

From the Pulpit of the Japanese Baptist Church of North Texas
January 22, 2017

The God of Creation

Psalm 33:6-9

33:6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

33:7 He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses.

33:8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

33:9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

We are spending a season after Christmas, called “Epiphany”. This season starts the day the wisemen visited and worshiped infant Jesus, and go through the childhood, baptism and public ministries of Jesus. Then, our Baptist Sunday School textbook is teaching us the ministries and teachings of Jesus Christ in this season. This year, the Lent begins on March 1st, and we celebrate the Easter on April 16th. In Epiphany, we shall remember the blessing which God shows us through Jesus Christ, and in Lent, we meditate the work of atonement which is in the passion of Jesus Christ.

The Bible says about Jesus Christ “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14) and Jesus himself said “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9) God shows himself greatly in Jesus Christ, and the greatest love of God is shown in the work of atonement by the cross. However, God has been showing himself before he sent us his

Son Jesus. Those are the works of creation and providence. In order to understand the work of atonement well in Lent season, let us learn God's works of creation and providence in the following Sundays.

God's work of creation is the base and starting point of our faith. I might use some mathematical terms but please find that science do not deny the word of God. Science actually proves that the word of God is true.

1. Origin of the Universe

According to Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." Also in Romans 1:20, "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made." Everything on the earth has been created by God, and it tells you that there is God and God is full of wisdom and power.

There are several theories how this world has been created, and the most common one is "Big Bang" theory. Before this theory was introduced, there were no beginning and end of the universe, and it had been believed that the universe is always the same and forever. This is called "steady state cosmology". The Big Bang theory is that the origin of universe is compressed atomic nuclear, and the size was same as the golf ball. It was exploded and became this universe after 13.8 billion years.

"Big Bang" theory came from the observation and assumption that this universe has been expanding, and scientists think that this theory fits into various other physics theories. The people put the Big Bang

theory and evolution theory together and became to believe that the world and life begun as following: “The universe started by Big Bang. And life on earth start from some organic substances which containing nitrogen. The organic matter came from a chemical reaction of methane gas with ammonia, hydrogen in water. This organic matter became protein. From the protein, a simple life came. Then, the primitive life finally became human through the processes of evolution.” Then they believe that we don’t need to believe God since the world and human became to exist by themselves. God never exists.”

2. God as a Primary Cause

However, can the Big Bang theory or evolution deny God? The Big Bang and evolution are theories. As the resolution of astronomical observation device has improved, people are finding various phenomena that cannot be explained only by the Big Bang theory, and people will find more of these eventually. As for evolution, there are many camps in the evolutionary biologists and some are finding the evidence refuting the previous evidence. No one has seen the beginning of universe or the origin of life. Moreover, we cannot reproduce it in a laboratory. Therefore, while we can say “it may be true” but we cannot say “it is definitely true” with 100% confidence. When we say “it may be true”, then the statement has to be supported by as many as evidences.

Pictures of anthropoid displayed in the museum are drawn with a few pieces of bones using imagination and some of them are more artistic than scientific. Science and scientific fictions are totally

different and we must carefully and fairly examine the phenomenon supporting the hypothesis and the one that cannot support the hypothesis. The new scientific discovery may overturn the dogma, so scientists have to be humble to the data.

Whatever theory you support regarding the universe or origin of life, they cannot fully explain the ultimate origin. According to the Big Bang theory, the beginning of universe is interpreted as a mass of atoms, but where did the atoms come from? Science cannot explain about it because it is beyond science. Science asks the composition of the nature but it does not reveal where it ultimately comes from.

But there is one thing that is necessary for science to exist. That is: the world we see, exists as a result of cause. If the result comes without cause, then it is not science but magic. Magicians take out a fruit from the empty box and makes dove come out from a hat. They say there is no hidden trick, but there are plenty of tricks. Likewise, there is an ultimate cause for the origin of this world, which is God.

Therefore, the ancient philosophers called God as a “primary cause”. A Child asks the mother “if I am born from you, then from who were you born?” Mother answers, “Mother’s mother, that is your grandma”. Then the child asks again, “From who was grandma born?” Mother answers, “From mother’s mother’s mother, your great grandma.” “From who was great-grandma born?” And questions and answers go on and on. In case of Japanese, they often put ancestors as their origin but according to the Bible, it refers to the first man, Adam, and God, who created Adam. Child may ask “then from who was God born?” but God is the “primary cause” and it cannot go back any further.

For all the science, “existence”, “movement” and “time” are prerequisite. In other words, it is logically constructed using “existence”, “movement” and “time” that are given by God. If science denies its “primary cause”, then it can not stand by its own. By connecting the Big Bang theory or evolution with atheism and insisting that “therefore there is no God” sounds unscientific. That is a religion called “atheism” which is camouflaged in the form of science.

3. Creation by Word

God called Himself “I am who I am.” God is the existence itself. This God gives others existence; and this is “creation.” The world and mankind are like “I am who I’m not” from the viewpoint of “I am who I am.” Regardless of how huge the space is, or how much knowledge and wisdom people have, their existence are just “accepted” by one and only “True Existence” and supported by Him.

Moreover, all things created by God indicate Him thorough their existence. God’s works are likewise the storyteller of God Himself. According to Psalm 19:2, it says, “Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.” Then, scientists heard the word, made formulas, and utilized chemical symbols. Sophists considers about it and established logic. Artists were touched by the “Beauty,” and recreated the impression into various forms. Here I introduce some of regularities in plants and shellfish; the leaves of clover and the flower of cosmos are created along the formula, $r = a \sin n\theta$, the spiral design of nautilus is $r = ke^{a\theta}$, and flower of sunflower

and pine cone have spirals same as nautilus, and they are designed in Fibonacci series.

Why could they speak about God like that? Because God created this world by “Word.” Psalm 33:6 sings, “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host,” and also verse 9 says, “For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.” “God’s Word achieved created things” so that they can speak about God’s Word.

Now, “created by Word,” suggests that God achieved them by wisdom. Animals have access of communication among certain biological species, like “word,” but no species but mankind have “word” in order to consider, establish logical thought, and create new. Only mankind was able to develop intellectuality, built uncountable things, created society, and even sophisticate their personality. Needless to say, God naturally own perfect wisdom and personality because He created the world by “His Word” and imparted it to mankind.

This world is just perfectly kept in shape and majestically created. It’s just amazing and we only could praise His wisdom that designed this and His power that actually formed it. Those who don’t accept His creation maintain coincidence. However, how “coincidence” creates something formed, or establishes regularity and order? “Doctrine of Evolution” insists that every living thing walked through the history of accidents and coincidences as same as atheists. Even though 4 billion years it has, it is just nonsense. Actual facts could be observed in nature tells us the designer behind the world who has wisdom and power.

God exists, speaks “Word,” and has enormous wisdom and power; created things eloquently testify this. We also have another word of God, in addition to the word of created things – in other words, the Bible, the direct speech from God to us. God who created the world by His word now forms the life of believers day and night through the Bible. We shall hear His word, because He loves to talk to us.

(Prayer)

Dear God, the Creator, You gave us existence and imparted Your words in us to support our existence. Please open our ears and let us listen to the word of creatures and the Bible. Also, let us be the storyteller of You more than any other creatures. In Lord Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.