verse 31.

Let the glory of the Lord endure forever; Let the Lord be glad in His works;

What this verse screams out is that the Joy that God has in His Works is derived from the fact that they are a visible and tangible

expression of His Glory. In other words, I think the two halves of this verse are related something like this:

"As long as the Glory of the Lord can be *seen* in His Works, God will indeed *rejoice* in His Works."

Or you could say:

"Let the Glory of the Lord endure forever *so that* the Lord may rejoice in His Works."

So, my first and most basic, statement is that . . .

1. God rejoices in His Works because His Works are a visible and tangible expression of His Glory.

And this is what **Psalm 19** makes crystal clear:

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

So, the most fundamental Reason that God delights in His Creation is that, in Creation, God sees the reflection of His Own Glory. And that means that God is *not* an idolater when He delights in His Works, because He is simply glorifying Himself.

But what about God the Son? Does this mean that the Creation is somehow in *competition* with the Son for the Affection of the Father? No. Remember that the Son Himself is called...

Hebrews 1:3b

... the radiance of His [God's] glory and the exact representation of His [God's] nature...

Now this doesn't mean that God delights *partly* in the Son and *partly* in the Creation, because the Creation does not rob the Son of *any* of the Father's Delight. How so?

The Son should never be jealous of the Creation because the Son always was while there was a time that Creation didn't exist. You see,

before God created all things, the Father and the Son and the Spirit rejoiced in Each Other with overflowing Satisfaction. And when the time came for Creation, the Bible says that all three Persons of the Trinity were active in the Work of Creation (**1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16**).

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

In other words, the Work of Creation was not *merely* the Work of the Father, as though He had to satisfy some "need" that the Son (or the Spirit) *couldn't* meet. Nor was Creation merely the Work of the Son, as though He had to satisfy some "need" that the Father *couldn't* meet. Instead, Creation was the Work of all three Persons together.

And so, when the Bible teaches that Creation expresses the Glory of God, we mustn't think merely of the Glory of the Father or the Glory of the Son or the Glory of the Spirit *individually*, but rather the Glory that all three Persons of the Trinity have together. And the Glory that they have together is that overflowing mutual Joy in Each Other's Perfections. And that means that Creation is an expression of the overflow of that Life and Joy that the Father and the Son and the Spirit have in Each Other.

There is no competition or jealousy in the Godhead. None. The Son and Father and Spirit are *equally* glorified in Creation, precisely because Creation is the overflow of Gladness that they have in Each Other.

So, the first and most fundamental statement we can make about *why* God rejoices in His Work of Creation is that Creation is a visible and tangible expression of the Glory of God, in all three Persons.

2. God rejoices in the Works of Creation because they display His Own Value.

For example, in **Psalm 148**, the psalmist commands all of Creation itself to praise the Lord:

1 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights!
2 Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts!
3 Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light!
4 Praise Him, highest heavens, And the waters that are above the heavens!
5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, For He commanded and they were created.
6 He has also established them forever and ever; He has made a decree which will not pass away.
7 Praise the Lord from the earth, Sea monsters and all deeps;
8 Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word;
9 Mountains and all hills; Fruit trees and all cedars;
10 Beasts and all cattle; Creeping things and winged fowl;
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples; Princes and all judges of the earth;
12 Both young men and virgins; Old men and children.
13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven.
14 And He has lifted up a horn for His people, Praise for all His godly ones; *Even* for the sons of Israel, a people near to Him. Praise the Lord!

Now what exactly, does this mean? On the surface, we might say that the sun, moon, and stars praise God by testifying to us about God. And that would be true, that's what **Psalm 19** says. But what about verse 7:

Praise the Lord from the earth, Sea monsters and all deeps;

Now back in 1751, Thomas Grey wrote a poem called "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard". And one of the stanzas says:

*Full many a gem of purest ray serene,
 The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear:
 Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
 And waste its sweetness on the desert air.*

Gray had been moved by the thought that on the bottom of the ocean there were beautiful gems that no human eye would ever see, and that in distant deserts, there were millions of flowers that would bloom and blush with vivid colors, and give off a sweet fragrance, but would never be touched or seen or smelled by anybody, but God!

And that is *exactly* what the psalmist was moved by God the Holy Spirit to say in verse 7:

Praise the Lord from the earth, Sea monsters and all deeps;

Now the man who wrote this Psalm had no idea what is down in all the deeps of the sea! So, the “praise of the deeps” is *not* merely what the created depths of the Sea can testify to Man about. And that tells us that Creation praises God by simply “being” what it was created to “be”, in all its incredible variety! And since most of the Creation is way beyond the awareness of Mankind (in the reaches of space, and in the heights of mountains and at the bottom of the sea), it was *not* created merely to serve purposes that have to do with us. We may never know them or see them or even understand them. So, *those things* were created solely for the Enjoyment of God.

For example, the European water spider lives at the bottom of a lake. And yet it breathes air. So, the spider, whose brain is too small to think, does a somersault on the surface of the water and catches a bubble of air, and holds it over the breathing holes in the middle of its body while it swims to the bottom of the lake and spins a silk web among the seaweed. Then it goes up and brings down bubble after bubble until a little balloon of air is formed where it can live and eat and mate.

