

From the Pulpit of the Japanese Baptist Church of North Texas
January 29, 2017

God of Creation (2)

Psalm 139:13-18

139:13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

139:14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

139:15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

139:16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

139:17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

139:18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

1. Wonder of Human Body

When one sister got baptized, she gave the following testimony. “I first noticed God when I was pregnant. How can a fertilized egg become a complete human being? Why did I and my husband get a baby? Even before that, how did I meet my husband?”

“When people cannot explain things with reasons, they often refer to “God”. For me, all these things showed nothing but the works of God. But at that time, I did not know which God did such a great thing. I was just so thankful that the baby was born.”

“One day when I read the Bible verse “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb”, I thought this was it! I understood that God in the Bible created me and my child. “

Just like this person, I am sure many people felt the existence of God through pregnancy or delivery, and this is not only for females who became a mother but also for males who became a father. I don’t think no one would say, “Oh, this is a product by chance” or “this is a result of evolution”. When people see the complete order in a little baby, everyone would understand that “the order is not produced by chance” and would feel that there is a character with intelligence and love behind all this.

Although God’s wisdom and power are shown in the vast universe or a small atom, we, humans, were created by God to show His wisdom, power, and glory as well. John Calvin said, “Hence certain of the philosophers have not improperly called man a microcosm (miniature world).” “Infants hanging on their mothers’ breasts have tongues eloquent enough to proclaim his glory without the aid of other orators.” “They have in their own persons a factory where innumerable operations of God are carried on, and a magazine stored with treasures of inestimable value.” (The Institutes of Christian Religion, Book 1, Chapter 5, Section 3-4)

Calvin wrote this in 1536. In our modern society where science is advanced and the mechanism of human body is being elucidated, we can be more convinced of by Calvin’s statement.

As the testimony of the sister says, life is very mysterious. Both animals and plants are made of cells. In case of humans, there are 60 trillion cells. One fertilized egg makes a complicated human body

consists of 60 trillion cells is a mystery, but we come to understand that DNA is involved in this process.

There is a nucleus in the cell and chromosome is in the nucleus, and these chromosomes contain deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), which transmits genetic information. There are four nucleotides; A, T, G, C (adenine, thymine, guanine and cytosine) and the combination of these nucleotides determine the genetic code. Even only 10 nucleotides have combinations of four to the power of 10th, which is one million fifty thousand combinations. There are 30 billion nucleotides in one strand of DNA, you can imagine how big of the information DNA carries.

DNA forms double strand helices and when the helices are unwind, messenger RNA is transcribed from each strand. These procedures take place in 60 trillion cells every night and day. God designed a human body and put the blueprint as a form of DNA in the human body. We, who live in the modern society, are wowed by the Bible verse “you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.”

2. Man as the Image of God

How majestic our bodies are? It’s beyond any discussion, and nobody can protest against. Despite the outstanding works, people understand it in two-separated analyses; one is to maintain the creation by God, the other insists the random accidents.

Now, I suppose there is no logical statements if you say, “Accidents can create Order!” When I observe the world, I just can recognize that order is broken and goes toward chaos, rather than

chaos created order. “Order collapses, and opposite never happens,” it is very close to the scientific general rule in “Second Law of Thermodynamics.” New car becomes used one, and used one never comes new. The earth is now broken by ambient pollution and the ozone has holes getting bigger and bigger; now mankind would be exposed to danger sooner or later. As described so far, the order of nature never stops its destruction once it’s broken just a little. No accidents could be expected and we only need special efforts to slow down it. Our bodies, as same as the manner, sometimes gets sick and become elderly; as a result, we will die. All stories that I have just talked suggest the scene in the Bible; that is, God created the world in His perfect harmony, but man’s sin broke them down.

Human body testifies that it was created by God, but wonder of human is more than in his body. We can communicate with others in words, and other animals cannot. Moreover, we can create new species and machines using knowledge and skills; we created literature, painting and music, too. Finally stated, we can manage nature and society, even though they’re not perfect. According to Genesis 1:27, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Also, 1:28 mentions, “And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” This is why people have dominion over creatures.

Genesis says animals and plants were created according to “seeds,” but mankind was in God’s image. This includes the abilities

mentioned above, and it's more than abilities in fact. Human has spirit, in addition to "matter." Well, people are the spirits having bodies, I would say. Spiritual creatures, people, have childhood thought thinking of God; no one teaches but it is given. Our spirits look for communication with God, even though we don't notice. This is the "God's image." This is the thing that God only could give us. "God's image" is the testimony that we were the creatures of God.

French artist, Paul Gauguin, wrote the statement on the drawing he created in Tahiti, 1897. It says, "Where did we come, who are we, and where are we going?" This is the common wonder among mankind. Seeking our origin, questioning our existence, and thinking about our purpose of life. Everybody has this wonder. Why did it happen? I guess, the best answer would be, "Because God created us." Sir John Templeton also asked, "Would it not be strange if a universe without purpose accidentally created humans who are so obsessed with purpose?" People are not the random product of chance, but the masterpieces of God according to His will. This is why our spirits call for the purpose of life.

3. Faith in God of Creation

When we believe God, we say "I believe in God." We don't say "believe God" but "believe IN God." This tells us what is the faith in God. When we say, "I believe in God.", it does not mean that we are shown the evidences of creation, and admit God's existence. God is not a object that we kindly accept. Since we are created and lived by God, we are the object that are in God's hands. It is the faith that we believe that we are in His hands, and "live in God".

Psalm 139 says, “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.” (verse 7 and 8) Then it says that we can not flee from God even after our death in other verses. And the verse 18 says, “When I awake, I am still with you.” This means God will be with us in the world beyond death.

Believing in God means that we believe God has been with us from the beginning of the universe, the beginning of humanity, and the beginning of our life. He has been with us in this world and our life all the time. Not only believing the existence of God but also living in his presence of God, which God live among us with mercy and grace.

The sister, who provided her testimony at the beginning, continued, “I heard that child was given by God, and I realized this. I have been thinking that this is my child so that I can yell or slap him. I regret what I have done to my child. I really regret it.”

I have committed a number of sins. If God can forgive me, it would be very nice. However, if my sins are forgiven, how about “wounds of heart” of my child, husband, and people around me? Are they healed? If not, I thought I won’t be forgiven, and that’s why I couldn’t decide to receive the baptism.

I had this feeling in my heart very heavily when I started the baptismal class. However, I found this word, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household.” (Act 16:31) This powerful promise of the Word encouraged me, and I could believe that Jesus died for my sins on the cross, resurrected after three days, and have been protecting us. I receive Jesus as my Savior. I know that everything will be fine with Jesus.

This sister received not only the wisdom and power of God of creation but also the love and grace that save her and her family. God is the God of creation. He can save us because he created us and this world. We were created by God and are living in God, so we shall be lead to the faith that is to live in God.

(Prayer)

God of creation, you have created us wonderfully. When we think about it, we can not stop praising your wisdom, power, and merciful love. We ask that we may live in You. Please, help us to realize the joy of living in You and with You. In the name of Lord Jesus, Amen.