

Sermon to the Saints which are at Topeka, Kansas, Sunday, December 6, 2015.

If they only knew the stakes. Sometimes, my friends here in this house this morning, I feel a near-stifling sense of sorrow when I contemplate how far this generation has gone from a proper, scriptural view of the God of Creation. The God to whom we present our bodies each day **"a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [our rational] service."** (Romans 12:1) To say that they **"have deeply corrupted themselves"** (Hosea 9:9) seems an elementary-level understatement, when they have most evidently run the course from Romans 1:21:

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." (Romans 1:21)

to the morally-desperate condition that makes them in God's declared view **"worthy of death"** (Romans 8:32):

"Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:" (Romans 1:29-31)

A more appropriate -- if not **too** kind -- description of our generation would be difficult to articulate; and increasingly they make it their business to advertise that they have no shame in it. They gleefully raise succeeding generations to only increase in these bitterly-wicked attributes. I was walking and talking with brother Chris earlier this week, and in our conversation about the chronically wicked nature of this generation it crystallized for me that they are forced to redefine English words just to frame a life that they can pretend is worth living.

If they only knew the stakes, I say.

By the mercies of our King, we have been given a firm grasp on what is the nature of our God, as it is impressed upon our hearts:

"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;" (2 Corinthians 5:11)

We know, chiefly, that we have no business articulating characteristics of this Great Creator and Judge that are not presented for our consideration in Holy Writ.

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isaiah 8:20)

and

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

(Revelation 22:18-19)

We don't care about the infidelity of every human being from Cain to the last crusty little demonized soul who walks the earth -- we believe in the divine inspiration of the Scripture -- and that not one jot or tittle will change, though the heaven and earth pass away. We would not dare meddle with it carelessly or openly declare any part of it unworthy of our sincerest and most disciplined attention. Even though we are instructed plainly that:

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world." (Psalm 19:1-4)

... we know certainly that we do not get to take glimpses of this amazing witness of His glory and make from those glimpses theories that belittle Him, shorten His arm, or deny His sovereignty or worse; His existence! Yet, we live in a generation that has made it the norm ... even among those who pretend to Christianity ... to do so.

"Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth [e.g., Mother Nature, evolution, etc.], even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion. When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures. Every man is brutish in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them. They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish." (Jeremiah 10:11-15)

This passage out of Jeremiah chapter 10 is just one slice of a multi-faceted, multi-layered cake of deliciousness about the way the unregenerate human treats the grander elements of God's creation; and it includes this specific caution to us: ***"[B]e not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them."*** (Jeremiah 10:2)

This blindness-turned-arrogance is the subject matter of my sermon. It is now so common in our generation, we see the "theories" of astrological, geological, and anthropological evolution are taught as proven fact -- though they are nothing more than the irrational flailing-about of men about whom it is written:

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (2 Corinthians 4:4)

The subject matter of the mystery of the gospel is necessarily and eternally wrapped up with the subject matters of astronomy, geology, and anthropology -- and any other sub-part of these or related disciplines. More importantly, for those who have this firm hope that Christ will soon return, we must have a strong and working understanding of what is actually going on with regard to these natural subjects, so that we may fulfill our profound duty to be:

"Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat". (2 Peter 3:12)

That word there "hasting" is to paint the picture of a person who is feverishly going after a matter knowing that time is of the essence to bring the matter to preparatory conclusion. We're not passively waiting for the end to come ... we're hastening unto it, with full anticipation of an imminent conclusion -- so that we need not to fear ***"that that day should overtake you as a thief."*** (1 Thessalonians 5:4).

Without a working understanding of God's creation -- and His working in that creation -- you cannot have a full and working grasp of the gospel, or of the necessary doctrine of Christ's triumphant return! God's creation -- as much as God's providence -- serves in the symphony of His Works that declare His glory -- every day; all day! This is God's creation, and we are God's chosen and happy servants. Therefore, we should not be content to let Satan take from our hearts and minds a proper view of that creation, or what has been prepared. The outcome -- the issue -- the resolution of the natural world, as Scripture directly instructs, is wrapped up with the pronouncement of our redemption!

"For the earnest expectation of the [creation] waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the [creation] was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the [creation] itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." (Romans 8:19-23)

With such certain knowledge, we need to understand what it is we should say about this assault -- this subjection to mankind's pernicious vanity -- upon God's creation when infidels march across the world stage with loud lies about that glorious work! We need to own and proclaim the truth of it, and the truth of its interrelation to our much anticipated redemption when the seals begin to be ripped from the book in Revelation six.

