

WHY DID GOD CREATE THE UNIVERSE? (11)

It is, of course, presumptuous to ever think we could fully understand the mind and purposes of God. Paul asks, "For who has known the mind of the Lord" (Romans 11:34)? "Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, Why have you formed me this way" (Romans 9:20). On the other hand, it almost seems as if God has put certain questions in our heart about eternity. Who made me? Why am I here? One of man's most fundamental needs is to have a purpose for living. The question of God's purpose for the creation is very important so we will humbly seek for an answer in God's revelation to man: THE BIBLE. So why did God make the universe? Notice the praise given to God in the book of Revelation:

"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You have created all things, and for your pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:11, King James Version)

In what sense could the creation of the physical universe give pleasure to God? Certainly it was not just the fact that God made something so big and majestic that he took pleasure in his work like an artist or an architect. The prophet Isaiah gives us a clue:

"For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, {But} formed it to be inhabited)" (Isaiah 45:18).

He created the earth in the midst of the universe TO BE INHABITED. Its living creatures would be His pleasure. However, it was not the wonderful complexity of life or its variety that brought him pleasure, for

"He does not take delight in the strength of the horse; he takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord does take pleasure in those who fear him and in those who hope in His mercy" (Psalms 147:10-11).

Now we begin to receive the first understanding of our question. It was only man who was created in God's image, according to God's likeness (Genesis 1:27) and could learn to hope in his mercy. God made man to "have dominion over the work of His hands" and "put everything under man's feet" (Psalms 8:6). We see that God made the universe for man's use. The biological and physical creation was made with a focus on God having fellowship with man. Even the angels were created as "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation" (Hebrews 1:14).

When we realize that "**WE**" are the purpose of God's creation, that he made us in his own image so that he might have someone to love and someone to love him, it makes us stand in awe much like the one who wrote the following Psalm:

Psalms 8:3-9

"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; (4) What is man, that You take thought of him? And the son of man, that you care for him? (5) Yet You have made him a little lower than God, and have crown him with glory and majesty! (6) You have made him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, (7) All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, (8) The birds of the

heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes through the paths of the seas. (9) O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!"

God finds pleasure in you and me! He has given glory and a high position to each one of us. That is awesome! Now how should I respond? I hope that you look forward to our next lesson as we have more to say on today's subject.

Questions:

1. God created the earth to be _____ (Isaiah 45:18).
2. God takes pleasure in those who _____ him and who _____ in his mercy (Psalms 147:10-11).
3. How is each man different from all other animal and plant life?
4. Think about the word "glory". Do you know what it means? We are to give glory to God but do you think that God gives glory to man? No need to answer this question, just think about it and we will talk about this in the next lesson.