

What Does Nature Tell Us?

In various Scripture, we read that nature shows us something about God. David in the nineteenth Psalm tells us, *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handy work* (Ps. 19:1). When we read in the eighth Psalm, *When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained* (Ps. 8:3); we understand God had man in mind. We are further reminded in Romans 1:20 ... *for since the creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead so that they are without excuse*. What else might we learn from observing nature?

Three things stand out from a casual observance of nature and the natural order of things. First, the natural processes we observe in animal, plant or insect exhibit evidence of design. Even some within the scientific community acknowledge design in the universe. As one wrote, "...there is no avoiding the conclusion that the world looks as if it had been tailored for life, it appears to have been designed." However, often, words like "intelligence" or "power" are used when referring to the source of the design.

The second lesson we can learn from nature is the accountability factor. We observe the creatures on earth consistently doing what God prepared them to do instinctively. A red-tail hawk built a nest high in a pine tree in our yard the past two years. We observed the process from building the nest to nurturing the young hawks until they were capable of leaving the nest as young adult hawks. Every action of these hawks was necessary for the young to survive. Like the red-tail hawks, every creature on earth is accountable to follow what has been engrained into their genetic library.

The third lesson we learn from nature is there are consequences for life's actions. If the male and female red-tail hawks omit any step in the chain from incubation of the eggs to feeding the young until they are capable of hunting for food, their young will die. The natural processes and steps involved in reproduction and maturity of all creatures on earth are different, yet there are always consequences when the natural order is not followed.

What else does nature teach us? Nature teaches that if God has a purpose and plan for the birds and bees, He certainly has provided one for those He created in His image. While God did not leave instructions in our genetic library of how we should live, He gave us written instructions where we learn we are *to do justly, to love mercy, and walk humbly with your God* (Micah 6:8). The consequence of failing to honor God is also clearly spelled out in His instructions to man.

For the elders (Don Denton)