

Sermons You Won't Read in the Bible

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Psalms 16:8, 11 - We are reminded that in the presence of God there is fullness of joy and true happiness.
 - 1. We are in the presence of God when we walk among and contemplate God's creation - Psalm 19:1-3
 - 2. Nature reveals God's eternal power and deity - Rom. 1:20
 - 3. In that they fulfill this Divinely ordained purpose, inanimate objects worship and glorify God - Psalm 68:7-11
 - 4. When we consider God's creation, we understand more of His power and of His person
- B. Nature can enhance our focus on God's person and power
 - 1. Isaac would go out into the fields to meditate - Gen. 24:63
 - 2. Jesus would often go to the mountains to pray - Matt. 14:23
 - 3. "Walking alone at eve and viewing the skies afar,
Bidding the darkness come to welcome each silver star;
I have a great delight in the wonderful scenes above,
God in His power and might is showing His truth and Love."
(Alone At Eve, Will W. Slater, vs. 1)
- C. God's word completes the full revelation of Him and His will
 - 1. Through nature, we are limited in what we can learn from God
 - a. We can see His power, divinity, glory, and knowledge
 - b. But we learn little of His will and purpose for us
 - 2. It is only in Divine revelation that God has made His will fully known
 - a. 1Cor. 2:9-13; Eph. 3:3-5
 - 3. "Sitting alone at eve and dreaming the hours away,
Watching the shadows falling now at the close of day;
God in His mercy comes with His word He is drawing near,
Spreading His love and truth around me and everywhere." (Ibid., vs. 2)

I. SERMONS PREACHED BY CREATION

- A. Creation is part of God's general revelation, affirming certain facts about Him
 - 1. Rom. 1:18-21
- B. The universe testifies of God - Psalm 8:3-4
 - 1. Nature is not God, and God is not nature; He uses nature to reveal Himself to humankind
- C. Psalm 19:1-6 teaches of the revelation of God through creation; these truths are found in those verses.
 - 1. God's glory is being proclaimed
 - 2. The testimony is constant
 - 3. The revelation is nonverbal
 - 4. It is worldwide in scope
 - 5. There is no language barrier
 - 6. The sun gives constant testimony. Like the sun, the existence of God is obvious to all. Nothing can hide from the sun; no one can hide from God

- D. Rom. 1:19-21 reveals important truths about God's general revelation.
1. The testimony about God is clear. No one has any excuse.
 2. Conclusions can be drawn about God and His existence
 3. The testimony is constantly witnessed by everyone since the time God created the world.
 4. General revelation holds people accountable. Because of the witness of nature, people are held accountable to God for the knowledge that God has revealed to them in His revealed word.
 5. This type of revelation is limited in what it can disclose, specifically, "His eternal power and divine nature."

II. EXAMPLES OF THE CREATION'S WITNESS

A. The suitability for life to exist and develop on earth is a strong testimony to the existence of a Creator. We know that Earth is the only planet in our solar system that can sustain life as we know it. We are just the right distance from the sun so that we get exactly the right amount of heat to sustain life. The planets from Mars to Pluto are far too hot or cold to support life as we know it. There is no evidence of life existing on these other planets. The unique characteristics of this planet make astronomical the odds of it happening by accident elsewhere in the universe.

B. The precise rate of the earth's rotation... If the rotation of our earth had been 1/10 less than its present rate, the length of our days and nights would have been increased or decreased too much to sustain plant life. Our vegetation would burn up during the long days; while the nights would bring such low temperatures that any plant life which survived the day would be sure to freeze.

C. The earth is the right size and weight. The physical size of the earth is just right to support life as we know it. If the earth were as small as the moon, its gravity would only be 1/6 its present force and unable to hold either atmosphere or water. If its diameter were doubled, the force of gravity would be doubled and the atmosphere would be so compressed that its pressure would be increased from 15 to 30 pounds per square inch, and life on the surface could not exist. The iron/nickel core is oversized for the planet and could never evolve in an accretion disk according to current theories of planetary formation. Without the oversized core, earth would not have a strong magnetosphere, without which, all life would expire of radiation poisoning from the sun in a matter of days. If the earth were any lighter, it would not hold an atmosphere.

D. The earth's crust is just the right thickness. If the earth's crust had been only ten feet thicker, the metallic elements in the crust would have combined with all the free oxygen in the atmosphere, ruling out the possibility of all animal life. On the other hand, if the oceans were merely a few feet deeper, they would absorb so much carbon dioxide from the air that plants could not exist.

E. The moon is the right distance from earth. The moon is about 239,000 miles away from earth. If it were only 50,000 miles away, the tides, which are now helpful, would completely submerge the continents twice a day. If it were 50,000 miles further away, the tides would be too weak, ocean currents would cease, all weather patterns would be lateral because the earth would wobble in its rotation, seasons would end, and rain would cease to fall.

F. The composition of atmosphere is perfect to sustain life. The composition of the atmosphere is about 78 parts nitrogen and 21 parts oxygen. Too much nitrogen in the atmosphere would slow down all functions of the body so that death would finally result. Too much oxygen would also be harmful since it would increase the activities of the body to such a pace that life could not last that long. It is highly unlikely that this could have been developed by accident, since most accidents in chemistry usually result in explosions or poisons. In addition, our atmosphere is just dense enough to protect the earth from some twenty million meteors that enter it daily. These meteors, which travel at speeds of about thirty miles per second, would otherwise strike the earth with such impact that all life would be endangered.

G. These are not coincidences. These are unique conditions essential for life to exist in a lifeless universe. The physics rules of a material universe do not allow for all of these conditions to come about by accident; the universe and life on this earth declares that God is, that God has created, and that God has spoken. It is difficult to believe that all of these things are a series of fortunate coincidences. Yet if we accept the idea that everything is a result of chance, this is exactly what we have to believe. As one examines the universe, he finds precision and order everywhere. The earth has been made in such a way that it bears the mark "Made by God in Heaven."

1. Heb. 11:3; Gen. 1:1; Psalm 33:6; 2Peter 3:5

III. NATURE'S SERMONS ARE MANIFEST

A. Albert Einstein was not a Christian believer, and yet as he looked at the wonders of the universe, he knew that there must be a God. When asked by an interviewer if he was an atheist, he replied, no, and explained his answer in this way: "I'm not an atheist. The problem involved is too vast for our limited minds. We are in the position of a little child entering a huge library filled with books in many languages. The child knows someone must have written those books. It does not know how. It does not understand the languages in which they are written. The child dimly suspects a mysterious order in the arrangement of the books but doesn't know what it is. That, it seems to me, is the attitude of even the most intelligent human being toward God. We see the universe marvelously arranged and obeying certain laws but only dimly understand these laws." (First published as "What Life Means to Einstein," Saturday Evening Post, October 26, 1929. Quoted in Walter Isaacson, Einstein: His Life and Universe; New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007, p. 386.)

B. Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote: "Earth is crammed with heaven and every common bush aflame with God, but only those who see that take off their shoes. The rest just sit around and eat blackberries."

C. Robert Jastrow, the founder and director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies wrote: "For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak. But as he pulls himself over the last rock and reaches the summit he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."