

THEOLOGY FROM THE FRAY

THE COMFORT OF CREATION

Chaplain Kory M. Capps



www.fromthefray.com

The Comfort of Creation

The book of Job speaks a lot about creation, we can see it on nearly every page. There are countless references to its order, purpose, design, and author. It is instructive to see the theme emerge at the end of the book when God engages with suffering Job in a whirlwind.

God sits Job down and gives him a thorough creation lesson. Of all the sermons he could have selected for suffering Job, he lands on that theme. His creation sermon is intended to humble, comfort, strengthen, and awe suffering Job. God was not out to crush Job. The New Testament is clear, all God's activity toward him was marked by compassion and mercy (James 5:11). His whirlwind appearance was no exception.

Through his exposition of creation he reminds Job of his deep providential concern for his life. He demonstrates through his role as Creator that he knows Job inside and out. He helps him understand that he fashioned every facet of his being. He opens his eyes to see that he loves him. He does this all through reminding Job of his place as a creature while encouraging him to trust his Creator with things beyond his capacity.

Apparently, God sees creation as a significant source for comfort and counseling. Jesus confirms this when he uses a sparrow as a baseline for thinking about how much God cares for people (Matt 10:31). He turns to creation to encourage his disciples of God's concern for them. The lesson here, there is great comfort in creation as it points us to God's intimate knowledge, support, and provision for our every need. Creation preaches about his goodness and provision, but it does not stop there.



As we have mentioned, the book of Job is a stunning portrait of God as the Creator and Sovereign of the universe. In many ways, it is Genesis 1-2 with flare. Genesis 1-2 paints with broad sweeping brushes while Job 38-42 paints with small elaborate strokes. Job's angle gives us a glimpse of God's intimate involvement in all of creation.

In four chapters, we see God as the Creator, Overseer, and Sustainer of all many things, including: the sea, waves, mountains, wind, lightning, stars, clouds, sun, day, night, snow, rain, the desert, lion, raven, oxen, donkey, ostrich, mountain goat, horse, and hawk. As our view of God expands and grows in the reading of these chapters, we grow smaller and smaller.



We are put in our rightful place as creatures and drawn to worship a great God. As Paul made clear in his letter to the Romans, creation is a sermon all its own. It is telling us of the great power of the invisible God (Rom 1:19-20) and it is speaking of God's glory (Ps 19:1). Creation is a magnificent sermon.

But listen to what Job says about this creation sermon: "Behold, these are but the outskirts of his ways, and how small a whisper do we hear of him!" (Job 26:17). Astounding! The sun, the Pacific Ocean, the Rocky Mountains, the sunflower, the rhino—all but whispers!

When we have explored all that he has made we have merely arrived at the outermost boundaries of his ways, we have only heard him whispering. With the coming of Christ we move from the fringes to the center.

Whispering gives way to shouting! The invisible God unseen by any human eye is made visible in the miraculous birth of the Son of God. In Christ, we see God. He is the God of the manger and the God of the cross. His character, his heart, his will, and his plans—these are made abundantly clear.

Though creation can speak of inventive power and careful design, only the cross can tell of his sacrificial love and regal humility. Creation whispers, the cross shouts. The cross is God's definitive sermon on his character, his defining word about himself.

This is why the cross alone must be our theology. This is why we must sit ourselves down at Calvary and open our ears. The whirlwind has been replaced by a cross and God is speaking to us about his deep concern for us and our future.