

Session 13 God’s Beauty in Creation: Micro Marvels

I. GOD’S BEAUTY SEEN IN SUBATOMIC PARTICLES

- A. God’s beauty is expressed in what He did and does in His creation—humans, animals, plants, the earth, the seas, and the heavens (billions of galaxies) including sights (colors, brilliance), sounds (music, melodies, harmonies), and fragrances. Both the vastness of the macro-world of astronomy and the infinitely small micro-world of sub-atomic particles points to God’s beauty.
- B. *“Glory is what we see, experience, and feel when God goes public with His beauty! It is what shows Him to be worthy of our praise, boasting, trust, hope, confidence, and joy.” Sam Storms*
- C. The beauty that we see in creation is but a dim reflection of the source of ultimate beauty—God
- D. In the book of creation God declares His beauty (Rom. 1:19-21). Expressions of His beauty in creation attract us to Him—they beckon us with wonder. They are like bread crumbs dropped along the way, leading us to Him. They testify to His desire to fascinate us in relationship.
- ¹⁹ *...that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.*
- ²⁰ *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. ²¹For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (Rom. 1:19-21)*
- E. Jesus is the creator, designer, and sustainer of the created order (Col. 1:16-18).
- ¹⁶ *For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers...all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (Col. 1:16-17, NAS)*
1. *All things*: He created all things in heaven and earth—visible and invisible, seen and unseen. Jesus is Lord over the vast galaxies and the tiny invisible universe of sub-atomic particles.
 2. *Visible and invisible*: The invisible wonders of creation include angels, atoms, atmosphere (wind, heat, light), and affections (feelings of love, gratitude, etc.).
 3. *Thrones or dominions*: Jesus created all the various ranks of angels and demons.
 4. *Created through Him*: All things were created through Him. He is the original designer and creator of every detail of creation.
 5. *Created for Him*: Jesus established the specific purpose for every facet of creation.
 6. *Before all things*: Jesus is before all things.
 7. *Hold together*: He is the sustaining power by which all that He has created continues to exist. He sustains and directs all things to fulfill their purpose.

II. THE VAST COMPLEXITIES OF THE SUB-ATOMIC WORLD

- A. **Cells:** There are approximately 100 trillion cells in the average adult body.
1. How many megabytes of genetic data are stored in a human body? Each diploid cell (containing two sets of chromosomes) stores approximately 1 GB of data. Thus the amount of data stored in a human body is 1 gigabyte x 100 trillion cells = 100 trillion gigabytes.
 2. Each cell is a very complex structure surrounded by a membrane that functions as a “wall” separating that cell from what is around it as well as regulating what may enter and leave it. Each has “transportation systems” that carry proteins to the various parts of the cell.
- B. **Atom:** Each atom has a nucleus with many electrically-charged particles called protons and neutrons that are surrounded by an orbit of electrons. Some bacterial cells are made up of 100,000 million atoms. All atoms are roughly the same size. About 100 million atoms fit in the span of one inch.
- C. **Quarks:** Physicists have identified particles called *quarks* inside each proton and neutron. A quark is a tiny string that vibrates. Physicists believe that quarks are the fundamental building blocks of all matter. The nucleus of an atom may contain 1,000 quarks—10 septillion (10 with 21 zeros or 10^{21}) quarks would fit in the space of one inch.

III. OTHER MARVELS OF NATURE

- A. **Plants and animals:** Scientists estimate that there are 10 million+ species of plants and animals, including 25,000+ species of orchids, 60 species of eagles, 50 kinds of kangaroos, 200 species of turtles, and 3 million species of insects. An elephant has 40,000+ muscles in its trunk alone!
- B. **Water:** Water is perhaps the most marvelous of all compounds in our universe and the least understood, even though thousands of research papers and books have been written about it.
- C. *“I do not think there is anyone who takes such a fierce pleasure in things being themselves as I do. The startling wetness of water intoxicates me; the fieriness of fire, the steeliness of steel, the unutterable muddiness of mud. It is just the same with people... when we call a man ‘manly’ or a woman ‘womanly’ we touch the deepest philosophy.”* (G.K. Chesterton in a letter to his wife)
- D. Of what practical value is it to know these scientific facts? This knowledge awakes our heart to marvel, awe, and wonder. This can dynamically impact us, moving us to both faith and worship.
- ¹⁷Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You, ¹⁸who shows lovingkindness to thousands... O great and mighty God. The LORD of hosts is His name; ¹⁹great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all the ways of the sons of men... (Jer. 32:17-19)*

I have been greatly blessed by and used info in this series from Sam Storms' book, *Onething: Developing a Passion for the Beauty of God*, and Thomas Dubay's book, *The Evidential Power of Beauty*.