

From Pastor's Desk...

## The Creation Speaks the Glory of God

Theologians classify God's revelation as special revelation and general revelation or natural revelation. In *special revelation* God speaks in his Word, the Bible and through His Son (Heb. 1:1-2). In *natural revelation* God has made known Himself in creation. It's *general* in the sense that it goes to all people in the world. David tells us of the witness of the heavens: the heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmaments proclaim His handiwork (Ps. 19:1). To look upward in the sky by day or by night is to see sun, moon, and stars, sky and clouds, all continually declaring by their existence and beauty and greatness that a powerful and wise Creator has made and sustains them in their order.

Isaiah the prophet reminds the people to lift their eyes and see the great power and mighty strength displayed in the creation and preservation (40:25-26). Our God is an awesome God who cannot be compared with anyone in the world.

It's good to look into a few major passages to recognize the general revelation. Romans 1:18-32 emphasizes the revelation of God in nature. God's invisible qualities of eternal power and divinity are manifested since the creation of the world. Acts 14: 15-17 also deals with the issue of general revelation. Paul pointed out in his speech to the people of Lystra, even while God had allowed the nations to walk in their own ways, He had left a witness of himself to all people, by doing good, providing rain and fruitful seasons, and satisfying their hearts with food and gladness.

Since Satan blinded the hearts of people (2Cor 4:4), they cannot come to the saving knowledge of God through Jesus Christ. So, the possibility of constructing a full-scale natural theology seems seriously in question. As John Calvin pointed out, "what is necessary is the spectacles of faith". We know that God is creator only through revelation, the special revelation attested in the Bible, and not by reason, nor by science. When natural theology is not guided by Christian faith, they usually end up with deism or pantheism or emanationism.

The poetic expression in worship is awesome (Ps. 148:1-10). The heavens (sun, moon, stars) are personified to paint a picture of God's control over all creation which gives its praises to God by being what He has made it to be. The creation waits in eager expectation and will be liberated from its bondage along with the glorious freedom of the children of God (Rom. 8: 18-21).

God bless you,

In His glorious service,

Rev. Dr. K. P. Mathew  
(Senior Pastor, IPC Hebron, Los Angeles)

## 7 Days

Jibin John Jiju

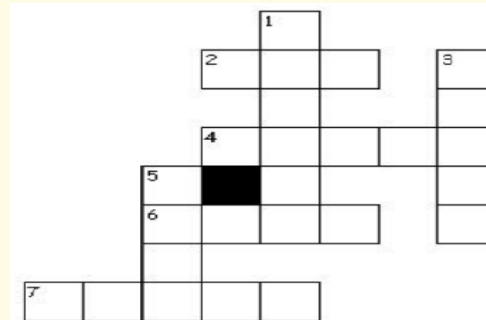
Sitting with a mind-blowing floor area of 1,760,000 square meters, the New Century Global Center in the city of Chengdu China holds the crown for the largest structure built by man. Looking at the stats nothing can beat it boasting a height of 18 stories tall, has a capacity to hold 2,000 families and has an artificial beach with 5,000 square feet of shoreline. Then there is the International Space Station (ISS) which is the largest manned object ever put into space. The grandeur colossus flies at 4.9 m/s and orbits around the world 16 times a day, but surely nothing compares to what God made in 7 days. With 7 days God created what is known as the universe. Within His command, God sparked all the laws of nature and compiled the empty space with stars too numerous to count.

Humans have tirelessly searched for an understanding of the beauty of God's creation, to which we know is too much for us to comprehend. Even great men and women in literature have tried to simplify God's wonder into words, for example, Shakespeare's quote from Hamlet, "There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy." The sheer number of things God created in the universe is too much to say. But there is no need to look beyond the stars to see the beauty of God's 7 days.

God's beauty that we find on earth is just as outstanding from the Agave, a plant that blooms only once every 100 years to the African bush elephants, that weigh in at 13,000 pounds to the Tatra Mountain range Europe. The works of God are too great to comprehend, yet we haven't said a word of God's greatest creation, a creation in His own image. You, we, and I are the most loved creations. The Bible itself says "For God so loved us..." (John 3:16) We also are the most designed creation, as God himself "...formed man of the dust of the ground ..." (Genesis 2:7) and breathed His very own breath into our lungs.

Man's greatest achievements are nothing compared to the creations of God, his wonder and majesty have dumbfounded even the greatest minds. Truly after those 7 days, we can say "Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:1.)

### Crossword Puzzle:



**Across:** 2. the closest star to us 4. name of mountain range mentioned in the article  
6. what God did on the 7th day 7. large body of water

**Down:** 1. homo sapiens 3. trickster 5. Brown and green:)