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Musing on God's First Revelations of Himself - Part 1

Introduction

In meditating on God it becomes clear that the entire scriptures are a collection of the unveilings of God. We use the word "manifestations" because without divine revelation there would be no knowledge about creation, the future and the need for salvation etc. Man can never know God, for there is a difference between knowing about God and knowing Him. God gave Solomon great wisdom and his recording is, "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end" (Ecc. 3:11). Job asks the questions to the intellectualists of his day and it is the same today, "Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? (Job 11:7).

- a) A famous atheist was asked, "Where does matter come from?" and the answer was astounding. It was, "I do not know." Those who believe the scriptures to be the inspired word of the living God know where it comes from because He has revealed it.

Every title, name, or activity is a manifestation of Himself, but the richest fullest manifestation is our Lord Jesus Christ. He alone could say, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (Jn. 14:9). When the Lord said He had seen the Father, it is much more than seeing visibly, it means to see Him in the loveliness of His actions, reactions, sympathies, grace, and moral integrity.

Genesis 1:1

In the first verse of Genesis there is given the first manifestation of God, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth (Gen. 1:1).

- a) What did He bring into existence but not mentioned? The following are a few of them:
 - i) The law of centrifugal energy
 - ii) The law of magnetism
 - iii) The law of gravity
 - iv) The law of vibration
 - v) The law of cause and effect
 - vi) The celestial hosts and the celestial government
- b) What He did not bring into existence?
 - i) The 2nd law of thermodynamics, that a result of sin.
 - ii) Sin
- c) What can we learn about God in this verse?
 - i) He is the exclusive creator of all.
 - ii) He had the wisdom, knowledge and understanding to create everything perfect the first time.
 - iii) Since He alone is true and was there at creation, He is pleased to reveal to humanity of how and by what order it occurred.
- d) He did reveal.
 - i) The order itself so He is the communicating God.
 - ii) In the providing of light before the sun and moon indicates He is not locked into natural creation. He operates outside of the natural, illustrated by:
 1. The Sun going backwards
 - (a) "Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down" (Isa. 38:8).
 - (b) The supernatural darkness at Calvary (Matt. 27:45; Lk. 23:44).

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- (c) The darkness in Egypt, "And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days" (Ex. 10:22).
 - (d) The moon standing still, "And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hastened not to go down about a whole day" (Josh. 10:13).
 - 2) Sun and moon standing still
 - (a) "The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear" (Hab. 3:11).
 - iii) He is the God of Distinctiveness. The heaven and earth were created by Him but are not part of Him or He part of the creation.
 - iv) He is the God of Supremacy. He is above all creation and has placed man as the highest form of life on the earth.
 - v) He is the God of Authority. He spoke and named, He saw and described, He set and perfectly placed size, distance and effect. All creation depends on Him.
 - vi) He is the God of Successive complexity. Each creative act was more complex than the other, requiring different breathing methods, fish via gills, land animals by nose or mouth, different to act naturally, and untaught, ducks to water, birds to air.
 - vii) He is the God of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, i.e. of how birds etc. interact in creation.
 - viii) He is the God of orderliness. In the first three days God laid the foundations and in the second three days He filled with life forms and non life forms.
- e) Who
- i) It is not until Genesis 2:4 that another title is used of God, not in replacing the first, but in adding another truth about God.
 - ii) In the first creation narrative (Gen. 1:1-2:3) there are 32 references to God; God created, four references; God said, eight references; God saw, seven references; God made, three references; It was so, six references.
 - iii) In Genesis 2:4, there is an abrupt change, it reads: "These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens". For the balance of the second creation narrative (ch. 2:4-4:26) that is repeated another 18 times. By the inclusion of LORD there is brought in the truth of morality and man's acceptance of the good and perfect will of God or the consequences for disobedience and defying God.
 - 1) Therefore, in the first two narratives God is manifested as having all power and being the Moral Absolute of the universe.

Concluding comments

What a dark day it was when Adam partook of the fruit of the tree, when he rejected his responsibilities and let a woman take the lead, and led humanity into Godless insolence against God instead of fearing Him, and set aside His moral principles for living.

. . . . Rowan Jennings