

On The Frontier

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the gospel”

Big Boys And Little Toys by Linus A. Mathis III

The recent press regarding the Mars probe prompted me to consider the relative perspective of life. After all, most things are relative, aren't they? Consider if you will (and we certainly are asked to) just how far our space program has come. We have landed a remote controlled probe on the "Angry Red Planet." Mars, you know, is an incredible 120,000,000 miles from Earth. It really is awesome! We have high-tech scientific instruments on another planet and we can actually send and receive information from them. The prospects are enormous!

It seems only a short time ago that the Wright brothers embarked on their daring flight. How amazing, that man could defy gravity and take to flight. Not many years separate Kitty Hawk from Explorer or Apollo from Sojourner/Pathfinder. But what a vast difference in accomplishment! One hundred and twenty million miles! Spectacular, incredible, amazing, is the brilliant intelligence of mankind.

The media is exuberant, as I am sure you know. Those who are covering the event are gleeful, their eyes sparkling with wonderment. The scientists are beside themselves with delight as they share the photos and information they have received (sans computer glitches) from the probe. There are entire shows and news broadcasts devoted to the subject. And well there should be, considering the preponderate cost. I

wonder, in the midst of all this hubbub, if anyone has seriously considered the handiwork of the Creator. Let's put it in perspective.

Isaiah 40:12

Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted [measured or estimated] out heaven with the span [a stretched out hand], and comprehended [contained] the dust [dry ground] of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

I assure you that the above verse is not referring to any individual employed by NASA. Mankind could not collectively, much less individually, measure up (no pun intended) to these accomplishments. This verse is one of many which testify of the magnitude of God's creative genius and immeasurable ability. The figures used add more to our understanding of the majestic amplitude of God's power so beautifully expressed in this verse.

God has no hands as He is spirit (John 4:24). Therefore, the use of the word hand is intended to give our finite diminutive minds some idea of His immenseness. Cup your hand and imagine being able to hold in it all the water on this planet. The "span" is the distance in an outstretched hand measured from the thumb to the little finger. Today we use a similar measurement for estimation. The height of a horse is often expressed in hands, e.g. he's going to be a big draft horse, maybe 16 hands high or so. God measures

the immeasurable (the heavens) with an outstretched hand. To Him it's little more than an estimate. He held the dry soil of the Earth in a measure like you would a cup of sugar. The mountains and hills He weighed on a scale like you do with fruit in the grocery store. All figurative to magnify the literal truth. God is so much bigger than we can literally comprehend.

Since all things are relative, consider how **BIG** God is and how small we are. Here is the reality of it all. God has created Earth, Mars and the 120,000,000 miles in between. He has also created the entire expanse of space and every celestial body found therein. If the span of His hand measured out the heavens, figuratively then, the distance between Earth and Mars isn't much more than a wrinkle on His thumb. What has man really done? He has put a radio controlled toy (on which he has spent entirely too much money) on Mars. Actually, he didn't put it there or land it there, he dropped it there. That's right, it was dropped on the planet's surface wrapped up in air bags. Wow! Furthermore, the "area" that it is exploring is probably not much bigger than your living room and certainly not bigger than a football field. As if that weren't enough, they only expect it to work for about a week due to the extremely low Martian temperatures. I don't know exactly how much this toy cost and I probably don't want to. I'll bet I couldn't write that figure down (gulp). But, I can tell you this, if my son threw his toys away like that

when he was a boy, he would have gotten spanked. In all likelihood I would NOT have bought him another.

Every child has justifiable cause for breaking toys. I suppose the *valuable* information we will gain about Martian rocks is reason enough. Or maybe we can gain *valuable* information on the possibility (make that impossibility) of prehistoric Martian life (questionable if not useless information superfluous to the quality of our lives). This in the face of a current inability to understand life as it exists on Earth today. Man who is not capable of running affairs at home insists on galactic exploration (which does not preclude conquest and domination of any life forms should they exist). Imagine, man boasting about all of this! How tiny, how seemingly insignificant we are in the scope of the universe. We and our accomplishments are so small in comparison, that few warrant mention. Yet, we boast! One would think, that if nothing else, this recent "exploration" would have caused man to stand in awe of the accomplishments of his Creator. You wouldn't expect man to think of himself as being great, would you? Lest I failed to mention it, the Martian rocks are being named after cartoon characters. Need I say more?

