

October 30, 2011
“Reformation and Woodpeckers”
Job 12:7-10: Psalm 19

In Luther and Calvin’s day the Reformation was chiefly about how to get to Heaven. Luther spoke against indulgences, against salvation by works and for salvation by faith. When I think of Reformation today, I think people are questioning whether Heaven and Hell or even God (the God of the Bible in contrast to a mindless force) even exists ... Today, we must answer different questions, yet we answer these with the same Answer BOOK, the Word of God, which is as powerful and relevant in our days as it was in Luther and Calvin’s.

I. The Heavens declare the glory of God - <To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.> The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. (Psalm 19:1 NKJ)

- *Our earth is about 8,000 miles in diameter.
 - *The International Space Station orbits 200 miles above the earth.
 - *The moon is 240,000 miles from earth; it is the farthest we have traveled in our universe.
 - *The sun 400 times further from us than the moon, 93 million miles from the earth.
 - *Neptune’s orbit around the sun is 30 times greater than that of earth, Pluto orbits even further!
 - *If the orbits of all our planets were placed in a cube, the cube would be 6 billion miles to a side. 4,278 of these solar system cubes would fit between our solar system and the next nearest, that of Alpha Centuri.
 - *All other stars are much further from us than Alpha Centuri!
 - *Sirius, the brightest star in our night sky is bright because it is relatively near 50 trillion miles away; it is twice the diameter of the sun. Pollux is 10 times the diameter of the sun. Alnilam 1000 light years away (a light year is 5.88 trillion miles, a measure of distance) Alnilam is 25 suns across. Rigel stretches 70 suns across. Betelgeuse 400 light years away is 600 times the diameter of the sun.
- If Betelgeuse were in the center of our solar system --- we would be inside it.

*Beyond this we see in our galaxy, globular clusters of stars, a globular cluster may contain the combined light of thousands of stars: one globular cluster M4 is 7000 light years away. There are about 100 globular clusters of stars in our Milky Way Galaxy which spans a distance of 80,000 light years across - and yet our Milky Way Galaxy is just one of billions of Galaxies in our universe.

*The Virgo Cluster is more than 50 million light years from earth.

*The Galaxy M87 contains over a trillion stars. *This information was gleaned from the Answers in Genesis DVD “Created Cosmos.”*

Our Great God knows and calls every star by name –

⁴ He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.

⁵ Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite. (Psalm 147:4-5 NKJ)

II. The animals, including birds / woodpeckers teach us about God –

"But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you;⁸ or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you.⁹ Who among all these does not know That the hand of the LORD has done this,¹⁰ In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind? (Job 12:7-10 NKJ)

What do the beasts and the birds teach us about God and what relation does this have to reformation in the church and society?

1. They teach us, according to Job 12:9b “that the hand of the LORD has done this”

This is important today because we do not have a major problem with indulgences or salvation by faith. Yet, our society does have a problem with evolution and atheism, such a great problem that scientific truth is not allowed in schools.

The woodpecker is one example of “the hand of the LORD has done this.” - What is so special about woodpeckers?

A. Its unique beak, it is designed to hammer into trees (even hard trees). Can you imagine any other bird using its beak this way?

- B. *Yet, the woodpecker not only has a unique beak, it also has an especially hard head. In fact, it actually has special cartilage between its beak and head that protect it through all its rap, tap, tapping ...*
- C. *Really resilient tail feathers – it uses its tail feathers and feet to form a stable tripod as it clings to and hammers away at a tree.*
- D. *Two front toes and two back toes allowing the woodpecker a firm hold on the tree, which is required as is the before mentioned tail feathers to keep the bird stable during its vertical banging.*
- E. *A one of a kind super tongue, a woodpecker's tongue is:*
- (1) *Really long, several times longer than the average bird's tongue!*
 - (2) *Slender, able to reach easily and quickly into the holes made by its beak.*
 - (3) *Its tongue is ARMED, with a tip like a spear-head and many barbs pointing backward which actually catch the insect like a fishhook would catch a fish.*
 - (4) *Its tongue is also equipped with glue that sticks to the insect(s) yet not to woodpecker's beak.*
 - (5) *Some woodpeckers tongues are so long, they go down the throat, out the back of the neck, around the back of the skull – under the skin, over the top of the eyes, ending at rest just below the eye socket. In some woodpeckers the tongue will come out of the beak from one of its nostrils.*
- F. *The woodpecker opens and closes its eyes with each speedy, lightning quick peck, if it did not, its eyes would pop out!*

Now, did this bird evolve these wonderful features? Would it not beat its brains out before it would change?

III. Yet, ultimately it is the Word of God, which will bring us to God –

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;⁸ The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also

than honey and the honeycomb.¹¹ Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.¹² Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.¹³ Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:7-14 NKJ)

1. *It is perfect and it converts the soul – Psalm 19:7a*
 - A. *This soul conversion is impossible apart from God – Jeremiah 13:23*
 - B. *Soul conversion requires the new birth – John 3:3, 5 & 7*
 - C. *The new birth requires the SEED of God's Word – 1 Peter 1:23*
2. *It is sure, making wise the simple – Psalm 19:7b*
3. *It is right, rejoicing the heart – Psalm 19:8a --- true blessings are attained through God's Word – Psalm 1.*
4. *It is pure, enlightening the eyes – Psalm 19:8b*
 - A. *Pure and bright like a shining light – Psalm 119:105*
 - B. *Like an excellent mirror it shows us truth about ourselves – James 1:22-25*
5. *It is Sweet, it is valuable both for profit and pleasure – Psalm 19:10*
6. *We NEED it and we NEED to read it – Psalm 19:11-14*
 - A. *It warns us – Proverbs 14:12*
 - B. *It rewards us – Psalm 19:11; Joshua 1:8*
 - C. *We are clueless about ourselves and our errors – Psalm 19:12a / Jeremiah 17:9*
 - D. *We need it for cleansing and sanctification – Psalm 19:12b / John 17:17*
 - E. *We need to PRAY according to its truths and against our sin – Psalm 19:13, Matthew 6:13*
 - F. *It will help us toward that blameless path and life – Psalm 19:14*