The timing is quite appropriate for a renewed focus on the glories of how God simultaneously works in His natural creation to fret the arrogant, bewildered masses and sends the perpetual increases in

knowledge of some aspects of that creation, so that they find themselves **"dismayed at them."** (**Jeremiah 10:2**). The 2015 United Nations Conference on Climate Change, being held this year in Paris, France began November 30th -- and is scheduled to culminate in the 21st annual Conference of Parties (COP) meeting tomorrow and Tuesday at the very site of the bombings that took place on November 13th ... the *Stade de France*. The framework for action, this array of heavyweights in international affairs, -- with bloviating, blowhard Obama in the thick of it -- is proclaimed to be aimed at "stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to avoid 'dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.'"

They take themselves quite seriously. This subject of climate change is increasingly galvanizing the attention and resources of the world's powers. As their glimpse of God's amazing works testifies of how their demise will unfold, they do what all heretics in the history of this doomed race have done:

"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:4)

Whether they call it "climate change" or tag it with some other identifier so that it fits more with this or that world view about how to frame this coming trauma -- no human taking even a cursory interest in their surroundings can dispute that something cataclysmic is on the horizon. Neither can they dispute that it is going to occur in the natural world that all of humanity has taken for granted as being a blessing owed them by the Creator. "Climate change" ... for purposes of focusing our energy on this day ... will do. By that name, the subject matter has been extensively studied and written about. Much of it is junk science designed to drive hysterical political and social action. Much is made, in today's media, about the demonstrable fact that what were once outlier weather and geological events are increasingly commonplace and/or are cropping up in locations never before seen at times never before experienced. As we finish up this year, it is already being hailed as likely to be the hottest on record; making the ten hottest years on record to have occurred since 2003.

Hysteria aside, I wanted to see if there was any purely scientific compilation of information that can be consumed by a person of average intelligence, so that I might find what there was by means of concrete understanding of things beneath the hype. I found a work that was published in 2009, titled "Climate Change: Observed Impacts on Planet Earth". This work has contributions from 43 notable scientists from across the globe; 14 of whom are from this nation. Of those Americans contributing -- interestingly -- five are from Kansas State University. That alone should make us want to go there to pronounce God's Word on this subject matter.

After bringing to bear all of this human wisdom on the subject of climate change -- including Sahara-dry droning through tedious study results, tables, and equations that numb the average mind -- a somewhat congealed conclusion is drafted. It goes like this (picture a stuffy, cardigan-wearing, pipe-smoking bearded fellow who looks as though he's had one too many joints -- or pints):

*"The history of Earth's climate system, as deduced from forensic examination of strata, has shown a general very long-term stability, which has **probably** been maintained by a complex interaction between the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere and lithosphere. Superimposed on this overall stability has been a variety of climate perturbations on timescales ranging from multi-million year to sub-decadal, **inferred to have been driven**, amongst others, by variations in paleogeography, greenhouse gas concentrations, astronomically forced insolation and inter-regional heat transport. Current anthropogenic changes to the Earth system, particularly as regards changes to the carbon cycle, are geologically significant. Their effects may likely include the onset of climate conditions of broadly pre-Quaternary style such as those of the 'mid-Pliocene warm period', with higher temperatures (particularly at high latitudes), substantially reduced polar ice cover, and modified precipitation and biotic patterns."*

There you have it. The considered wisdom of the world's scientific masters -- with the full battery of hundreds of billions of dollars worth of equipment and resources to conduct research and attract the best thinkers in every field to engage in the design, application, and interpretation of that research. These aren't the loopy-goopy, "I took a class on science so now I know everything" kids making these statements; they're the heavy weights in the specialties that presently stand on the shoulders of past scientific giants to present to the world the considered wisdom of it all. And they're left with the need to use words like "probably" and "inferred" when they want everyone to believe that the words "demonstrated" and "proven" would fit in those sentences just as nicely.

