The Creator Reveals Himself

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork."
—Psalm 19:1

As another year draws to a close, rather than reexamine the many disturbing and distressing events that have taken place during the past twelve months, we believe it will be refreshing and profitable to review just a sampling of the wondrous works of God, our Creator. In doing so, we begin with the very first verse of the Bible: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Gen. 1:1) Happy are they who, by faith, based on reason, are able to accept this plain testimony of the Scriptures. Beyond this simple statement, however, its testimony is everywhere displayed throughout the earth, in the air, the seas, and the skies.

The Creator himself calls attention to this in a revealing dialogue with the Prophet Job. "The LORD answered Job, … and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me." (Job 38:1-3) This was

but the beginning of a long series of questions that God asked Job. Taken together, these bring out many points that, because human wisdom does not know the answers, should help even the most skeptical to realize the truthfulness of David's words, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." (Ps. 14:1) The truly wise know that belief in the existence of an intelligent Creator leads to the only reasonable and satisfactory answers.

"Where wast thou," God asked Job, "when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:4-7) Job was a wise man. He knew that everything made by man required planning and skill. This was true of buildings. In our day it is true of intricate machinery, means of transportation, computers, and other modern marvels. These things do not just happen.

The earth, the home of all humanity, had been created without Job or any others of mankind having anything to do with it. Job was not present when the "foundations" were laid. He had no part in the architectural design and measurements. Nevertheless, he knew that the earth existed. This marvelous display of wisdom and design should help us, as doubtless it did Job, to realize that there must have been a divine Architect and Builder with intelligence and power far superior to that possessed by man.

Then the Lord reminded Job of some of the details connected with the creation of the earth. He asked:

"Who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, … and set bars and doors, And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?"—Job 38:8-11

Marvels of the Sea

How seldom we think of the miracle-working power of God in connection with the ebb and flow of the ocean's tides. Indeed, we know how to explain it. The tides, we say, are controlled largely by the gravitational pull of the moon; but what does that mean? What is gravitation? Sir Isaac Newton discovered the law of gravitation, but who framed that law and implemented it? There are times when locally the winds increase the height of the tides a number of feet, and those living near the shore must temporarily seek higher ground; but seldom do people realize that ordinarily they can dwell safely by the sea only because God has decreed, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed."

Next Job was asked: "Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place?" (Job 38:12) Seemingly Job was a prominent man in his community and one who exercised considerable authority, but he had no control over the rising of the sun. Job knew that from the earliest days of his recollection the sun had risen and set without his having anything to do with it. He realized also that this was true of the generations before him. He knew that at no time had

man ever had any control over the movements of the sun, the moon, the stars, or the earth. This was far beyond the ability of man. This was the work of God.

The Gates of Death

"Have the gates of death been opened unto thee?" Job was asked, "or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?" (Job 38:17) Men and women of all ages have endeavored to peer beyond death, to know what lies beyond the grave. Apart from the revelation given to us in the Word of God, which assures us of a resurrection of the dead, no one has obtained any satisfactory information. Just as the mystery of creation is explainable only in the light of the fact that there is a supreme intelligent Creator, so the desire for life after death becomes a genuine hope only because the one who created life has promised to restore the dead to life.—John 5:28,29; Acts 24:15; I Cor. 15:22

Further Questions

Here is another intriguing question: "Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof, That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof? Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great?" (Job 38:19-21) What causes light and darkness? From observation we know that the light of day replaces the darkness of night, and the absence of light produces darkness. Scientists additionally know that light is formed from electromagnetic radiation, but do not know when, where, or by what means, this began to take place in the past eons of time. God knows,

however, for he created both the darkness and the light. It was the Creator who said, "Let there be light: and there was light."—Gen. 1:3

The Lord continued to question Job, asking him about a number of things described by many as simply works of nature—things that, even to those who believe in God, are frequently overlooked as proofs of his existence. We quote: "Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder; To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man; To satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth? Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew? Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?"—Job 38:25-29

The obvious and only answer to all these questions is that there must be a supreme, intelligent Creator who designed and created water and who also planned the means by which it would reach the ground and give life to vegetation. Most of us have witnessed with pleasure the revival of plants, or of grass, when water is provided. However, do we realize that the process that accomplishes this is miraculous, made possible because all the elements involved were designed and made by God, who in the beginning created the heavens and the earth?

