



Lesson Study #8

Jesus, Provider and Sustainer

Sabbath's Lesson

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:19, NIV.

What are the riches of God's glory?? What did Christ reveal about God's glory?

Sunday's Lesson

Just for consideration:

The stellar disk of the Milky Way Galaxy is approximately 100,000 ly (31 kpc) in diameter, and is, on average, about 1,000 ly (0.3 kpc) thick.^[2] As a guide to the relative physical scale of the Milky Way, if it were reduced to 100 m (110 yd) in diameter, the Solar System, including the hypothesized Oort cloud, would be no more than 1 mm (0.039 in) in width. The nearest star, Proxima Centauri, would be 4.2 mm (0.17 in) distant.^[nb 3] Alternatively visualized, if the Solar System out to Pluto were the size of a US quarter (25 mm (0.98 in)) in diameter, the Milky way would be a disk approximately 2,000 km (1,200 mi) in diameter, having roughly one-third the area of the United States.^[22]

^[2]Christian, Eric; Safi-Harb, Samar. "How large is the Milky Way?". NASA: Ask an Astrophysicist. Retrieved 2007-11-28.

^[22] http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/5-8/features/F_How_Big_is_Our_Universe.html

These are some staggering numbers, but wait – it's estimated: The observable universe contains between 10^{22} and 10^{24} stars (between 10 sextillion and 1 septillion stars).^{[44][45][46][47]} To be slightly more precise, according to the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, "[by] a conservative estimate.... the currently observable universe is home to of order 6×10^{22} stars"^[1] These stars are organized in more than 80 billion galaxies, which themselves form clusters and superclusters.^[48]

Two approximate calculations give the number of atoms in the observable universe to be close to 10^{80} .

*“By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.”
“For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” Psalm 33:6, 9.*

¹God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, ²hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed Heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds, ³who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the



Majesty on high, ⁴ being made so much better than the angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. Heb. 1:1-4.

¹⁶ For by Him were all things created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions or principalities or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. Col. 1:16, 17.

The Levites, in their hymn recorded by Nehemiah, sang, "Thou, even Thou, art Lord alone; Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things therein, ... and Thou preservest them all." Nehemiah 9:6. As regards this world, God's work of creation is completed. For "the works were finished from the foundation of the world." Hebrews 4:3. But His energy is still exerted in upholding the objects of His creation. It is not because the mechanism that has once been set in motion continues to act by its own inherent energy that the pulse beats and breath follows breath; but every breath, every pulsation of the heart, is an evidence of the all-pervading care of Him in whom "we live, and move, and have our being." Acts 17:28. It is not because of inherent power that year by year the earth produces her bounties and continues her motion around the sun. The hand of God guides the planets and keeps them in position in their orderly march through the heavens. He "bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth." Isaiah 40:26. It is through His power that vegetation flourishes, that the leaves appear and the flowers bloom. He "maketh grass to grow upon the mountains" (Psalm 147:8), and by Him the valleys are made fruitful. "All the beasts of the forest ... seek their meat from God," and every living creature, from the smallest insect up to man, is daily dependent upon His providential care. In the beautiful words of the psalmist, "These wait all upon Thee.... That Thou givest them they gather: Thou openest Thine hand, they are filled with good." Psalm 104:20, 21, 27, 28. His word controls the elements; He covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth. "He giveth snow like wool: He scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes." Psalm 147:16. "When He uttereth His voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and He causeth the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of His treasures." Jeremiah 10:13. {PP 115.1}

²⁸ For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as also certain of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Acts 17:28.

In the bottom section of Sunday's lesson, it asks: "With all this in mind, how do we understand the reality of free will and free choice?" Does the following passage give us any insight? Does the type of Law one believes in make any difference??

God placed man under law, as an indispensable condition of his very existence. He was a subject of the divine government, and there can be no government without law. God might have created man without the power to transgress His law; He might have withheld the hand of Adam from touching the forbidden fruit; but in that case man would have been, not a free moral agent, but a mere automaton. Without freedom of choice, his obedience would not have been voluntary, but forced. There could have been no development of character. Such a course would have been contrary to God's plan in dealing with the inhabitants of other worlds. It would have been unworthy of man as an intelligent being, and would have sustained Satan's charge of God's arbitrary rule. {PP 49.1}

The law of God is as sacred as God Himself. It is a revelation of His will, a transcript of His character, the expression of divine love and wisdom. The harmony of creation depends upon the perfect conformity of all



beings, of everything, animate and inanimate, to the law of the Creator. God has ordained laws for the government, not only of living beings, but of all the operations of nature. Everything is under fixed laws, which cannot be disregarded. But while everything in nature is governed by natural laws, man alone, of all that inhabits the earth, is amenable to moral law. To man, the crowning work of creation, God has given power to understand His requirements, to comprehend the justice and beneficence of His law, and its sacred claims upon him; and of man unswerving obedience is required. {PP 52.3}

Monday's Lesson

Of course, God provided Adam & Eve with food, and garments of light, but have you ever considered God provided mankind with work for his benefit even before his fall?? Many, today, regard “work” as a four-letter word [mainly because it is], but was this the original intent??

