

Creation the Sign of God's Providence

(Job 38:1-18, Eph. 1:3-14, Luke 12:22-34)

God created all things and by His will they were created and have their being. Creator God knows what his creatures need and has provided them. He also has told them what he expects from them. In the beginning God gave Adam and Eve vegetarian food (Gen 1:29, 30) i.e., all the fruits of the trees and green plants. But when Adam and Eve sinned God had to sacrifice an animal which was the type of Lord Jesus the Lamb of God. After that God allowed mankind to have meat as their food. Like he gave the green plants as their food, He gave everything that lives and moves as their food. But he asked them not to eat meat with blood. (Gen. 9:3,4).

Therefore when we see green plants around us and animals that are moving on the ground and in the sea we need to be reminded always of the fact that God has bountifully provided for his creation all that they needed; not just food , clothing and shelter etc but also a meaning for life. What God is expecting from his creatures, when he created them is that they might be for the praise of His glory. God is reminding us today that life is not just physical but spiritual. This is today Epistle lesson. Therefore we should not just live physically, always craving to satisfy our physical needs but live spiritually seeking to do what God wants us to do and store up treasures in heaven which cannot be destroyed or exhausted. This is today's Gospel lesson.

In today's Old Testament lesson we find Job as a perfect man who lived depending on God alone, no matter what happened to him and found answers to

all questions that his life made him to ask in God who revealed himself to his faithful creature Job, and blessed him immensely. Therefore Paul said that God's visible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature can be already seen and understood from everything God has created (Romans 1: 19,20)

Epistle lesson. Ep.1:3-14.

God's provision to become His children and bring Glory to Him

Everything God has created was very good in the beginning, because God works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will. He has revealed mankind his will towards them. He has kept Adam in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. So creation is not only the sign of God's provision for man, but also is the sign of God's purpose for him (Gen. 2:15).

Man has to work out and take care of what God has given him. Man can do whatever he wants, but he has to be careful to do it in according to the revealed will of God. He told Adam & Eve what His will was towards them. They were permitted to eat everything, but were not permitted to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God also told them that they would die on the day they eat it. Adam and Eve ate the fruit and brought curse on them. As a result the creation was subject to frustration (Romans 8:19,20). Mankind has now thorns and thistles to deal with. They have also brought death on themselves and bondage to decay. The first result of Adam and Eve's sin is needless fear. I don't understand why Adam and Eve should be afraid of such a loving God who had given them everything they needed.

Creation is not only a sign of God's provision of love; it is also a sign of God's provision of forgiveness. Every time we see animals like Goat and sheep, whose meat we crave to eat, let us also be reminded of the garments of skin they

provided for Adam and Eve(Gen3 :21). Because of the shed blood of that animal whose skin God used to make clothes for Adam and Eve, God forgave their sins. That's God's revealed law. Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. In fact the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood (Heb. 9:22).

In the beginning when God blessed Adam and Eve and gave them everything what he created, it was a physical blessing. When he gave them clothes of skin, which symbolize the garments of His righteousness, Adam and Eve received spiritual blessing of restored heavenly relationship with God, and a second chance to serve God and fulfill the very purpose for which they were created.

It is because Jesus Christ died on the cross and shed His blood, God is now able to bless us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly realm, which Paul has enlisted in (Eph 1:3-14). Just as he intended Adam and Eve to be holy living within the limits of his commandments he also now expects us to be Holy and blameless. Just as Adam was the son of God, God has adopted us as his children (sons and daughters) through Jesus Christ. This Paul says in another place, is God's will; God wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ (1 Tim 2:4).

God saves us by His glorious grace so that we can bring praise to that glorious grace. Just as God revealed Adam and Eve His will for them He has revealed the mystery of His will to us according to his good pleasure. Now God wants to bring everything in heaven and on earth together under one head even Christ.