To be clear, I have no problem with the science that underpins the discussions about what is happening in our world and the heavens surrounding it. Much of the book's work is in articulating actual information about those parts of the creation that bear on the climate conditions, including:

- The role of atmospheric (greenhouse) gases. The ability of this frail planet to sustain life is certainly impacted by the amount of various distinct gases in the atmosphere. If the balance -- not just the volume -- of each gas within our atmosphere gets too far outside acceptable parameters, a chain reaction is set off that can lead to what humans consider unacceptable consequences because the earth becomes less hospitable to -- and eventually incapable of sustaining -- human life.

"He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasures." (Psalms 135:7)

These **vapors** -- whether anthropogenic (human created), hydrospheric (from the water on and above the earth's surface), or lithospheric (from the earth's surface) -- are under the intimate and infinitesimal governance of the Creator. He directs the thoughts and actions of all mankind, and he directs and sustains all of the creation likewise.

- The role of widespread surface solar radiation trends. The sun radiates heat into the atmosphere which has more or less impact on the surface temperature, based upon what exists in the atmosphere to either allow the heat to escape back upward (making us too cold) or be trapped (making us too hot). Again, if this does not stay in proper balance, the earth becomes less hospitable to -- and eventually incapable of sustaining -- human life.

***"The day is thine, the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun. Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter."* (Psalms 74:16-17)**

That word "prepared" includes both the creation and placement ... as well as the sending forth of the thing prepared to do its assigned work. God directs every aspect of this great star of heaven, in its work in relationship to the earth ... further borne out in its participation in the great seasons.

- The role of space weather and cosmic ray effects. The movement of objects in outer space (what Scripture regards as the second heaven), space dust, and the ebb and flow of the life of planets and stars, has a measurable impact on the capacity of the earth's atmosphere to absorb and dispense with heat. If this impact goes beyond safe parameters, it can result in the earth becoming less hospitable to -- and eventually incapable of sustaining -- human life.

***"Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?"* (Job 38:31-33)**

In His inquisition directed at Job, God Almighty declares his authority not only over the bodies and constellations inhabiting the second heaven ... but specifically in how those bodies exercise influence and even dominion vis-a-vis the earth and her inhabitants.

- The role of volcanic activity. As we have seen some examples of in our lifetimes, a major volcanic explosion can have a dramatic impact on the atmosphere. Though the acute effects of volcanic eruptions are typically short-lived, scientists have measured the longer term "lingering" effects and have determined that if there were to be sufficient numbers of volcanic eruptions, it would impact the capacity of the earth's atmosphere to let heat in (in some instances) and release heat (in other instances) ... and therefore can result in the earth becoming less hospitable to -- and eventually incapable of sustaining -- human life.

***"For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains."* (Deuteronomy 32:22)**

and

***"And the mountains shall be molten under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire, and as the waters that are poured down a steep place."* (Micah 1:4)**

These two exemplary passages expressing the use of volcanic activity by an avenging God ... the second of which is eschatological ... demonstrates that this unique work of God is very much under His command to make use of in smiting the inhabitants of the earth who are in rebellion. Brother John provided us an exhaustive examination of this work of God just a few weeks ago ... of which work volcanic events are a small part.

- The role of variations of the earth's orbital characteristics. As the earth orbits the sun -- and the sun orbits the spinning earth -- there are heating and cooling impacts on different parts of the earth's surface. If these patterns stay predictable, the earth's heating up and cooling down will balance out over long periods and all is well. If the patterns vary -- whether over decades or centuries -- it can knock the heating/cooling balance out and theoretically result in the earth becoming less hospitable to -- and eventually incapable of sustaining -- human life.

"His [the sun's] going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof." (Psalms 19:6)

What sunlight, darkness, heat and cold this inhabited planet obtains from the sun is under the executive governance of our King, who is Himself the efficient source of all light as ***"the Sun of righteousness"*** (Malachi 4:2)

This isn't a science class. These are very broad descriptions of these variables, as the scientists who were collected together identified and exhaustively analyzed in the text book I referenced. I'm setting them out here, because these form the circuit of knowledge that the human race has accumulated regarding the natural world -- specifically as it relates to how God has determined, from that day when in His wisdom He ***"created the heaven and the earth"*** (Genesis 1:1) that He will bring that created earth to the days we have often read these words about:

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (2 Peter 3:10)

Pause here for a moment if you will, my sweet friends. Why do we care about these subject matters? Why don't we just let those who would spend their nations' wealth pursuing more detailed knowledge about the earth, the atmosphere, the heavens and the interplay between these and the things that make up and inhabit them? What great theological matter is at issue here in this time -- of all times?

