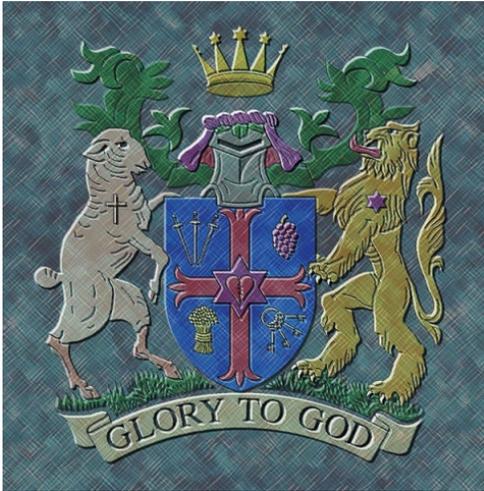


God's Other Book



“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ”

Romans 1:18-20

My youngest son and I have been discussing science and the bible this week, and it has reminded us that while the bible has been given to us to explain God to us, the creation has too. The bible is God's written word to us, His message in written form using human language, giving us instructions on how to know Him, have a relationship with Him, how we should live our lives, etc. But God wrote another book long before He wrote the Bible, and we still have this book that we can read as well. It was not written with words on a page, but in the very world around us. It is His creation, and this book stretches from sub-atomic particles to the ends of the universe. By reading His other book, we can learn things about God that we cannot learn by just reading the bible. God has given us these two books to reveal Himself to us more fully. They each teach us different things about God. He gave them to us so that we could know Him, believe He exists, understand Him more fully, etc.

Paul tells us in this passage that the created world around us teaches us about God. The creation does not tell us how to live or how we can come to know Him, but it is a book that reveals to us that He exists, His creative talent and abilities, His immense size, His magnificent intellect, His technical prowess, His attention to detail, His perfection, etc. When we look at a Lamborghini or a Ferrari we admire it for its beauty, its technical achievement, its ability to corner, its speed, etc. When we look at the creation, we see the “Lamborghini” that God created, and it is truly magnificent. When we really look at the creation, really go deep and study it, and begin to understand how complex and amazing it is, it is so obvious that there was a creative intelligence behind it that in the first chapter in one of my son's college textbooks it actually includes the sentence, “Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved.” (Francis Crick, 1988) In other words, to maintain an atheistic or godless worldview of the creation actually requires effort if you study the created world, especially if we study biology. It requires a conscience decision to deny the obvious. That is how clear it is that there is a massive intelligence that designed the world that we see around us.

Of course no one would ever look at a Ferrari, an airplane, or an iPhone and ask themselves, “I wonder how it created itself?” That is ridiculous to even think that someone would think this about any of the things we create. It is obvious to us that someone designed it and made it. But when we are committed to explaining the world without believing that God exists, well, we know the rest of the story. But it has not always been this way. For centuries, science was driven by our attempt to understand God. Some have even said that we owe the very existence of science as we know it to our desire to understand God by studying His created

world. Most scientists up until the 1800's and even the early 1900's were motivated by this desire in one way or another, and the majority of them were strong Christian believers in God. Even the few who were not Christian had a Christian worldview up until recent times. So what happened?

The Trap

It turns out that in order to maintain a worldview that excludes God requires not only that we deny that God wrote the bible, but that we also must deny God's involvement in writing his other book, the created world. This begins to explain why so much effort has gone into concocting theories to explain the world without God's involvement. Evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, one of the most renowned defenders of atheism in our time, went so far as to say that the origin of life on earth was probably aliens ([Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed](#)). Stephen Hawking and others have proposed the multiverse theory for the same reason, to explain reality without God. In other words, they are choosing to believe in aliens and the idea that there is an infinite number of universes just as big as the one we reside in, rather than accept the fact that God exists and created the world as we know it. They are that committed to denying God's existence. The prominence of this type of thinking has caused a rift to form between science and faith, and the current arguments between the two sides have been ongoing for over a century.

While some things are solidly proven, like the earth being significantly older than 6,000 years, there are some things that are not, such as aliens being the origin of life on earth as Dawkins proposes, or life happening all by itself, without a designer and creator. As Christians we must exercise wisdom regarding science and what it is telling us about God's other book, remembering that our true calling is to make disciples, baptize, and teach people about God, not critique or correct their science (Matthew 28:19-20). When we get in a debate with unbelievers and insist that the earth is only 6,000 years old, we might as well also tell them that we still believe that the sun orbits the earth and they must believe this too if they want to be a Christian. Ouch! The battle between science and faith appears to be a ploy, meant to sidetrack us from our true mission and to discredit the gospel in the eyes of the unsaved. It is a trap that we must extricate ourselves from, and get back to our true mission. It is killing our Christian witness, and may be one of the reasons that our culture is becoming less and less Christian. Perhaps it is not just a coincidence that the book "The Genesis Flood" came out in the 60's, and our current cultural decline started in the 60's? Maybe they are linked.

