

Out of Reverence for God

1 Peter 2:11-3:22



Goldilocks Principle

"Too big...too small... just right"

How big a school
How big a company
How smart a teacher

How big is your God?

Psalm 19:1-4a

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse." Romans 1:20

Ancient & some current thought:

God equals nature

The Bible:

God is greater than nature

Psalm 19:4b-6

Psalm 19:7-9

Psalm 19:10-11

Psalm 19:12-14

General revelation: the created world

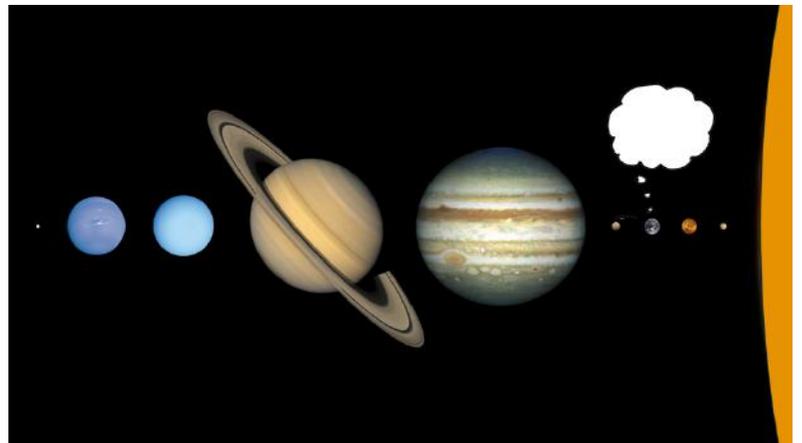
Elohim = God: generic name for God

Special revelation: God's message in human words

YHWH = Lord: personal name for God

Conversation on April 26: science and faith

How to relate general and special revelation



The Big Idea

Creation and God's Word reveal

His greatness
unfathomable
holy
glorious

What is a human being that you remember him,
a son of man that you look after him? Psalm 8:4

and His grace

astounding
loving
saving

Application

“For although they knew God,
> they neither **glorified him as God**
> nor **gave thanks to him**,
but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.” Romans 1:21

His greatness: Be in awe/glorify Him

Ever growing awareness of His greatness

Give Him praise

“I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court... it is the Lord who judges me.” 1 Corinthians 4:3-4

His grace: Rejoice/Give thanks

Life-giving world (creation)

Blessing us through His Word (God’s Words)

Stooping to explain to our minds

Great blessing in following His ways

Concern about the least part of our tiny lives

Salvation through Jesus’ sacrifice (the Word)

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Which error are you more likely to make: to ignore or fail to see the greatness of God?
Or to ignore or fail to see the grace and love of God for you and for each person?
2. What about the created world helps you more clearly see the greatness of God?
3. What practices help you to glorify God in His greatness?
4. What helps you truly recognize the wonder that Almighty God is also the LORD who knows your every thought and worry, and He wants to grow in relationship with you?
5. What practices help you to give thanks to God for His astounding grace?
6. Read Psalm 19:14 again: How might your thoughts and your communication (words and otherwise) give praise and thanks to God? What can you do to help others see more clearly the LORD, our Rock and our Redeemer?

Conversation starters

What do you love about the natural world? What does that tell you about the nature of the world?