That means God's will for all is that all should be in His kingdom for which he enthroned his son Jesus as King. God wants all to be saved and come to the knowledge of Truth (1 Tim 2:4). Jesus revealed God's will as seeing Him (the son of God) and have eternal life by putting his faith in Him. (John 6:40). In this scripture portion we find Paul mentioning the will of God three times. (5, 9, 11).

(1) God's will is to adopt everyone as his children through Christ Jesus.

(2) Unite them all in the kingdom of his son

(3) so that everyone will become like His son and bring Him glory like Jesus.

To do God's will which is revealed to us now, we have to believe the word of Truth of our salvation that we hear and be spiritually born of the Holy Spirit whom we receive when we accept Jesus as our personal savior. When we confess our sins and ask Jesus to come into our heart, He comes to be in us in the spirit. This is the Holy Spirit Baptism. We have to understand that the word Baptism has two meanings, one is to immerse and the other is to be united with. The day we accept Jesus as our personal savior, we are united with Jesus through the Holy Spirit, by His death, burial and resurrection experiences.

Those who are not born again can never see the Kingdom nor enter the Kingdom of heaven and will be always concerned and worried about the earthly, physical and material things and health. Today God wants us to seek spiritual blessings rather than physical blessings. This is today's Gospel lesson.

Gospel lesson: Luke 12:22-39.

God's provision of abundant eternal life

In my ministry I have found that many Christians could not give an answer to the question, what is life? Before telling what life is, Jesus taught his disciples what life is not. He taught them life is not what we eat (food) life is not what we

wear (fashion) and life is not what we acquire (Fabulous things) (Mt. 6:25 Luke 12:23).

Jesus said life is to know God the Father and Jesus Christ, whom He has sent (John 17:3). John said "He who has the son has life, he who has not the son of God has no life" (1 John 5:12). Further he said that he wrote his Gospel that people might know Jesus as the Christ the son of God and believing may have life (John 20:31). If we ask Paul what life is he will say "To live is Christ" (Phil. 2:21).

One of the important lessons Jesus taught his disciples is what life is all about. He taught them not to worry about what they will eat or what they will wear, giving the illustrations of the birds like ravens being fed and lilies being clothed in splendor exceeding that of Solomon in his might, by God.

Jesus who taught his disciples is now teaching that one's life priority should be God's Kingdom. When we seek his kingdom God is promising to provide what all we need. He also warned the disciples not to be concerned about how to amass wealth but to store up treasures in heaven, which can never be lost nor destroyed.

When people realize the all sufficiency of God in the supremacy of Lord Jesus (last Sunday's message) like Paul in N.T. and Job in O.T. and many others in the scripture who desired nothing besides God (Ps 73:25), God honors that kind of abandoning faith which is also ready to suffer to any extent like Job. God reveals himself and gives answers to all life's questions and blesses them in a unique way He blessed Job. (This is today's O.T. lesson).

O.T. lesson Job 38:1-18.

God's provision of answers for Life's Questions.

The book of Job tells us the utmost faith Job had in God and how he faced calamity after calamity in life, which took away his children, wealth health and everything from him. Knowing in his heart that he was always true to God in serving him Job did not understand why such terrible things happened to an upright man like him. In his anguish he only cried unto the Lord and remained blameless till the end.

Then God gave Job a special revelation of himself showing Job all that he made and by way of series of questions asked Job if he could fathom the mystery behind all that God had made. Job could do nothing but repent in dust and ashes and said that he spoke of things, which he did not understand, and God's creation was too wonderful to know.

In this way Job had the knowledge of God after his faith went through the furnace of immense trials and suffering. God was so pleased with Job that he blessed and restored him all that he had lost and gave him much more. The life of Job is an illustration of how God provides and protects his people, when they trust him. May God help us to trust him in all circumstances of our life, Amen!

Life Application:

1. What is the will of God for his creation including us?
2. What does it mean to seek the kingdom of God?
3. What is the truth that the life of Job illustrates?

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