At the same time, this rift between science and faith is also a trap for the lost. It is not just ruining the Christian's witness, but it is also blockading the way to Christ for many of the unsaved. Many people reach a point in their life where they feel that they must choose between science or God. I have heard numerous testimonies to this effect. It often happens when we get to college. The student must choose between God, who he cannot see, or a professor who he can see and who is going to give him a grade for the class based on his decision regarding this controversy. This too is a trap, keeping the lost from reaching God, and is directly caused by the rift between science and faith. It is another reason that we must close this rift, healing the division that exists between us on this issue. It is time to mend this tear in our understanding of God and the world that He created.

It is also unfortunate that there is a battle between these two groups of people, because in reality they are both studying work by the same author, God. Christians study the bible, scientists study the creation, but God wrote them both. Science is our attempt to learn about and understand God by reading His other book, the creation. Interestingly, there actually have been people throughout history who have read the bible in an effort to prove that God does not exist, so it stands to reason that today there are scientists who study the creation to prove that God does not exist.

But just as we do not drop the bible because people have used it in an attempt to disprove God's existence, so we should not drop science because people are using it similarly today. God wrote these two books to reveal Himself to us. They are His books. We must use wisdom, remembering our true mission, avoiding getting entangled in useless debates and speculations. We must see and avoid the trap and move the discussion towards what the two books are really telling us – that God exists and cares about us. Paul even warned us of this trap:

“But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.”

2 Timothy 2:23-26

“But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.”

Titus 3:9-11

Back in Paul's day we argued over genealogies and the Law, today we argue over who created the universe and how old it is. When we encounter those who are truly committed to using God's creation to prove He does not exist, we are to be kind and not quarrelsome, avoid the argument to the degree possible, patiently correcting them in hopes that they will come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil that they have been trapped in. With this in mind, thinking of the theory of the origin of life, why would so many insist that God be left out of how the world was created? What is going on here?

Suppression of the Truth

In the Romans passage, Paul uses the word “suppress” to describe our denial of God's existence. We “suppress the truth” about God because of our “unrighteousness”, because of our desire to sin. Many atheists who eventually became believers have confessed that this was true in their case. Paul says to us in the Romans passage that God has made Himself evident to us, but that we suppress the truth in unrighteousness and ungodliness. There are some scientific theories that are specifically concocted to suppress God's truth, to deny His existence, to cover up what His creation teaches us about Him. We do this because of our desire to sin, to live however we want to, etc. Again this is most unfortunate. We understand

why we suppress the truth – our desire to sin. But what are the things that we are suppressing when we do this? What is Paul telling us that we can learn about God by reading His other book when we quit suppressing the truth, when we read it with an open mind, with no preset agenda to disprove His existence, and no predetermined conclusions about whether or not there is a God?

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature,
have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made,
so that we are without excuse.*

Romans 1:20

His Invisible Attributes

When we look at the created world around us, Paul tells us that we first see that God is invisible – He is there but we cannot see Him. This is obvious to us as adults, but most children ask why we cannot see God at some point in their life. “If He is there, why can’t we see him?” they might ask. Our answer is usually to describe something else that exists that we cannot see, like gravity or the wind. Like the wind blowing the leaves on a tree, God is there but cannot be visibly seen. We see the effect of the wind, and know that it exists, but we cannot actually see the wind itself, it is invisible to the naked eye. When we look at the creation, we see the effects of God’s existence, but we cannot actually see God Himself. God is clearly invisible. This is the first thing we learn about God when we read His other book with an open mind and no predetermined conclusion regarding His existence.