For many years I have been passionately drawn to the words in Revelation about the descriptors of the four beasts -- or living creatures in Ezekiel. I have stood in this pulpit and given some substantial attention to the matter in hopes of generating an equal passion in all of you to have an ever-clearer understanding of them. Chiefly because I believe there is considerable evidence that at least some of those in this house today ***will be them*** ... if not everyone here today.

"[A]nd in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind ... and they were full of eyes within". (Revelation 4:6, 8)

Historical, temporal, personal, and eschatological perspicacity! They know where this doomed creation has been, what is going on at present, what their distinct responsibility is, and where it is all going to end -- all to the purpose of glorifying the King of Eternity in their hearts and on their lips!

"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2 Peter 3:11-13)

This isn't the picture of passive, ho-hum, plodding along with vague concepts of something coming -- this is engagement to ensure that our manner of life distinguishes that we know that God is the only true and living God and that he has prepared this heaven and earth for a certain end! It is precisely this point that is in controversy in the last days, as this same passage of Peter reminds us:

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." (2 Peter 3:3-4)

What is this that they're saying to us in their lust-addled, institutionalized mocking? Is it not that the increasing indicators that the promised fiery dissolution of all the elemental fabric of this creation is a farce ... a scam ... a sham -- the utterances of ignorant men and women who have simply forced their own intellectual developments in strict adherence to an ancient book? Is it not that hundreds of thousands ... millions ... even billions of years of accidental evolution is merely being temporarily accentuated by thoughtless inhabitants who need to evolve further -- into a more earth-cohabitating disposition -- or risk becoming extinct as the heavens and earth dispose of the annoyance through global warming? Is it not that science forces us to remove any notion of a God of Judgment who has promised to return and dispose of His created earth and heaven in a violent resolution of the Quarrel of the Covenant?

And what are we to say when this issue is joined? Are we simply to reiterate -- without fleshing the matter to full -- the statement in the context:

"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." (2 Peter 3:5-7)

Of course they are willingly ignorant ... but should we be? Should we not be able to competently answer their arguments which are the very picture of **"profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called"** (1 Timothy 6:20)? I believe it is our duty both to work at having a conversant understanding of what is going on in this regard, and a clear and articulate position on the matter that glorifies the God of creation and binds this generation to the certain knowledge of that Bible-based position.

"He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing. He bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds; and the cloud is not rent under them. He holdeth back the face of his throne, and spreadeth his cloud upon it. He hath compassed the waters with bounds, until the day and night come to an end. The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at his reproof. He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud. By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent. Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?" (Job 26:6-14)

I don't believe a responsible soul should ever go to feast on the words of this book of Job without spending some time reading the exposition of Joseph Caryl. For any here who have not heard of this expositor, I want to remind you that Joseph Caryl spent a full 20 years expounding this little 42-short-chapter book of Scripture. In most instances, when you read his exposition of a passage you have likely had access to nearly every verse of Scripture that substantively bears on the same subject matter; it is just so exhaustive. What he says in exposition of this speech of Job -- in his response to Bildad's second and last speech to him -- is very helpful for the general understanding of God's work in the creation and administration of the natural world. It's too voluminous to quote here, but I recommend it highly.

This passage makes clear that no man is given more than a **part** or **little portion** of an understanding of God's ways in the creation. This is borne out by considering that while hundreds of billions of dollars have been poured into man's search for greater knowledge of God's universe, they have barely learned anything for certain. Much of their writings are admittedly "theory", because the creation is so expansive and so multi-faceted that each new discovery raises more evidence of how little they know, or can learn, than it actually provides them any significant answers; for they're truly **"ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."** (2 Timothy 3:7) as it pertains to these wonders.

There are things we have been plainly told about the full expanse of the creation, and those things we should not only know, but trumpet aloud to give God the glory. I have articulated a good many of those verses in this sermon; in the context of discussing His power and glories and of science properly termed. And while there are no doubt many more perspectives His creation -- both the subject and the act -- can be viewed from, I want to discuss two that I believe are relevant to our time and what we see happening in the earth and among her inhabitants.