To the dwellers in Eden was committed the care of the garden, “to dress it and to keep it.” Their occupation was not wearisome, but pleasant and invigorating. God appointed labor as a blessing to man, to occupy his mind, to strengthen his body, and to develop his faculties. In mental and physical activity Adam found one of the highest pleasures of his holy existence. And when, as a result of his disobedience, he was driven from his beautiful home, and forced to struggle with a stubborn soil to gain his daily bread, that very labor, although widely different from his pleasant occupation in the garden, was a safeguard against temptation and a source of happiness. Those who regard work as a curse, attended though it be with weariness and pain, are cherishing an error. The rich often look down with contempt upon the working classes, but this is wholly at variance with God’s purpose in creating man. What are the possessions of even the most wealthy in comparison with the heritage given to the lordly Adam? Yet Adam was not to be idle. Our Creator, who understands what is for man’s happiness, appointed Adam his work. The true joy of life is found only by the working men and women. The angels are diligent workers; they are the ministers of God to the children of men. The Creator has prepared no place for the stagnating practice of indolence. {PP 50.1}

Tuesday's Lesson

Is evil natural, as some suggest? Or is there a much bigger picture? Think about how far humanity has degraded to refer to hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, etc as “acts of God”? Not only does God get blamed for not preventing these things, He gets credited with causing them, and thus becomes the source of death and destruction in the minds of many. Satan is continually seeking to misrepresent the character of God, and in place put his own.

Job 42

¹Then Job answered the LORD and said: ²“I know that Thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withheld from Thee. ³‘Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore have I uttered what I understood not, things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. ⁴‘Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak; I will question thee, and declare thou unto Me.’ ⁵I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth Thee. ⁶Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” ⁷And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “My wrath is kindled against thee and against thy two friends; for ye have not spoken of Me the thing that is right, as My servant Job hath. ⁸Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to My servant Job, and offer



up for yourselves a burnt offering. And My servant Job shall pray for you; for him will I accept, lest I deal with you after your folly in that ye have not spoken of Me the thing which is right, like My servant Job.”⁹ So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did according as the LORD commanded them. The LORD also accepted Job.¹⁰ And the LORD released Job from captivity when he prayed for his friends. Also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.¹¹ Then came there unto him all his brethren and all his sisters, and all those who had been of his acquaintance before, and ate bread with him in his house. And they bemoaned him and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him. Every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold.¹² So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand sheasses.¹³ He had also seven sons and three daughters.¹⁴ And he called the name of the first Jemimah, and the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Kerenhappuch.¹⁵ And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job, and their father gave them an inheritance among their brethren.¹⁶ After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his sons and his sons’ sons, even four generations.¹⁷ So Job died, being old and full of days. Some of Job’s questions were unanswered, as are some of ours. Is this a cause for a loss of faith, or do we still have ample evidence of God’s trustworthiness?

Wednesday’s Lesson

The lesson mentions the “wind” as a tool of God’s providence. Apart from the obvious, how does the wind differ so much from rain, sunshine, flowers, animals, etc??

Read 2 Kings 20: 8-11.

⁸ And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, “What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the LORD the third day?”⁹ And Isaiah said, “This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that He hath spoken: Shall the shadow go forward ten degrees or go back ten degrees?”¹⁰ And Hezekiah answered, “It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees.”¹¹ And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD; and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down on the dial of Ahaz.

God apparently reversed the Earth’s rotation just to give evidence of favor to ONE man.

In Joshua 10, He apparently stopped the rotation of Earth for about 24 hrs.

Can science explain these phenomena? Does this mean that Scripture is not to be trusted, or is science inadequate in it’s explanations?

Thursday’s Lesson

Jesus is not only the provider for undamaged creation [angels, other unfallen worlds], but he sustains our damaged world. Tim refers to it as having us on life support in order for a remedy to be administered. This is a great analogy. Without his energy, humanity would have self destructed long



ago. Satan miscalculated God's love for fallen humanity. He thought that he could induce mankind to sin, and God would leave the tree of Life available, so sinful man would live forever [see PP Ch. 3]. God, in mercy, removed the tree of life, and provided a remedy for healing mankind, restoring him back to his noble pre-fall state.

Matt. 6: 25-34.

²⁵ "Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air, for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"²⁷ "Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?"²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They toil not, neither do they spin,²⁹ and yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.³⁰ Therefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'Wherewith shall we be clothed?'³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek.) For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.³³ But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.³⁴ "Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Friday's Lesson

More P&P. I love this passage.

Yet men of science think that they can comprehend the wisdom of God, that which He has done or can do. The idea largely prevails that He is restricted by His own laws. Men either deny or ignore His existence, or think to explain everything, even the operation of His Spirit upon the human heart; and they no longer reverence His name or fear His power. They do not believe in the supernatural, not understanding God's laws or His infinite power to work His will through them. As commonly used, the term "laws of nature" comprises what men have been able to discover with regard to the laws that govern the physical world; but how limited is their knowledge, and how vast the field in which the Creator can work in harmony with His own laws and yet wholly beyond the comprehension of finite beings! {PP 114.3}