How marvelous is the arrangement by which the water created by God reaches the "dry places." (Ps. 105:41) As we know, it is by the evaporation of the water of oceans and lakes, the moisture ascending to form clouds that are distributed over the land and which, by changes of temperature in the air

currents, are caused to release their refreshing waters in the form of rain and snow. Reaching the earth, the water finds its way back into the oceans and lakes to continue the marvelous cycle. Scientists of today tell us how all this happens, but the real power, or forces, that contribute to make it possible are still unexplainable except as we attribute it to divine intelligence.

The Heavenly Bodies

Shifting the focus of his questions to heavenly bodies, God asked Job: "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?"—Job 38:31-33

The lesson implied in these questions is more striking today than it was to Job. Job was a wise man for his time, but in his day the knowledge of astronomy had not advanced to its present degree. Calculations now made possible by powerful telescopes have revealed the minute accuracy of time and distance involved in the movement of the heavenly bodies, giving evidence that they are held in their orbits, and at constant speeds, by the power and design of an intelligence inexplicable by man.

Without going into detail as to the particular references to Pleiades, Orion, Mazzaroth, and Arcturus, the main point of the lesson is that neither Job nor we can possibly change the course of a single planet, sun, star, or galaxy. We do not understand the governing forces that control "the ordinances of heaven," or the manner in which their influences

are felt in the earth. God knows, however, for he created both the earth and everything in the vast realm of heaven, designing their exact relationships to each other.

In God's Image

One of the most difficult questions that God asked Job was, "Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?" (Job 38:36) The lower animal creations are governed largely by what we call instinct. From the time of their birth they seem naturally to follow a certain pattern, and while many of them can be trained to obey to a certain degree the directives of their human masters, there is no evidence that they really understand why. As implied in the question asked Job, the lower animals do not possess a heart knowledge, or mental appreciation, of their existence or of their course of action.

With mankind it is different. Human beings are able to reason to a considerable degree. They know that some things are right and other things are wrong, even if they often choose to do the wrong. Most have a conscience that is pricked when they do wrong and affords peace and contentment of mind when they do right. Many have advanced theories concerning the alleged ascent of man from protoplasm to his present state. They have attempted to explain what has brought about the various changes in the anatomy of animals in the evolutionary process that has led to man. Nevertheless, no one can answer the question put to Job concerning man, "Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?"

There is only one answer to this question. It is God's answer, recorded in his own inspired Word for our instruction and encouragement. It is found in the very first chapter of the Bible, Genesis 1:27,28. Here we are informed that man, as constituted, is far superior to even the highest forms of lower animals, capable of reasoning, of planning, of inventing, of knowing right from wrong, because he was created "in the image of God." When evolutionists find a reasonable, valid, provable explanation of how this difference between man and his alleged nearest of kin among the animal creation came about, they will be more worthy of a serious hearing than at present.

