



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen- December 2, 2023

The Lord be with you.

Did you see that moon the other night? Wow. I, I mean it was about two o'clock in the morning and moonlight comes streaming through our bedroom window and, and I just had to get up and go outside and look up at the moon. I mean, there it was, I was, I was moonstruck. I was mesmerized.

And as I looked up at the moon, what, what came to my mind were the words of a, a Psalm of David Psalm 19 in which David writes, he says the heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork day to day, pours forth speech and night to night declares knowledge. That means that every day, every night, you and I, we look about the sky as it is declaring the power, the wisdom, the majesty of God.

It's all there. I was in a meeting one night with some police officers, social workers, counselors and there came a break in the meeting and we all went outside for a few moments and, and there was this gorgeous moon and normally talkative people didn't say a word. I mean, we were stunned, we were silent before the beauty of that moon. And you know, God made us humans to walk upright so that we can look up and we can see the sky and we can see the glory of God as it is broadcast 24 7 day and night.

And I think you were about David as he wrote this psalm maybe out watching his sheep under the moonlight on a JD and night. I, I read, I read these words and, and David with the naked eye, we, we're told that he could see anywhere between two and 3000 stars. I remember when I was a boy one night, I, I went with my mom out into the cotton field to see my dad who was irrigating. And then I can remember looking up and I guess it was for the first time that I looked up and I saw the Milky way and I remember asking my mother, what, what, what is that, what, what is it we're looking at? I mean, and she said, well, that's the milky way. I mean, it's our hometown galaxy. And scientists tell us that our one galaxy contains anywhere between two and 3 billion stars like our sun.

And they tell us that the milky way galaxy stretches over 100,000 light years across. Now, the new James Webb Deep Space Telescope. It, well, it's kind of like the Hubble telescope on steroids as it has seen so much more. It is telling us that there are more than 200 billion Galaxies in the observable universe. There's one galaxy able 2029 that is 16 times larger than our milky way and it has over one trillion stars. Surely the psalmist, David is right.

The heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his heavy work. Now, there was another night that David was out under the stars. I don't know, maybe he's running from King Saul, camped out in the field watching his sheep.

But, but David writes in Psalm eight, he says, when I look Lord at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established.



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What are human beings that you are mindful of them mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory in honor.

So last night, as I, I looked up at the moon, I just kind of wondered for a moment, you know, what, what am I in the midst of this incredible universe? And then I remembered this psalm eight. I, I remembered that it's, it's you and me that God loves, it's you and me that God cares about. I mean, sure God delights and stars and Galaxies. But but you and I we, we we are the ones that God loves.

I like what Saint Augustine said that he said that God loves each of us as if there were only one of us. And so I look at the night sky or feel the heat of the blazing sun. And I think, you know what all of that is really about? Well, I, I think of it as like chrome on a car. Do you remember the days when we had chrome on a car? I mean, it was beautiful to look at but it, but it wasn't what the car was about. It was a decoration and you know, all the Galaxies and stars that God has made.

Well, God has put them there for decoration to fill our lives with beauty and wonder and amazement. I mean, they, they are God's lentil dressing because of God's real love. God's real concern is what he's making of you and me. In the book of Job chapter 26 it says that God stretches the stars and he hangs the earth on nothing and that he covers the face of the moon. And then in verse 14 of Job 26 well, it sums it all up in saying that these are but the outer fringe of God's work.

In other words, we really haven't seen anything yet in the stars in the Galaxies that reveal the true greatness of God. God's greatness says the psalmist. God's greatness is unsearchable and one day, one day it will be revealed the wonder, the beauty of what God is creating in you in May. Hey, if we marvel at God's creation, just wait and until we see God finishes his new creation of you and me, we will see then as the psalmist saw that God has made us a little lower than God and crowned us with glory and honor.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.