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PROCLAIMING GOD'S GLORY THROUGH HIS WORK IN NATURE

Introduction

My own experience growing up:

- interest in science from elementary school
- scientists & sci teachers I knew knew or cared little about God or Bible (except for HS chem teacher Thos Christie)
- pastors & SS teachers I knew knew or cared little about science (except for Herman Eckelmann at Cornell)

This shouldn't be, and we of IBRI (at least) are in a position to do something about it

God Revealed in Nature: Psalm 19:1-4a

Psa 19:1-4a (NIV) *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. 3 There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. 4 Their voice {[4] Septuagint, Jerome and Syriac; Hebrew line} goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.*

The heavens/skies are telling us something:

(elsewhere we see that not only are skies telling, but so is land (Acts 14:17) and everything God made (Rom 1:18-20))

What are they telling us?

About God's glory:

term for glory is Hebrew *kabod* and Greek *doxa* include ideas of: abundance, riches, honor, splendor, glory, dignity, reputation – depending on context

By means of God's craftsmanship

calls up image of skilled craftsman, known to others by the kind of work he does [develop with material from "Designed Universe" talk]

When are they telling us?

day and night

Where are they telling us?

everywhere

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THIS?

Study God's creation with expectancy, appreciation, thanksgiving

Help others to appreciate what God has made and to honor Him for it

Deut 6:4-9 re/ OT Scripture; parallel re/ God revealed in nature

Deut 6:4 (NIV) *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

Psalms 148: all of His creation should praise Him

Psal 148:1-5 (NIV) *Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above. 2 Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts. 3 Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars. 4 Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.*

Ps 139, esp vv 13-16: marvel of God's creativity in human body, fearfully & wonderfully made

Psal 139:13-16 (NIV) *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*

Psalms 145: God's works, probably both in creation & redemption; note refrain vv 9, 13b, 17, esp 21

Psal 145:1-9 (NIV) *I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. 2 Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. 3 Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. 4 One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. 5 They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. 6 They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. 7 They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. 8 The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. 9 The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.*