Wisdom of the Creator Displayed

Throughout chapter 39 of the Book of Job, a number of other questions are recorded, the answers to which must also be negative as far as human wisdom is concerned. These questions pertain to the marvelous instincts displayed by various animals and birds. The chapter begins with these questions: "Knowest thou the time when the wild goats of the rock bring forth? or canst thou mark when the hinds do calve? Canst thou number the months that they fulfill? or knowest thou the time when they bring forth? They bow themselves, they bring forth their young ones, they cast out their sorrows. Their young ones are in good liking, they grow up with corn; they go forth, and return not unto them."—vss. 1-4

Then the Lord calls attention to the different characteristics of other animals—"Who hath sent out the wild ass free? or who hath loosed the bands of the wild ass? Whose house I have made the

wilderness, and the barren land his dwellings. He scorneth the multitude of the city, neither regardeth he the crying of the driver. The range of the mountains is his pasture, and he searcheth after every green thing. Will the unicorn [wild ox] be willing to serve thee, or abide by thy crib? Canst thou bind the [wild ox] with his band in the furrow? or will he harrow the valleys after thee? Wilt thou trust him, because his strength is great? or wilt thou leave thy labour to him? Wilt thou believe him, that he will bring home thy seed, and gather it into thy barn?"—Job 39:5-12

There are what we speak of as domestic animals that, with little effort, can be trained to serve man. However, here God called Job's attention to other varieties of animals that are wild and refuse to submit to human training. Who is responsible for these differences?

Neither Job nor we are wise enough to understand the creative processes that brought about the almost endless varieties of creation. There is a poem by Joyce Kilmer entitled "Trees," that states that "only God can make a tree." This fact is even more striking when we consider the thousands of varieties of trees, plants, and flowers, as well as the immense variety found in the animal kingdom. Only a supreme, intelligent Creator could produce this endless array of created things, with each in its own wonderful way displaying the wisdom and power of its Maker.

Additional Questions

In the closing verses of chapter 39, another convincing thought is brought to our attention. Job is asked: "Doth the hawk fly by thy wisdom, and stretch

her wings toward the south? Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high? She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place. From thence she seeketh the prey, and her eyes behold afar off. Her young ones also suck up blood: and where the slain are, there is she."—vss. 26-30

In calling our attention to the habits of the hawk and the eagle, the Lord reminds us again of the numberless peculiarities that exist in the life habits of the bird and animal kingdoms. There are the migratory birds that move from north to south and from south to north with the changing seasons. There are the swimming birds and the singing birds, the screech owls and talking parrots, the gorgeously handsome birds and the drab, colorless ones.

Why stop with birds? The same variety exists among land animals, trees, flowers, and insects. There is only one thing common to them all, which is that they have life. Unbelieving human wisdom, in its folly, contends that all these myriad forms of plant and animal life just happened to develop as they did. The origin of life is unknown, apart from the explanation given to us in the Scriptures that "in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Accepting this fact, as the many otherwise unanswerable questions God asked Job impel us to do, then we know the answer to them all. It is a simple answer—that the infinite wisdom and almighty power of a personal God and Creator is responsible for the awe-inspiring works of creation that are so marvelously displayed in the heavens, on the earth, and in the sea.

The Creator's Grand Design

Job reached the conclusion that the only answer to all the mysteries of creation is that they are the work of an intelligent divine Creator. For Job, this was also the answer to the problem of human suffering, which he personally had experienced in so many forms. How could he question the wisdom of the great Creator in permitting him to suffer for a while? Surely the infinite wisdom Job saw displayed in all the creative works of God showed him that the Creator knew also what was best for him. Should we not all reach that same conclusion? It should be especially so if we would know the meaning of our existence and be inspired with hope as we contemplate the eternal destiny that the Creator has designed for his human creation.

Job said to God, "I know that thou canst do every thing," (Job 42:2) If we believe this, then we have a foundation of faith upon which we can build a true knowledge of God and of his infinitely wise and loving design in man's creation. If we believe that he can do everything, no explanation of his plans and purposes that he has given in his Word will be disbelieved. No instruction will go unheeded or disobeyed. No promise he has made, regardless of how far-reaching or seemingly impossible of accomplishment, will be doubted.

The wisdom and power of God are wonderfully displayed in his created works with which we are surrounded. Indeed, it is the revelation of his grand design for his human creation found in the Bible that stamps this marvelous book as the Word of God, his revelation to his servants here on earth. ■