



You

The Object of His Attention

by Mimi Ignatius

Do you just want to understand? Do you just want to believe? Would you rather believe and understand? St. Augustine, being the intellect that he was, wanted to explain God in such a way that all could understand. He marveled as he observed a child innocently attempting to empty the ocean into a hole dug in the sand. That child was actually an angel disguised. He enlightened the saint by explaining that the same concept applies to our Creator. The limited, you and me, cannot contain the unlimited, Almighty God. With limits, you were already granted much understanding. Many of the answers to your questions, who, what, where, when, why, and how, are already at your fingertips. There is a manual for life, and it starts with: "In the beginning, God created." It is the Holy Bible. Skeptics are troubled by this concept of faith, which is accompanied by understanding. They find an incompatibility, an improbability, an incapability of science to be linked to a Supreme God. They are baffled because they leave you out of the equation. It could

not have been mere happenstance. Each day of creation had a master plan that consisted of scientific and mathematical formulas. Each day prepared something else that would be required for your quality of life, even after being expelled from paradise. The laws of nature were established to support you. All the other creatures were created to sustain you. You were always the object of creation. It is all about *you*.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day. (Genesis 1:1-5)

It is all about you. He created the earth, the place of your future habitation. He gave you light so you would have night and day, a time to work and a time to rest. There is no mention of angels because

He had already created them, and yet darkness still existed. Some of them had already disappointed Him. Chapter 3 confirms that evil existed. We learn the serpent, Satan in disguise, is a liar and a sneak (Gen. 3:1). God must have had hope in you to be faithful and resilient, and to willingly choose Him.

Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day. (Genesis 1:6-8)

It is all about you. The Great Inventor is your Amazing Creator who produced atoms and molecules, and gave you the substance of land and earth and a sky above. You see, He also created the formula of gravity because you would one day walk on the face of the earth. The atmosphere would have to sustain you. After He breathed life in you, oxygen would continue to keep you. Water had to support you because you needed to drink, bathe, and feed the crops and livestock that

He would also create for you. He made sure that science would be organized and over the years you could solve

complicated equations to help you maintain a reasonable quality of life.

Then God said, Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the third day. (Genesis 1:9-13)

It is all about you. With you on His mind, He considered this day to establish the skill and discipline of agriculture. Herbs and vegetation were necessary for the cattle and beasts that were yet to be created. More so, you would find this diet of preference when you would fast and it would become a source of nourishment and spiritual strength for you. Daniel and his three strong young companions, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah would not defile themselves by eating from the king's table, but rather chose vegetation and water. Their beauty shined all the more. "And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies." (Dan. 1:15). Best of all, yet to come, was the Finest Wheat that would finally rest on the altar and become His Holy Body.

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and

years; and let them be for lights in the firmament to give you light on the earth; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day. (Genesis 1:14-19)

It is all about you. He was concerned about you and your future. Because of your father Adam, whom He knew would willingly disobey Him, you would one day tend the ground. So God gave you signs and astronomy and the ability to reason in a scientific way so you could determine when to sow and when to reap. Times of famine and abundance were in store for you. You were granted the ability to understand and anticipate nature's role. You could understand nature. Nature did not have to understand you, but was ordered to produce for you. "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven" (Eccl. 3:1).

Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." So the evening and the morning were the fifth day. (Genesis 1:20-23)

It is all about you. God's blessings began to be apparent. He delighted in the increase and in procreation. He reminded you of this first blessing when He, in the flesh, blessed the fish and the loaves

which increased in His holy hands, so He may feed the multitudes (John 6:1-14).

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food”; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. (Genesis 1:24-31)

It is all about you. He prepared the entire universe for your arrival. With mercy, He sheltered you. He prepared the beast that would cover your shame with their own skin, give support to your feet with sandals, warmth of blankets in cold winter nights, a meal at your table, and an opportunity to offer a sacrifice of repentance until you were able to offer Him a sacrifice of praise. Again, He promised you

that He will go to “prepare a place for you” (John 14:2). Next time, it will be in heaven.

Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which He created and made. (Genesis 2:1-3)

It is all about you. He chose the seventh day to be the day of His rest because creation was completed. So, He commanded you to have a special day for that. You needed Him and He knew it. To help you fulfill His law, He gave you Ten Commandments. “Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8). You, too, needed to rest from your work and to glorify Him. When the time was right, He gave you holy Sacraments, so that you could be united with Him. It was all part of the plan. He prepared for your creation and He prepared for your salvation. With love He created you, with pain He lost you, with death He redeemed you, with power He lifted you, and with grace He restored you. He never abandoned you. “You arouse us so that praising you may bring us joy, because you have made us and drawn us to yourself, and our heart is inquiet until it rests in You” (St. Augustine).

You see; *it really is all about*

You

References
NKJV Study Bible
St. Augustine. The Confessions. Translated by Maria Boulding, O.S.B., New York: Random House, Inc., Vintage Spiritual Classics 1998.