His Eternal Power

Paul also tells us that God’s “eternal power” is revealed to us in His creation. When we look at all of the living things on our planet, we not only see God’s power to sustain all life, but we also see eternity. One of the amazing things about life on our planet is its ability to reproduce. And it appears that this ability is eternal, in that living organisms have been reproducing since they were originally created, and continue to self-replicate to this day (apart from some extinction level event or predation). There is no indication that this self-replication will ever stop. Technically, if acorns could travel in space, and if oak trees found a way to grow on every planet, there is the power to cover the entire universe of planets with oak trees contained in one tiny acorn. The entire universe. That is a lot of oak trees. So many, that I would say that if the oak trees of our planet pulled this off, the number of trees that would result would be a number approaching infinity, as the universe is a very large place to cover in oak. Eternity appears to be in all of us and in all of the living things around us, and it is clearly visible in our ability to reproduce. It is clearly visible in all living things. God’s eternal power is clearly contained in all of us, in all living things. Amazing.

When we look into space, we not only see God’s amazing power to handle large amounts of material, create planets and stars, etc., but we also see what appears to be eternity as well. The celestial objects that we see in the night sky represent time, because the universe is so large that it takes years for their light to get to us. Each planet, star, galaxy, nebula, etc., can be thought of as a point in time, because of the amount of time it has taken the light to get to our planet. When we look at our sun, we see the sun 8 minutes ago. That is how long it takes the light from our sun to get to our planet. When we look at the Andromeda galaxy, the nearest

galaxy to our planet, we are seeing it as it was 2.5 million years ago. The most distant thing we have been able to see in space to date is the MACS0647-JD galaxy. When we took a picture of this galaxy with the Hubble telescope, we were looking at it over 13 billion years ago – wow! And the universe may keep going – it may not have an end – we really don't know. Each star or galaxy that we see in the night sky represents a point in time, a point in the past. Just as life illustrates to us eternity future, when we look into space, we are looking into eternity past. Looking out into the created universe, we see that the creation clearly reveals to us God's eternal power.

His Divine Nature

Finally Paul tells us that we also come to understand God's "divine nature" when we observe his handiwork. Divine means excellence, perfection, flawless, magnificent, godlike, etc. When we read God's other book by studying the creation, the deeper we go, the more we are simply amazed at the level of detail and perfection that there is in what we are studying. While physics and inorganic science is interesting, this is particularly true of biology, the study of living organisms. For example, we used to think that cells were just blobs of protoplasm with not much going on. We have now come to learn that each cell has more going on inside of it than a typical American city does on any given day. One single cell is more complicated than anything we have ever created to date. And each of us has over 30 trillion cells in our body. Just think about that for a moment.

There are extremely complex systems in place in living things, constantly operating to keep the organism alive. There are redundancies in place, fail safes, specialized cells, specialized molecules, organs, tissues, skeletal frames, circulatory systems, nervous systems, etc. It is simply incredible. The more we learn, the more we realize we do not know. In reproduction we watch in amazement as a single cell grows into a human being in the womb (if you ever want to be completely blown away, this is a good place to start). Studying DNA we have come to realize that it is so complex that we may never fully understand how it does what it does. It is the ultimate language, the ultimate code, the ultimate instruction book. It appears to have the capacity for the creation and operation of an infinite variety of organisms, and to perform an infinite number of operations within living systems. God's divine nature is so apparent in living organisms on a microscopic level that Crick was led to make the quote referenced above. It takes constant effort to suppress the truth and deny God's hand in designing living organisms if you have learned even the most basic facts about biological systems.

Then there is the abstract concept of life itself. What makes things alive? What is it? If we could build a complete dog, with all of its parts, cells, chemicals, organs, tissues, fur, etc., it would still not be alive. It would just lie there on the floor, inanimate, dead. It has no life in it. Even if we built something really small, like a paramecium or an amoeba, just a single celled organism, with all of its parts, it would still just lie there on the microscope slide, dead. What is this substance of life that all living things have in them and where does it come from? The bible refers to it as the "breath of life" and says it came from God. God created this mysterious life force in all living things on our planet, He put it into all of the living things around us. It is God revealing himself to us.

Looking at our planet, we have come to realize that it is as though there are thousands of settings that must be exactly correct in order for our planet to support life. Every dial is precisely set to support life. If only one of them were set outside of the required tolerance, life on earth would cease to exist. Gravity on earth is just the right strength to allow for clouds to float in the air and provide rain. The design of the water molecule with its polarized nature, and all of its properties and strength, make it the perfect substance to build life upon. The weak and strong nuclear forces are just right for matter to exist. Jupiter and Saturn protect our planet from rogue space objects and are just the right distance from us to keep us from being negatively affected by their massive gravitational pulls. The size of our planet is just right, the earth's crust is just the right thickness, the earth's electromagnetism is just right, our distance from the sun, the size of our sun, the amount of energy the sun produces, are all where they need to be. Our location in the Milky Way galaxy, the size and location of the moon, etc., etc., etc. – all of the physical laws on our planet and aspects of our physical world are set just right for life to exist and flourish on planet earth. They are perfect.

