

# RECKONING THE WISDOM OF GOD

by Rev. Donald L. Rose

Psalm 40 says that thoughts of God are “more than can be numbered.” This is reiterated in a later Psalm: “How precious are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand” (139:18).

Solomon was “wiser than all men.” God gave him exceedingly great understanding, “like the sand of the seashore” (1 Kings 4:29-31). People came from distant lands to hear this wisdom. It is striking therefore to read a verse in the Gospel of Luke. It says that the queen of the south came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; “and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.”

The one called “greater than Solomon” was Jesus, who at the age of twelve sat among the learned doctors, “and all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers” (Luke 2:47). And when in mature years He began to teach, hearers were amazed and asked one another, “Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him?” (Mark 6:2). “He knew all men . . . for He knew what was in man” (John 2:25).

We contemplate the wisdom of God as we look at the wonders of creation, the marvels of nature, the number of the stars. Abraham was told to “count the stars if you are able to number them” (Genesis 15). One astronomer estimates that in Abraham’s day on a clear night one would see perhaps three thousand stars. Centuries later the invention of the telescope brought the realization that the stars are far more numerous than that. Then came the great reflecting telescopes which multiplied the star estimates into the millions.

In our lifetime the Hubble telescope was put into orbit, and one of its discoveries changed our concept of the heavens. For ten days the telescope was fixed on a small patch of sky that seemed to be “empty.” The result of 342 exposures was astonishing. Detected in that dark spot of sky were scores of distant galaxies never seen before, each galaxy containing hosts of stars. We hear again the words in Genesis, “Look now toward heaven and count the stars.” We feel small, and we marvel all the more that God should care about us.

Oliver Wendel Holmes expressed this in poetry:

Lord of all being throned afar  
Thy Glory Flames in sun and star  
Center and soul of every sphere  
Yet to each loving heart how near!

Emanuel Swedenborg addressed the infinity of God in the book TRUE CHRISTIAN RELIGION. He invites us to contemplate the number of the stars as well as the endless diversity of human faces. In the book DIVINE PROVIDENCE he says that the vast universe is created by Divine Wisdom, and that we may know this if we but open our

eyes. Take any object in creation “examine it with a good microscope and you will see wonderful things; while the things that you do not see are still more wonderful.” Think spiritually as you behold creation’s wonders and if you will let wisdom speak within you, you will say in amazement, “All things are of the Divine wisdom.”

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