

It was good

23 2 14

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image;
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children.

Our text today may be found in Genesis chapter 1 and verse 12:

‘And God saw that it was good.’

Are you worried ? Are you anxious about something ? Today’s teaching from Matthew’s account of the Sermon on the Mount is fairly clear about being worried and anxious – don’t be – **‘can any of you’,** Jesus asks, **‘by worrying add a single hour to your span of life ?’** Sadly, it is a fact of life that today and tomorrow inevitably bring with them daily concerns – the examples given here are the basic necessities of life: food, drink, clothing – but our real concern should be to live a good life informed by right principles and to work to establish the Kingdom of God as far as we are able.

That said, one question that concerns people is our origins – where we come from, how our world came into being. The Bible offers an account of the process which we have just heard David read to us. With the development of science, we have seen that the geological record, the fact of dinosaurs, the process of

Evolution and the Big Bang theory cumulatively challenge the biblical account of creation. So, as Christians, should we be worried that the opening chapter of our Bible is untrue according to contemporary, scientific belief ?

I think not. Actually, I do actually think but it is not my considered opinion that we need to be unduly concerned. Why ? Because when I look out at the seascape at St Enogat in all its size and strength and beauty, I think it improbable that the marvellous world in which we live could be the product purely of random chance. Poor Professor Dawkins would have us believe that we are the product of a cosmic accident and that there is no god out there masterminding the whole. Honestly, intuitively, is that convincing ? I don't feel alone. I feel the presence of God daily here in the church, here in Dinard, here in the life we lead.

But the question remains, how reliable is the biblical account of creation ? For me, 100%. But for me to say so is first to understand the nature of the writing whose words are so familiar to us. What we have is not literal but figurative truth; we have poetic not scientific writing. The technical term to describe what we are reading is 'mythos'; the writing is 'aetiological'. 'Mythos' – in that it is an attempt to convey the mystery of reality, truth in terms we can grasp. 'Aetiological' – in the sense it tries to give an account of origins – where we come from. And what we have is truly beautiful: the seven days of creation. The logical sequence of the creative word of power bringing the universe into being. The creation of light, of heavenly bodies and the earth; the ordering of the earth and the plenitude of life thereon; the creation of human beings, the crown of creation made in the Image of God; the seventh day as a day of rest. Now is that wonderful or what ?

Which brings me finally to our text today – ‘**And God saw that it was good.**’ Six times in verses 4, 12, 18, 21, 25, climaxing in verse 31 where we read, ‘**God saw everything that he had made, and indeed it was very good**’ tell us the fact that the universe and the whole of creation is fit for purpose, a conscious act planned and executed and sustained by God.

So let us not be worried or anxious about a so-called scientific attack on Christian truth. Science is good at proposing theories about how the universe came into being whereas religion tells us clearly why – it was an act of a loving God and it was good !

I have spoken in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

Preached at the Eucharist

St Bartholomew's, Dinard

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G: Sermons 29 : It was good