As with many great truths, we even have a children's story that illustrates the perfectness of this aspect of God's creation, and we use it to describe any planet that might be capable of supporting life, referring to them as existing in the "Goldilocks" zone. The odds of all of the dials being set to support life are so great that in order to explain existence without God, we have concocted our most ridiculous idea to date in order to suppress the truth that God exists, the multiverse. The chance for all of the dials to be so precisely set is so remote that it requires there to be an infinite number of universes in order for just one of them to be able to have a planet earth that supports life. In the multiverse theory, our planet has won the lottery, and we just happen to live in the one universe out of an infinite number of them where earth can support life. A much simpler explanation, and the one that is readily apparent in creation and literally told to us in the bible, is that God did it. There is a designer who set all of the dials. And the over 4 billion years of earth's history reveal to us the hand of God setting these dials, preparing our planet and solar system to support life on the third rock from the sun. It is perfection on such a scale as to render us awestruck for all of our days.

Looking at the creation we see the perfection of God. We see the incredible complexity of the universe, our galaxy, our solar system, and our planet, and realize that the chance for any planet to be able to support life is astronomical – mathematically impossible. The study of physics reveal to us the precise nature of matter itself and how it is constructed and what it is capable of. The study of living organisms reveal to us a complexity and attention to detail that is beyond anything we can imagine. The world of sub atomic particles continues to amaze us with what is going on at that level – there appears to be an entire other universe that exists at the subatomic level. The mystery of the life force, and the impossibility for us to see it or weigh it or even know what it is leads us to realize that there is something really big behind living organisms that we cannot even begin to grasp – it is godlike – it is God revealing Himself. Looking at the creation at any level, from the atom to the ends of the universe and everywhere in between, God's divine nature is clearly seen.

God as Artist and Master Technician

So next time you look at your cat or dog, a sunrise or a sunset, when you look at the stars or perhaps you just look at your hand, think about God, the person who designed and made it all. Think deeply about this, and marvel at its magnificence. Be awed by the size of the mind that it took to come up with DNA, to create the

universe, to create life, to design atoms, to build our sun. Think deeply about the human eye and how it works, what eyes do, what they are capable of. Watch a bird or a dragonfly in flight, and be amazed at its design. God can be thought of as a great artist and the most incredible technologist. Everything he has made can be thought of as a great masterpiece of art and technology. We are God's masterpiece. We are God-Tech, if you will. Man-tech gives us cars, computers, iPhones, airplanes, etc. But God-Tech gives us living things that can reproduce themselves forever, a universe that does not appear to have an end, a solar system that is perfect to sustain life on our planet, etc. And His greatest work of art and piece of technology that we know about, humankind, can think, reason, question, and even come to know Him personally through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Theologians study God's written word. Scientists study God's created word, whether the scientist believes in God or not. God's creation speaks to all of us every day, revealing to us God's invisible attributes, His eternal power, and His divine nature. As scientists, when we read God's other book, we must stop suppressing the truth about God, and read this book with an open mind, with no agenda, no predetermined conclusions regarding God, and see what this book actually reveals to us. And as Christians, we must be the peacemakers that Jesus has called us to be, moving away from debates and arguments about the latest concocted theories designed to suppress the truth. We must accept the challenge to re-evaluate our interpretation of scripture when the proven facts of science conflict with our current understanding of God's word (more on this in "Noah's Flood"). Borrowing from Crick's statement that he came up with to help atheists stay atheists, we Christians must constantly remind ourselves that science is just the study of God's other book, His creation. Science is just another way to learn about God, to learn things about Him that are not in the bible. The same person wrote both books.

Whether you are a believer in God and a follower of Christ, an atheist, an agnostic, a follower of some other faith, or maybe you have never thought about this stuff at all really and do not fit into any category yet, I challenge you to read God's other book with an open mind and see for yourself what it says. Read it without any preset agenda, without any predetermined conclusions regarding the existence of God. See if He is there, if He reveals Himself to you. I challenge you to do this.

Lord God Almighty, we come before You in Jesus name, and confess that we have gotten caught up in the war between science and faith, and ask for forgiveness. We ask that you would make us peacemakers regarding this issue, and that You would use us to heal the rift between science and faith. We pray that You would bring these two groups together, that many may come to know You and Your Son. We pray this in Jesus name, amen.

