

“Creator God”

Terry L. Hanna

“When I consider the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him...” -Psalm 8:3-4a (NIV)

By the time you read this... the solar eclipse will be over, the crowds of people who traveled here for the event will be gone, babies will be born, people will die- all triggered by the full moon rising- and life will go on!

Life goes on, as school starts, seasons change, cool winds blow, gardens are harvested, and a tinge of color forms on the tips of leaves. God has his paintbrush out again, and the gifts of a new season are upon us.

In the old days, the Canaanite people and other foreign nations that lived along side the Hebrew people worshiped nature. They recognized the hidden processes of birth in earth and womb on the one hand and, on the other, the terrible forces of volcano, earthquake and storm that were beyond their control. They created impersonal gods out of mountains and rivers, in moon, in sun and stars and prayed to them, using rituals and magical concoctions of potions to try to manipulate the natural to bend to their will, for their benefit, in order to produce good harvest and fertility. Nature religion thrived on the principle that the divine is in mountains, rivers, moons and stars and that these divine forces in nature can be offended or appeased.*

But the Hebrew people never did that. The biblical poets appreciated nature, but they did not worship nature. They worshiped the one God who created the earth and sky and the waters and seasons. Nature pointed to their God- a God they could not manipulate or control. They knew that they were meant to be stewards of the earth, take care of God's creation, not use the earth for their own benefit.

By the time you read this... we will have just seen something amazing in nature, something we will never see again in our lifetime. But how many amazing things do we miss seeing each day? A sun coming up in the morning, a moon and stars that light up the night sky, the color of leaves as a season changes, the blue outline of the mountains at dusk or the fog lifting off the hills in the early morning light are all part of nature, given to us by a loving Creator God!

Life goes on. The earth is the scene of God's action. Every day is amazing! Prayer and praise should be our response to God's beauty!

Pastor Terry

*some thoughts from Eugene H. Peterson's book, As Kingfishers Catch Fire, Psalm 114, p.95