

The God Who Made the World

A hospice nurse relates the story of a 15-year-old boy who had been battling a terminal illness for the past five years. His wonderful, loving parents had never before put a priority on spiritual matters, but now as he was declining, they enlisted the aid of a local minister to visit him periodically in an effort to help him come to know God personally.

One day the hospice nurse asked the teenager what interested him so much as she had regularly observed him staring out the tall window in his room. "This is where God really lives," he confessed, and then proceeded to describe in great detail how over a period of years, he had observed the outdoors from his bed as the seasons changed, noting the various cycles of the plants and trees and the ceaseless activity of the birds and animals as they scurried about. Clearly his reverence for the natural world that he was watching day after day had deeply affected him. "How can people see all this and still not believe in God?" he asked. "It's really so simple."

Fact is, it really is that simple.

[God who made the world](#) designed it from the very first as a witness of His power and His goodness to His people.

Psalms 24:1:

[The earth is the LORD's](#) and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, ...

Romans 1:19,20a:

For [what can be known about God is plain](#) to them, because God has shown it to them.

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...](#)

God may be invisible, but nature clearly isn't. That's why it was so clear to the young man that there had to be a God, and that that God was certainly wonderful to have put all these things in place for the enjoyment and benefit of man.

GOD OUR MAKER

One of the great divine titles in the Word of God is *Maker*. When God is called Maker, it underscores His nature as the One Who made and created all things. Most importantly, it reminds us that *God made us*.

Psalms 95:6,7:

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, *our Maker* [Hebrew נַפְשֵׁנוּ *asah*]!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Isaiah 17:7:

In that day man will look to *his Maker [asah]*, and his eyes will look on the Holy One of Israel.

THE GOD WHO MADE THE WORLD

To the unbelieving man who only believes in what he can see, it's a paradox that the world could have been created by an invisible power. Yet this is what the Word clearly states about our Creator.

Colossians 1:16:

For *by him* [the "*invisible God*" of verse 15] *all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible*, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Paul made a case for this "*God who made the world*" to the Athenian philosophers for whom God was one big "Unknown."

Acts 17:24-28:

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,

nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

And he [the Lord of heaven and earth] made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

for “In him we live and move and have our being’;
as even some of your own poets have said,
“For we are indeed his offspring.’

Learning that the invisible God made the world is the first touchpoint to truth for the natural man. From that realization he can come to understand that not only did God make the world, He made man! If He made us, then He obviously knows all about us and can provide everything we need, including a Savior and Redeemer. From there, he can learn and ultimately believe in the resurrection and the faith of Jesus Christ — the complete package!

Once we are born again, of course, the truth of God who made the world becomes an even greater touchpoint for understanding our Creator. We rejoice, coming to know Him personally as our Lord and Redeemer, the God of the whole earth.

Isaiah 54:5:

For your Maker is your husband,
the LORD of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.

Recognizing His Lordship over all creation, we gain greater appreciation for each aspect of what He did, both in creation and in our own lives.

GOD'S GOODNESS IN THE CREATION

A number of years ago, I started making greeting cards using scenes from nature that I'd photographed at various places around the world. I named the series "My Father's World." People have been blessed to receive these cards because they convey the serenity and majesty that surrounds us the moment we step outside.

Each time we step away from the artificial environments of the world and get outdoors into the natural environment God made for us, we are reinvigorated. *The natural world unfolds to us all the goodness with which God imbued the heavens and earth in the beginning.*

On the first day, He introduced light, and divided the light from the darkness.

Without light we would have no sight, no direction, no destination, no perspective. In darkness we would stumble and find ourselves isolated from one another.

On the second day, he made the heavenly expanse and separated the waters that were above the heavens from the waters that were below the heavens.

Without space (the heavens and the atmosphere here on the ground, with its life-giving oxygen), we would be unable to move, unable to breathe, unable to live freely and confidently. God didn't make us as water creatures; we wouldn't be in our element without the air that surrounds us.

On the third day, he divided the earth from the seas. He then caused the earth to produce plants and trees, fruits and seeds.

Clearly, man is a “land animal.” We may learn to swim, but we can’t live underwater. Furthermore, the vast majority of the foods we eat are tied, not to the water but to the land. It’s the earth that brings forth the abundance that is outspread on man’s table. Earth is man’s abode, where he is designed to live and flourish.

On the fourth day, He set the sun, moon and stars in the heaven to illuminate the earth.

As man moves through the material world, he needs an external reference to measure both time and space. The heaven and its luminaries are God’s perfect timepiece tracking the passage of days and years, of signs and seasons. They provide a compass by which we can navigate.

On the fifth day, God gave life to moving creatures in the water, filling the seas; and to moving creatures in the air, filling the skies. God would later use the animal life he created for these moving creatures to animate man when He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and made him a living soul.

Wherever man goes in this world, he encounters life — whether in the air above or the depths below. After the fall, these creatures of instinct and not free will served as a refreshing reminder of innocent life, unspoiled by rebellion against God.

On the sixth day, God gave life to moving creatures on land. Some were exclusively wild, while others had an innate capacity for domestication.

