

In the Beginning

GENESIS 1:1–19

The world was created by God out of nothing. It is good and wonderful.

Read Genesis 1:1–19

What do you admire most about the design of God's creation?

What is the difference between Genesis 1 and a modern scientific textbook?

Admiring God's Works

'God saw that the light was good' (verse 4). Here God is introduced by Moses as surveying his work, that he might take pleasure in it. But he does it for our sake, to teach us that God has made nothing without a certain reason and design. And we ought not so to

understand the words of Moses as if God did not know that his work was good until it was finished. But the meaning of the passage is that the work, such as we now see it, was approved by God. Therefore nothing remains for us, but to agree with this judgment of God. And this admonition is very useful. For we ought to apply all our senses to the admiring contemplation of the works of God.

The Miracle of Clouds

'Let there be a vault/expanse' (verse 6). We see clouds suspended in the air, which threaten to fall upon our heads, yet leave us space to breathe. Those who deny that this is effected by the wonderful providence of God are vainly inflated with the folly of their own minds. We know indeed that the rain is naturally produced; but the deluge sufficiently shows how speedily we might be overwhelmed by the bursting of the clouds, if the cataracts of heaven were not closed by the hand of God.

Astronomy is Good

'God made two great lights' (verse 16). Moses wrote in a popular style things which, without instruction, all ordinary persons endued with common sense are able to understand. But astronomers investigate with great labour whatever the intelligence of the human mind can comprehend. Nevertheless, this study is not to be rejected, nor this science to be condemned because some frantic persons boldly reject whatever is unknown to them. For astronomy is not only pleasant, but also very useful to be known. It cannot be denied that this art unfolds the admirable wisdom of God. Wherefore, as ingenious people who have expended useful

labour on this subject are to be honoured, so they who have leisure and capacity ought not to neglect this kind of exercise.

Apply

Next time you go outside, ponder how amazing it is that the clouds don't suddenly burst and fall upon you!

What other miracles of providence in the design of creation do you admire?

Pray

Thank God for the natural sciences that we use to investigate his admirable wisdom and design in creation.

Ask God to help you understand and appreciate those aspects of creation that you may previously have taken for granted.

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