

Creation Sings...

...that's it, that's the title! Are you missing something? NO. NASA has recently found that each planet has a unique 'sound'...really it is a unique signature of electromagnetic radiation from which we 'make' sounds. OK, so it's not quite singing! The Bible also tells us that each star is unique and different in substance (There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory...1 Cor 15v41). And more than that, "morning stars all sang together..." Job 38v7. We see that all of God's creation is unique, and different in its purpose and glory. We are uniquely created in the image of His Son and our glory differs from His, but HE cares for us 1Pet 5v7. An old hymn [OK, a very old hymn] begins "why should I feel discouraged?/...I sing because I'm happy/I sing because I'm free/ His eye is on the sparrow/and I know He cares for me". Often we don't feel happy but we can still be joyful. "How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality" 2 Cor 8v2. At times God allows us to be tested to 'prove' us in a metallurgical sense. In a previous article "Creations sings...His Beauty" - I wrote about the leaves changing colours, where the 'green' chlorophyll is progressively removed leaving the yellow and oranges of the carotenoids giving us our vivid autumnal colours. Likewise sometimes God allows things in our lives to be removed to let other qualities shine through. He says "My Grace is sufficient..." even if we encounter the trials on the scale of Job who lost his wealth, and his family. Eventually his health was stripped away too, yet he was able to say "though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" and "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord".

But, we know that God works in cycles: just as springtime and harvest, summer and winter shall not cease – the leaves though they fall off...will grow again in spring! When you inevitably "walk through the valley of the shadow..." there will be an end to it or you will walk up the other side of the mountain, out of that valley and back into the light/sunshine. Job's health, wealth and family were all restored and increased! Although firstly creation was perfect, yet because of sin it was cursed, and now all "creation groaneth and travaileth in pain" Rom 8v22 but (v21) "...the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God". A new heaven and a new earth, the lion shall lie with the lamb – what a glorious time that will be. If we see the handiwork of God in this fallen creation then how much more glorious will it be when we see it no more "through a glass darkly". Creation groans together but it has a hope! If we are in a place where we are similarly experiencing a 'common calamity' (groaning) will our friends/family/church groan with us too but point us to that "Blessed Hope..." Titus 2v13? God cares for us so much that even a sparrow does not fall to the earth without His knowledge – do you think He doesn't know or care about you/me? HE CARES. In His time He will make all things new – He demonstrates this in the seasons, the water cycle, the nitrogen cycle – He renews; nothing (even a trial) is wasted in His economy. It may follow His withdrawal of something to enable something else in your life – to challenge you and encourage growth or it may even

be after dying like the seed...so that something hindering your growth is cut off or put to death as far as your walk with God is concerned – but the end is RENEWAL...REVIVAL!

So, let us join with creation and sing His praise. Some of us can physically sing like nightingales ...others of us are more like crows or 'gales in the night' but let us make a "joyful noise" (Ps 66v1) for if we don't...the stones will! Luke 19v40 "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out".

Praise the Lord! - Command or 'only if you really feel like it'? Discuss...