Like plants, animals would serve as a great resource for man’s nourishment and clothing, not to mention their aesthetic value to man as a source of admiration and diversion.

Domesticated animals became essential companions in agriculture, construction, and transportation. As a result, man’s wealth came to be measured in heads of cattle, oxen, camels, donkeys, and sheep.

Unquestionably, when God set man in the natural world, it was an environment in which man could prosper in both body and soul. But to truly thrive, man would need more than the earth, the seas, the plants and the trees. He would need more than the creatures in the seas, in the air, and on the land. He would need a helper made precisely for and corresponding exactly to him — and that is when God formed woman. Finally, man had a companion with whom to share his wonder at everything God had done for him.

Most importantly on the sixth day, God put the finishing touches to His work by creating man in His own image. Unlike the other creatures that were moved by instinct, God's man had the glorious capacity of free will which allowed him to choose his own course and reciprocate God's love with honor, respect, and adoration.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR MAKER

Given all the ways God has written His goodness into the very fabric of creation, it behooves us to take advantage of all the lessons that nature holds for us. *Nature has much to teach us about God's nature.*

Job 12:7-10:

“But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you;

or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done [*asah* — made] this?

In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.

Everywhere you look in nature, God is waiting to teach us more about Himself — His goodness, His grace, and His love. We can come to know

Him better by getting outdoors together, acknowledging Him as we *explore the world He made*.

How can we best achieve our mutual objective of *knowing our Maker*?

- WORSHIP Him
- LEARN from Him
- LISTEN to Him
- FOLLOW after Him

Let's review these one-by-one.

WORSHIPPING HIM

The first lesson we learn in nature is to *worship our Maker and praise Him for His wonderful works*: the heavens, the earth, the seas, and ourselves!

Psalms 95:6:

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, *our Maker [asah]*!

Psalms 100:3:

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is *he who made [asah]* us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Nehemiah 9:6:

You are the LORD, you alone. You have *made [asah] heaven*, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, *the earth* and all that is on it, *the seas* and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and *the host of heaven* [the angelic realm] worships you.

LEARNING FROM HIM

Another great learning from nature is that *our Maker can teach us as we observe His ways*.

Job 35:10,11:

But none says, 'Where is God *my Maker* [*asah*], who gives songs in the night,

who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?'

Job 36:3:

I will get my knowledge from afar [from God] and ascribe righteousness to *my Maker* [*asah*].

Psalms 119:64:

The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love [displaying it everywhere]; teach me your statutes!

Anywhere we look in nature, we can learn lessons about the greatness of our Maker's ways.

Proverbs 30:18,19:

Three things are too wonderful for me; four I do not understand:

the way of an eagle in the sky [a lesson from *the heavens*],
the way of a serpent on a rock [a lesson from *the earth*],
the way of a ship on the high seas [a lesson from *the seas*],
and the way of a man with a virgin [a lesson concerning *mankind*].

LISTENING TO HIM

Walking in God's creation, we'll be able to *hear the voice of our Maker* as we listen closely.

1 Kings 19:12,13:

And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire.
And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.

And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Here, what began as a low whisper was followed by a clearly audible voice.

1 Samuel 3:10,11:

And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “*Speak, for your servant hears.*”

Then the LORD said to Samuel, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

When God speaks, we recognize it and listen. That’s when the voice of our Maker becomes a reality to us.

FOLLOWING AFTER HIM

Finally, *our Maker will show us the path to take as we follow His lead.*

Psalms 25:4,5:

Make me to *know your ways*, O LORD; *teach me your paths.*

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

Psalms 143:10:

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!

Let your good Spirit *lead me* on level ground!

When Israel was preparing to cross the Jordan, *the Lord of all the earth led the way.*

Joshua 3:11-13:

Behold, the ark of the covenant of *the Lord of all the earth* is passing over before you into the Jordan.

Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man.

And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the LORD, *the Lord of all the earth*, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap.”

When *the Lord of all the earth* is in the lead, miracles happen. That’s why I’d like to conclude by talking to you about

WHAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR US

Each new day brings a new chapter in our quest to *know our Maker*. In His foreknowledge and steadfast love, God even went to the extent of forming each and every day of our lives.

Psalms 139:16:

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, *the days that were formed for me*, when as yet there was none of them.

What could be more personal? “The days that were formed for me.”

As an avid birder, I have learned over the years that it’s a rare day when you sight exactly the bird you were looking for when you first set forth on the day’s outing. Usually, it’s something totally different that you weren’t expecting at all that makes your day. But make no mistake, *there’s always something to make your day when you’re walking with the Creator*.

There is so much that God would love to show us and teach us on a daily basis. We, for our part, would love to *discover each day all the things He has so graciously prepared for us* in this great, big glorious world of ours.

1 Corinthians 2:9-12:

But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what *God has prepared* for those who love him” —

these things **God has revealed** to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

Now **we have received** not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that **we might understand** the things freely given us by God.

To summarize, God has *prepared* and *revealed* things for us so that we can *receive* and *understand* them. As the God who made the world, *He's got it all covered from start to finish* as we love, honor, and worship Him.

Romans 11:36:

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.