And as we discover things like that, we sit astonished with our mouths gaped open. And that astonishment, that wonder, that marveling of God’s created Universe, honors God. It manifests the infinite Worth and Value of God. So, as the wonders of God’s created Universe are seen and understood, that brings God Glory. But it also brings Him Delight. But the point I am making this morning is that God is not honored simply because we find out about things like that. Because before *anybody* on earth knew that this spider did things like that, God took pleasure in it. And there are ten million other wonders

in Creation that are beyond our sight and knowledge that God delights in everyday!

And, in **Psalm 104:25-26**, God said:

25 There is the sea, great and broad, In which are swarms without number, Animals both small and great.

26 There the ships move along, *And* Leviathan, which You have formed to sport in it.

So, why did God create great sea monsters? The psalmist says they “**sport in it**”. What does that mean? It means that God made these creatures to play and frolic in the oceans where no human can see them. And God looks at them play, and He delights in that. So, in their normal existence, as they go about their daily lives, creatures that God made join in with everything else that God made to declare the Glory of God! And we become a *part* of that as we discover them and study them and understand them. But what I want you to understand this morning is that God takes delight in them, even if we *never* discover them. Sea Monsters and Leviathans and other created beings bring God glory, even when we know nothing about them. And that's the second statement about why God rejoices in His Works.

3. God Rejoices in the Works of Creation because They Reveal His Incomparable Wisdom

Now look again at **Psalm 104:24**:

O Lord, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions.

Here, the psalmist says, "In wisdom You have made them all!" This tells us that God *delights* in the various expressions of His Own Wisdom. The created things display God's Wisdom, and God likes that. That reality brings God Joy. We must understand that the Universe is literally a masterpiece of Wisdom and Order. And if you study just a small part of it, you begin to marvel at the amazing Work of God's Knowledge and Wisdom!

And God is absolutely magnified from our marveling in what we see. But what I want you to know is that along with being magnified, God also receives Joy from what He made. He delights in it. It brings Him Pleasure. And that is true, even if we never see it.

The created Universe is filled with millions of displays of the Wisdom of God. Take microscopic diatoms, for example. As of last year, there are 10,000 known species of diatoms! So, in a teaspoon of lake water, there may be a million of these tiny invisible plants. And what are these seemingly insignificant plants doing in the lake besides making tons and tons of oxygen so that the animals in the water can breathe? They are entertaining God with their microscopic beauty! They are being used to bring Delight to their Maker. And that is true now that we know about them. But, it was also true back in Augustine's day, when nobody even knew they existed.

O Lord, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions.

The psalmist is marveling here at how all of Creation works together. And yet, when he wrote this song, he didn't have an inkling about things like diatoms. And the point here is that the created Universe's ability to bring Glory to God doesn't depend on us knowing about them. All that Science does when it discovers things like this is allow *us* the privileged of joining in with the Universe in marveling at the Power and Wisdom of God!

And you see this in verse 14:

He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the labor of man, So that he may bring forth food from the earth,

What a wonderful experience it is when God grants us the blessing to see the Universe as a means by which the Wisdom and Power of God can be valued and treasured and celebrated! O how we should marvel at the Wisdom of God!

Isaiah 40:28

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

4. God Rejoices in the Works of Creation Because They Reveal His Incomparable Power

600 years before Jesus was born, the Prophet Isaiah looked up at the star-filled sky and exclaimed:

Isaiah 40:26

Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these *stars*, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of *His* power, Not one *of them* is missing.

Isaiah was stunned at the Power of God to create and name, and then sustain every star in the Heaven that he could see with his eye. But what would happen to Isaiah's worship if he were shown that the nearest of those stars, Alpha Centauri, is 25 million, million miles away, and that what he was seeing that night was really just a tiny patch of our Galaxy which has a hundred billion stars in it, and that beyond our Galaxy there are millions of other Galaxies?

What *is* the Universe but simply a lavish demonstration of the incredible, incomparable, unimaginable Exuberance and Wisdom and Power and Greatness of God! And what a God He must be!

5. God Rejoices in the Works of Creation because They Point Us Beyond Themselves to God Himself

God means for us to be stunned and awed by His Work of Creation. But, not for its own sake. He means for us always to look at His Creation and say, "*How Great Thou Art!*" Because if the Work of God's Hands are so full of Wisdom and Power and Grandeur and Majesty and Beauty, what must this God be like *in Himself!*

These amazing spectacles of the created Universe are simply the "backside of God's Glory" seen through "a glass darkly". And if *that* is

what amazes us, what will it be like to behold God in His fullness? Not His Works, just Him!

We must understand that God created us in such a way that not even a billion Galaxies will satisfy the human soul. God and God alone is our soul's end.

Psalm 104:31-35

31 Let the glory of the Lord endure forever; Let the Lord be glad in His works;

32 He looks at the earth, and it trembles; He touches the mountains, and they smoke.

33 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

34 Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in the Lord.

35 Let sinners be consumed from the earth And let the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

In the end it will not be the seas or the mountains or the canyons or the clouds or the great galaxies or the sub-atomic particles that fill our hearts to breaking with wonder, and fill our mouths with eternal praise. It will be God Himself. And this is why Jesus came. So, that we would be gifted with the privilege and honor of beholding the very Glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ!

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.