

A few days ago I received a message on my mobile phone from Alice my 11 year old Granddaughter, which had been left at 7.40am it went something like this

“So do you want to ask Grandmum?”

Her 5 year old Sister, “Yes”

Alice, “alright ok go ahead then?”

Eleanor “Grandmum who made God?”

Heavy theology at five past eight in the morning, before my first cup of tea.

I rang her back and left a brief message with a promise to talk later when she was free.

It reminded me of the time when Alice and Eleanor's father aged about 4 or 5 asked, "Does God know about Father Christmas.

What is fact and what is fiction where do faith and fantasy meet or come into conflict. These wonderings lead on to deeper questions such as "Is scripture historically accurate or does its importance lie in that it conveys a theological truth which teaches us about the nature of God as it was revealed to humanity down the ages, culminating in the pinnacle of revelation in Jesus Christ?"

**Who made God?**

**The bible begins with a statement “In the beginning, God.”**

**We find it hard enough to imaging life happening without us.**

**Events taking place in a time before we were born when we didn’t exist. Let alone comprehend a time before anything existed.**

**Was it chance or design which brought our world into being and gave us life?**

**Down the centuries humanity has speculated, theorised and argued about how the world came into being. How do you think the world began?**

Darwin's theory of Evolution, the big bang theory, or perhaps you adhere to a literal acceptance of the creation story as told in Genesis.

But if we have any rudiment of faith there is somewhere in the depths of our minds and hearts an awareness that there is some higher being beyond our understanding, outside and our concept of time and space, who existed before the world began and who has always been there.

For me the importance of how creation came about is secondary to the who and for me the answer is summed up in the words "In the beginning God". Our first reading was the end part of an account of a great flood told in the book of Genesis.

It gives us a description of the first covenant relationship between God and humanity. Later we learn of different covenants made between God, and Abraham, God and Moses and God and David but this early covenant with Noah following the flood is no less significant for its simplicity.

Here is imbedded a great theological truth and sets the theme of the Golden thread which runs throughout Holy Scripture, God's Steadfast love. The love of the almighty omnipotent, omnipresent omniscient creator for his creation. It is a moment of revelation that this mighty other, who was before all things cares for the creation He made and promises to look after it.

For through God the creator's merciful and gracious action Noah emerges safely from the disastrous event of the God's judgement.

As the disastrous flood waters recede God makes a covenant with Noah assuring him that He would never again destroy the world by flood.

This signifies the dawn of a new beginning for humanity and its relationship with God its creator. "This new beginning is based not on human possibilities but on YHWH's Grace. Henceforth the regularities of nature, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night' – would continue uninterrupted as signs of God's covenant faithfulness"<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Bernard Anderson The Living World of the Old Testament 4<sup>th</sup> edition ©Longman 1988

As the new age begins God's blessing is repeated, but the covenant relationship requires that humanity acknowledges that God the creator is the ultimate giver and source of life, and humankind must recognise that we have a responsibility for the way in which we treat the world which is God's creation.

As Christians we give thanks to God for his gifts in creation and perhaps it might prompt us to think more closely about our stewardship of the environment and the damage which has already been done to it by the way we live in this postmodern western society.

We hear a lot about living more greenly with a greater care and awareness of the fragility of our ecosystem.

A couple of years after I moved into my parish in London the council decided that the local school building was no longer fit for purpose and agreed that it would be pulled down and a new building would be erected to replace it. It was to be a “green” school as it had been designed and I quote “in a sustainable way, using renewable sources and other energy efficient techniques. Controlled natural ventilation, a ground source heat pump, solar panels, and a wind turbine would reduce the building’s energy consumption.



It was to have a sedum roof, to encourage bio-diversity, whilst rainwater was also to be collected and re-used throughout the building.”

Once opened, the children in this new school building were taught from an early age the importance of conservation, and care of the environment.

Ecology includes not only how living things interact with each other, but how they interact with their physical environment: things such as climate and soil.

Yet

1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate water supplies,

**2.6 billion lack basic sanitation.**

**And Millions live at starvation level.**

**Have difficulty computing all those figures?**

**Here is a simple one for you to think about**

**“Every 3 seconds a child dies from extreme poverty.”**

**The natural resources of the world are not equally distributed. Exploitation and greed play a large part in the struggle for survival for many, people and countries. Lack of care for the environment also plays its part.**

Today we give thanks to God who created this world in which we live. But it should not stop there.

If we truly value what God has given us then we should take care of it and share it equally with all his people.

That may also mean looking at our own personal carbon footprint and actually seeing if there are ways in which we could reduce it to conserve the earth which we enjoy, for future generations.

“...Lord we pray with one accord  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords

**To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.”**