First, let us consider the use God makes of His creation in the help and defense of his elect. We know that the natural wonders of the heavens and seas were made weapons to protect the escaping Israelites being pursued by Pharaoh's army:

"The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire. Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them. Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils." (Psalms 18:13-15)

And we see an amazing interaction between the stars and the earth's atmospheric perturbations in the warfare God's people had with Sisera, to wit:

"And the LORD discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet." (Judges 4:15)

Of which the expositors say of this discomfiting: " Frightened them, as the Septuagint and Vulgate Latin versions, or disturbed them with a noise and tumult, as the word signifies; with a noise in the heavens, ... there was a great tempest of rain and hail, and the wind blew the rain in their faces, which so blinded their eyes, that their slings and arrows were of no use to them; and they that bore armour were so benumbed, that they could not hold their swords. Something of this kind is intimated by Deborah in her song, (Judges 5:20); and this was accompanied or followed by a slaughter". And we know very well this lovely expression of divine truth:

"They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera." (Judges 5:19)

There are many more the like examples of God's movements in the natural world to terrify and defeat the enemies of His people or to stay them in their course of mischief. Though we may not know or fully conceive of it, the same is done in our very day, though we may not fully know or conceive of it.

The use of His dominion over the movement of "vapors" through the earth's atmosphere -- and indeed the very stars -- is also demonstrated to be for the shoring up of the faith of God's servants under distress. Remember the assurances given to King Hezekiah, and how it was that he was made confident in them:

"And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees. And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz." (2 Kings 20:9-11)

and

"Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said. And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water." (Judges 6:37-38)

We know there are many more such instances of God's use of His natural creation whereby He strengthens the hope and faith of His elect, without the need for me to continue itemizing them here today. But you should everyone make it your work to find them ... study them ... rejoice in them, because such things are not secondary uses of God's creation. These animate and inanimate -- intelligent and unintelligent -- parts of creation are here to provide His saints with what they need ... when they need it ... how they need it, so they can complete their individual courses with joy.

I'm not in fantasy land here. Just as the ebb and flow of human affairs works inexorably toward the final restitution of all things, the ebb and flow of heavenly and earthly creation works inexorably toward the final restitution of all things. I quoted earlier that passage that tells us that the whole creation ***"groaneth and travaileth"*** awaiting ***"the manifestation of the sons of God "*** (Romans 8:19, 22). But when you tie that passage -- and what it imports (i.e., ***"the redemption of our body. " v. 23)*** to this glorious picture when it comes time for our Redeeming Lamb to open the book of redemption and declare who are his -- the sight is thrilling! After Christ is identified as the lamb that has exclusive power to open the book and reveal its contents, all of the preferred animate, intelligent parts of the creation (i.e., elect angels, elders, elect saints and the four beasts) give glory to Him. **After that** it says:

"And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." (Revelation 6:13)

That word "creature" is the same root word that is found in Romans -- the very creation that has long for and patiently waited for this glorious period when the restitution of all things is imminent and He that will effectuate it has taken the stage.

So I say again ... as I begun this sermon ... if they only knew the stakes. This creation is our creation. This creation is at work defending, encouraging, testifying to, and aching for our redemption at the hands of our shared Creator. Faithless souls who can only see a scratching of it -- as with so many of the beautiful attributes of our God -- belittle it and deign to define and direct it! Just as our faith is not bound by their infidelity, our love for and understanding of God's amazing works in his natural creation should not be bound.

In fact ... as our Saviour Himself testifies ... what little they are given to know and understand about the natural creation, is given to bind them and condemn them. In His time in the earth, he had this brief colloquy with the Pharisees and Sadducees:

"The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" (Matthew 16:1-3)

Then he was chastising those arrogant, faithless brutes for being able to see the simplest things in the natural creation, but completely blinded to the capacity to see that Christ was the fulfillment of many prophecies those troglodytes pretended to be conversant in. How much the greater condemnation of this generation? They have made comprehensive science -- and propped themselves up as having great command of the history of the natural world -- yet they are utterly blind to the plainest writings and preachments of God's servants about the import of both natural and human events as harbingers of His final return in power and the resetting of all the natural order:

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." (2 Peter 3:7)

God hates Mother Nature, and every entity who loves and praises and worships her. We are in Him of whom it is written:

"[B]y him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: " (Colossians 1:16)

We therefore have an affirmative duty to own this and preach this and praise His name because it is key to our very redemption!

"For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. " (Hebrews 2:10)

This is only the beginning of your education on the import of this subject. I hope I have helped you and given edification for your work toward that final day to which we all look. I love you all. Amen.