

God Is: Trinity
God Speaks: Revelation
God Creates: Creation
God Loves: Anthropology

This Week's Big Question: What Has God Done?

Revelation 4:11

O Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory honour and power because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.

Two years ago, our family experienced a holiday like no other when we explored the centre of Australia, thanks to the encouragement of some great friends. One of our first stops was Simpsons Gap. The adults and kids alike were struck by the natural beauty that this place displayed. The deep rich red of the dirt and rockfaces, towering cliffs which hugged the waterhole reflecting the bright blue sky, which contrasting with the thick sand and the stark white trunks of the snow gums growing out of the rocks. There was a stillness, a peace that seemed to command us to be slow, still and quiet. It is good and right to stand in awe of what God has made, creation bears witness to Gods supreme and awesome power as Creator. Yet in Revelation 4:11 we are reminded that it is God himself who is worthy of glory, honour and power. Because he created all things by his will.

I've been thinking that it is easy to be thankful to God, as it is often in response to our circumstances. However, I wonder if it is less natural for us to Praise God, as this requires a different posture, one that seeks to acknowledges WHO he is, his divine power, and his ability to sustain creation which deserves our worship. The power of God to make something from nothing gives great meaning and purpose to us as his created beings but also has the unique purpose of pointing us to our Creator and to give him praise.

The early hearers of this passage were being challenged to not worship the earthly rulers of the day, such as Caesar, noting that glory and honour is misdirected to earthly created beings. The magnificence and power of God declares he alone is worthy of worship. For us now, we too are reminded of the objects of our affection, those things that can often take the place of God and where our worship ought to be directed. God alone deserves our worship and praise. When we recognise God for who he is, what he has done and continues to do, this should cause our perspective to shift and praise and worship will be a natural response to the God that made the world and everything in it.

The picture we get just before these verses is of God being worshipped in heaven, a glimpse into the reality that is for every believer that we will share in the unique purpose for which we were created, to honour, praise and worship our Creator. As you consider the wonder and supreme power of our Creator and sustainer, may it move you to give him glory, honour and power.

THREE QUESTIONS

As humans, why are we tempted to forget that God is the creator and sustainer of life?
What is one area in your life that you need to be reminded that God in control?
How might you grow in awe of God and your love for him this week?

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Bake and decorate a cake. Chat about the similarities and differences between your creation and God's creation.
Everything A Child Should Know About God: Part 2
The-Ology: Chapters 6-11
PTC Course: Old Testament 1

LIVING AND ACTIVE PRAYER

Gracious Father,
You have saved us with a wonderful and powerful salvation.
Your Word is living and active. Today, we have heard you speak,
So help us to not harden our hearts but to live it out.
Forgive our failures, renew our wills, awaken our joy, and transform our lives.
Make our faith living and active.
In the name of your Son and by your Spirit, Amen

Tuesday: Colossians 1:16

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

How does this verse give us greater insight to the purpose of creation, and human life?

Wednesday: Mark 4:35-41

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

How does this episode enlarge our view of Jesus, and grow our love for him?

Thursday: Romans 8:20-23

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

How do these verses widen our view of redemption and cultivate a longing for the return of Jesus?

Friday: Revelation 1:1-4

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

What does it look like to live today, shaped by this promise?