

Beholding God in Creation

Long before temples, churches, and mosques there was nature—God’s great outdoor sanctuary. And long before written scripture, there was God’s first Word spoken in creation.



Reflections on Creation

Wisdom 1:13–14: “For God created all things so that they might exist; the generative forces of the world are wholesome.”

Wisdom 13:9: “For from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator.”

Job: “But turn to the animals and let them teach you; the birds of the air will tell you the truth. Listen to the plants of the earth, and learn from them” (Jb 12:7–8, Inclusive Bible).

Jesus: “Look at the birds of the air. . . . Consider the lilies of the field. . . .” (Mt 6:25–30). “From the fig tree learn its lesson” (Mt 24:32).

Paul: “Ever since the creation of the world [God’s] eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made” (Rom 1:20).

Saint Basil the Great, fourth-century early church father: “If you observe the heavens, says Scripture, their order will be a guide for you towards faith. They do in fact reveal the Artist who made them. If you then observe the beauty of the earth, it will help you to increase your faith . . . we have attained faith . . . because we have seen [God] with our minds, which perceive the Invisible by means of the visible. Look at a stone and notice that even a stone carries some mark of the Creator. It is the same with an ant, a bee, a mosquito. The wisdom of the Creator is revealed in the smallest creatures. It is God who has spread out the heavens and laid out the immensity of the seas. . . . All the objects in the world are an invitation to faith.”

Saint Bonaventure: “From the creation of the world the invisible attributes of God are clearly seen. . . . In all creatures you may see, hear, praise, love and worship God. . . . Every creature is by its nature a kind of effigy and likeness of the eternal Wisdom” (*Soul’s Journey to God*).

Hans Denck, Anabaptist mystic: God is in all things and “speaks clearly in everyone . . . even in . . . beasts, even in leaves and grass, stone and wood, heaven and earth, and all that is in them, that they may hear and do God’s will.”

Meditating on God’s Creation

Go out. Be in nature. Pay attention. As the ancient writer observed, “For from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator.”

What in Creation speaks to you of God and Life?



Steve Thomas