Well, maybe I don't need to but I will. These recent achievements have most looking to make "contact" or something. Common thoughts on this issue go something like this: "We would be stupid and egotistical to think that we are the only life forms in the universe." It is furthered in this light: "Why, just sheer odds alone dictate that we

can't be alone." I think probably the only "odds" are the ones who think this way. While the Bible does not say that there isn't life on other planets, it does not in any way suggest that there is. Furthermore, if there is, it would not be by "chance" or "odds." It would be because God brought it into production and for no other reason. He is the Author of life and no other. Life does NOT just happen! Even if science and Hollywood speak to the contrary.

What are they trying to tell us? Are they saying that there may be another god who has created, and rules over, another universe? Have you noticed how conveniently appropriate the recent sci-fi flicks are to this topic? Maybe the **WHOLE** thing is "movie magic!" How's that for a thought?

John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Colossians 1:16,17

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

All things in creation, without any exception, were brought into being by God. Once, in existence they can be manipulated, changed and even perverted. But, nothing is created apart from God. That is why He alone is called the Creator. The ability to create (that most certainly includes life) is God's and God's alone.

Revelation 4:11

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Man and his achievements pale in relationship to God's. Yet many men have chosen to reject and even mock Scripture. The disdain they have for the authenticity of God's Word is largely because they have never honestly looked at God's Word. An honest look at the Bible makes it extremely difficult to deny its Author. Consider the following:

Isaiah 40:22

It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof *are* as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

The first thing you notice in this verse is God's magnitude. That's undeniable. However, what I want to call your attention to is the phrase . . . he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth. Isaiah the prophet lived and died long before the famous explorer Christopher Columbus. It's common knowledge that the people in Columbus' time believed the world

to be flat. It's clear from this verse that Isaiah knew it to be circular or round. How could he know that? Simple, God told him. God knew because He created the heavens and the Earth (Genesis 1:1). Thousands of years before Columbus was born the Scriptures held this record and many others like it.

Men who preferred science above the Word of God have had to wait a long time to find out the true facts. Another simple example is the lawful age given to circumcise a child.

Leviticus 12:2,3

Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean.

And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

Luke 1:59

And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child [John the Baptist]; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.

Philippians 3:5

Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee [Paul the Apostle's testimony of self];

Why the eighth day? Because prior to this age the blood clotting capabilities are too low. You see, vitamin k which is responsible for aiding in the production of clotting agents (blood platelet and fibrinogen

content) is stored in the liver. A new born has very little, if any, vitamin k stored and consequently clotting factors are low. But by the eighth day they are high and circumcision is permissible. How could Abraham have known this? Or Moses? Or Zacharias? Or Paul? The answer is simple! God told Abraham when He instituted circumcision and later had Moses to record it in the written Word (Mosaic law). Both Paul and Zacharias were aware of and obedient to the Scriptures so they too knew the perfect time to perform the rite of circumcision (which we no longer need to observe, thank God).

If you want to know, you must go to His Word. Even today, ignorance of Biblical Truth has men of science in error due to ill conceived premise, e.g. Darwin's theories. We don't want to fall into this trap.

Romans 1:22-25

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Make no mistake, this is exactly what the Devil would like. Our best and only recourse is to put on the

Word of God.

Psalms 119:11

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

You will not get the proper guidance ANYPLACE else.

Despite man's short comings God remains gracious and loving. He has provided for us in all of life's experiences and even throughout eternity. Big boys may have their toys. They may boast great things, though they themselves be small. Yet God Almighty, who towers over eternity, loves us more than human comprehension permits.

Job 7:17

What *is* man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?

Despite such high incidence of arrogance and stupidity man is still the object of God's affection. What a wonderful, awesome God!

Psalms 8:1

O LORD our Lord, how excellent *is* thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.