"For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him."

Colossian 1:16

Other Verses to Consider

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.”

Genesis 1:1-5

(Recommend reading all of Genesis chapters 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 Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

John 1:1-5

*“Just as you do not know how the life breath enters the human frame in the mother’s womb,
So you do not know the work of God, who is working in everything.”*

Ecclesiastes 11:5

“The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. From everlasting I was established, from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills I was brought forth; while He had not yet made the earth and the fields, nor the first dust of the world. When He established the heavens, I was there, when He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep, when He made firm the skies above, when the springs of the deep became fixed, when He set for the sea its boundary so that the water would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth; then I was beside Him, as a master workman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in the world, His earth, and having my delight in the sons of men.”

Proverbs 8:22-31

*“I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.”*

Psalms 121:1-2

“The Lord has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil.”

Proverbs 16:4

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

Hebrews 11:6

“For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

Exodus 20:11

"By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible."

Hebrews 11:3

"For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens - He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited, "I am the Lord, and there is none else.""

Isaiah 45:18

"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; what is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty!"

Psalms 8:3-8

"For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb."

Psalms 139:13

"The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

Job 33:4

"By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host."

Psalms 33:6

"By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast."

Psalms 33:6-9

"Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, I, the Lord, am the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens by Myself and spreading out the earth all alone,"

Isaiah 44:24

"The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God.""

Psalms 14:1a

Psalm 104

"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 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;
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!*

Job 38:1-41

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said,

² "Who is this that darkens counsel
By words without knowledge?"

³ "Now gird up your loins like a man,
And I will ask you, and you instruct Me!

⁴ "Where were you when I laid the foundation of
the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding,

⁵ Who set its measurements? Since you know,
Or who stretched the line on it?

⁶ "On what were its bases sunk?

Or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷ When the morning stars sang together
And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸ "Or who enclosed the sea with doors
When, bursting forth, it went out from the womb;

⁹ When I made a cloud its garment
And thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰ And I placed boundaries on it

And set a bolt and doors,

¹¹ And I said, 'Thus far you shall come, but no
farther;

And here shall your proud waves stop'?

¹² "Have you ever in your life commanded the
morning,

And caused the dawn to know its place,

¹³ That it might take hold of the ends of the earth,
And the wicked be shaken out of it?

¹⁴ "It is changed like clay under the seal;
And they stand forth like a garment.

¹⁵ "From the wicked their light is withheld,
And the uplifted arm is broken.

¹⁶ "Have you entered into the springs of the sea
Or walked in the recesses of the deep?

¹⁷ "Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
Or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

¹⁸ "Have you understood the expanse of the earth?
Tell Me, if you know all this.

¹⁹ "Where is the way to the dwelling of light?

And darkness, where is its place,

²⁰ That you may take it to its territory

And that you may discern the paths to its home?

²¹ "You know, for you were born then,
And the number of your days is great!

²² "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,
Or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,

²³ Which I have reserved for the time of distress,
For the day of war and battle?

²⁴ "Where is the way that the light is divided,
Or the east wind scattered on the earth?

²⁵ "Who has cleft a channel for the flood,
Or a way for the thunderbolt,

²⁶ To bring rain on a land without people,
On a desert without a man in it,

²⁷ To satisfy the waste and desolate land
And to make the seeds of grass to sprout?

²⁸ "Has the rain a father?

Or who has begotten the drops of dew?

²⁹ "From whose womb has come the ice?

And the frost of heaven, who has given it birth?

³⁰ "Water becomes hard like stone,

And the surface of the deep is imprisoned.

³¹ "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades,
Or loose the cords of Orion?

³² "Can you lead forth a constellation in its season,
And guide the Bear with her satellites?

³³ "Do you know the ordinances of the heavens,
Or fix their rule over the earth?

³⁴ "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
So that an abundance of water will cover you?

³⁵ "Can you send forth lightnings that they may go
And say to you, 'Here we are'?

³⁶ "Who has put wisdom in the innermost being
Or given understanding to the mind?

³⁷ "Who can count the clouds by wisdom,
Or tip the water jars of the heavens,

³⁸ When the dust hardens into a mass
And the clods stick together?

³⁹ "Can you hunt the prey for the lion,

Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

⁴⁰ When they crouch in their dens

And lie in wait in their lair?

⁴¹ "Who prepares for the raven its nourishment

When its young cry to God

And wander about without food?