SAVORING SCIENCE

Mr. Faber's contemplation of the works of God on the second and third days of Creation-week he shares with us in two separate "musings." They were intended no doubt to be for two separate issues; but, for the close relationship of the content, we'll take the liberty of including the two of them in one.

Our hope is that his continued wondering will inspire us, his readers, to do the same. For, though the works of God's hands are most emphatically beyond our ***comprehension****, they are intended for our serious* ***consideration****, in order that, when we give them that, we might exclaim with the psalmist, "O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" and "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" (Psalm 8).*

Musings

John M. Faber

. . . while I was musing the fire burned (Ps. 39:3).

While I was a-musing about the story of God's work on the second and third days of creation I realized that I could understand the words, but I could not comprehend the meaning thereof. God said that He made a firmament. I can somewhat comprehend that because I can see it. That is, I can see the blue of the sky; and I know that the sky is all the space around the earth. Space! But then I wondered if it were an endless space. My thinking said that it must have an end. But I mused that it could really be unmeasurable because its Creator is unmeasurable. But, whatever; I'll never travel in space to learn if it has an end and my space ship could fall over the edge; I don't know.

Then I wondered the need for it. I realized that God's Word told of the primary reason for that firmament. It was to separate the waters above the firmament from the waters below it. Those two bodies of water were the original waters of creation. The lower half I can comprehend for I can see those. I can plainly see the beautiful clouds, the sparkling rivers and lakes, and the mighty oceans. They all belong to that "below"

category. But the waters *above?* Were they those waters that came down to make the Great Flood that covered the earth to destroy it in Noah's time? The apostle Peter must have mused about that, too; but the Holy Spirit taught him to write that the earth was standing in the water, and out of the water. That should make it clear. Or does it? Maybe some theology professor has a head smart enough to understand it. But my head is in a whirl. It is all mystery to me. Then I remembered that the writer to the Hebrews told me that I can understand it *by faith.* Good! Now I can stop bothering my thinking about that. What a relief! I don't even know why the sky is blue!

I further mused that the Creator was thinking about a future home for a future people. So He invented dry land on which they could live. Then I wondered how He did that. Well, He commanded and part of the round earth rose and part sank below sea-level. Then I wondered about the difference between a human inventor and the Almighty Inventor. Men-inventors need materials to think about, and to work with, to make an invention become real. But God has only to speak and His inventions become reality. Then I mused about the function of that dry land. God knew! He spoke to the dry land and He caused it to bring forth. So it did. It brought forth. It brought forth all kinds of plants — the whole vegetable world of cabbages, cauliflower, cucumbers, lettuce, spinach, and potatoes, as well as bushes of beauty like roses and lilacs. He also at that time caused the earth to bring forth the large plants like the sycamore, the elm, the oak, and the tall palm trees. Then I mused that God knew what He was doing. He was planning for that future mankind that they might have food from the vegetables and the fruit trees. I cannot imagine a world without peaches, plums, and pineapples! And I considered all the various wood-bearing trees, so that His people might have wood for fuel, for furniture-making, and for bridge-building. I can see that now, looking back; but God saw that, looking ahead!

Then I thought of God making the earth capable of growing thorns and thistles. Of course He did. His eternal plan included the Fall of man and man's redemption. It included the curse; and on the background of that curse He planned a New Earth on which His People would dwell eternally.

Oh God, how great Thou art!

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Yesterday when I was musing about the creation of the plant world, I thought that it must have taken God a long while to make

so very many plants. Foolishly I wondered if God had to say "tree" a thousand times for a thousand trees to come forth. Then, to add to that confusion, I thought that there were thousands of *each* kind of fruit tree and of each kind of trees of the wood like elm and ash. But I was thinking wrong about "how long" did it take. Long, in this case, is a period of time. And then I mused correctly that God is not *in* time; He needs no time; He doesn't even take time to do something. Then I wondered if He "thought them up" in His mind, and said, "Let there be trees like I have in mind." Something like when He said, "Let there be light."

Then I thought of the time when Jesus needed no time to "create" bread and fish to feed five thousand hungry people. At Jesus' time it took a whole summer to raise wheat, and a couple of hours to grind and bake it; and it took a couple of years to grow fish big enough to eat. But our Lord did it in a moment. Then I thought that if I had been there when God was creating all that wheat and fish I would not have seen a thing. I can imagine that Peter was watching Jesus quite carefully when all those broken pieces of bread and fish kept coming from His fingers. Peter could not see a thing! Of course, no one could detect such miraculous doings; that's why it is called a wonder.

Then I mused about that special plot of ground called the Garden of Eden. There God planned the best of temperature, the best of humidity, the best soil for growth. There every branch and twig and blossom were designed to reveal God's love for the man He was to place there as king of creation. That Garden was specifically designed for the complete comfort and the daily sustenance for that man that was to live there. The garden paths were just right for that man to walk with God in the cool of the day in perfect fellowship!

I further mused that I cannot even remotely imagine the pristine beauty of the grass, the varied colors of the flower beds, the aroma of the roses beside the path! But if I, who live in this sin-cursed world, can find such beauty and sensuous pleasure in the present time, then that original, fresh-from-the-Hand-of-God plant and flower garden must be unimaginable in my feeble mind.

Then I thought that while God was creating "living things" on the Third Day He was anticipating the "living creatures" that He would make on the Fifth and Sixth Day. The whole plant world was being readied for the creature world – food for worms

and insects, to the leaves on the topmost branches of the Eucalyptus tree which were for the long-necked giraffes to forage, natural food for all animals until some of them would eat one another. Then I mused that that natural order would again be restored in the New Earth when, as Isaiah saw in a vision, the wolf shall lie down with the lamb and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

Musing on such foreknowledge, such insight, such preparedness, such "seeing ahead" as He was providing for the coming life, from bugs to slugs, from frogs to snakes, from animals to man, is too much for me to grasp!

Oh God, how great Thou art!

Dear Miss Koole,

We're happy to have, already, a couple of questions for Miss Koole. We remind you all that this rubric is for ***you.*** *If you have any education-related questions you'd like answered, or issues addressed, direct them to:*

Dear Miss Koole
2068 Cranbrook Dr. N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

Deadline for next issue is June 1.

QUESTION 1:

From a colleague comes the following question: "There seems to be a growing conviction in some quarters that the school year in our country is too short — at least when compared to that of other countries, the students in which are reportedly outdistancing their counterparts in the U.S. in a manner most disturbing to Congressmen, columnists, and school administrators. What do you think, Miss Koole, is that an undue emphasis on academic achievement? Or is it a legitimate concern? And if it is the latter, should we as Christian schools be studying it and taking action of some kind on our own, or should we let the public schools modify the length of their school day and/or year and then simply follow suit (as we are expected to do)?"

ANSWER:

Recently I viewed a short segment on education in Japan. It appalled me. Education in Japan is made a god. From earliest childhood, education is