

Prayer: Patient God, we give you thanks for being in all things! We marvel at what you have created, this entire world. We thank you for scientists, meteorologists, and theologians who can hear and see your wisdom at work in the world around us. And even when we face the storms of life, we can trust that you will restore and renew us and all creation. In your name we pray, Amen.

Job 28 ²⁰ "Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding? ²¹ It is hidden from the eyes of all living, and concealed from the birds of the air. ²² Abaddon and Death say, "We have heard a rumor of it with our ears."

²³ "God understands the way to it, and he knows its place. ²⁴ For he looks to the ends of the earth, and sees everything under the heavens. ²⁵ When he gave to the wind its weight, and apportioned out the waters by measure; ²⁶ when he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the thunderbolt; ²⁷ then he saw it and declared it; he established it, and searched it out.

In 1960, the United States launched the first weather satellite. It was the first time that scientists could think about how to observe the earth, the atmosphere and the oceans, the whole earth system from space. This first satellite helped us transform the way we thought about the global atmosphere in a way that was not possible before. This led to other satellites, then computers that transformed the science of meteorology. The science of weather forecasting, and the science of understanding the climate.

And since then, scientists have been working on bringing the physics of the tiniest particles, those that make up the nuclei of atoms that we can't see with the naked eye and the very big stuff, such as the far off galaxies in outer space; and everything in between.

Scientists have become aware that everything is made with precision. Even things that seem anything but precise were made the way they needed to be made to fit into the puzzle of our world and the cosmos.

All of this is God's creation. The size, energy, and precision of everything is far beyond our wildest imagination. And for humans to exist is even more amazing. Our God must have had us in mind when he made the world and the cosmos. And many believe that the most complex object in the entire universe is our human brain.

We are able to find the universe to be ordered according to scientific laws that we can discover. Us, our brains, this universe, are all part of God's plan. All part of God's creation, and God's laws. This science that humans explore is God's science. We've been made in God's image to learn and comprehend God's creation in its entirety.

Some people, when speaking about science, think they need to believe in science or God. But I truly believe that it's not one or the other, it's both. They are inseparable, because what science is doing is describing God's creation and the way he created it. Our science is God's science and it belongs to him.

God created all and then created us to co-create along with him. Our God is an amazing God.

When I was younger, I became a meteorologist and then a year ago, I graduated from seminary, and now I consider myself an ecological pastor.

For most of my life, I've been learning about how weather and climate affect people, and about how people affect weather and climate. So the earth's climate and weather are both described in terms of the same physical properties of the atmosphere: temperature, wind, pressure, humidity, precipitation and the like.

Together they are referred to as climate variables. Weather refers to what is happening at any specific time. So saying yesterday's high temperature in Bemidji was ten degrees, is a statement about the weather. Climate refers to the average of the weather over a period of time, and/or a geographic area. So saying the average high temperature in Bemidji on this date was ten degrees is a statement of climate, not weather.

Climate change refers to a change in the average value of a climate variable over a certain geographic area. Remember, our science is God's science, and God's creation is us and our world and everything beyond. Our God is an amazing God.

Do you know forming a personal relationship with God who created this fantastic universe is the most wonderful and exciting possibility that you can do in your entire lifetime? Why, you may ask? Because when we have a personal relationship with God, then we learn about God's creation that is beyond us! OK? And when you learn about God, then you learn about God's son, Jesus, who himself became a part of creation. God could not have given us a stronger message about his commitment to creation, than the person of Jesus.

But, we live in a world where God is ignored. The Bible is largely unknown. God's rules are not followed. People do their own thing, think what they want and do what they like. That's the modern way. When the world is seen in this subjective way, facts are ignored. Even the objective truth of science is questioned and viewed as just as another opinion. Science and theology together show something very important. Both are talking about objective truth; truth about our universe, about ourselves and about our God.

This has big implications for our care of creation. God made everything. God created everything and God created us to help take care of everything - his entire creation. Our world cannot go round and round and round without climate and weather. They are a huge part of creation. The Bible talks about it all over the place. One example is from the book of Job, chapter 28, verses 20 through 27. It's a poem about wisdom. Job, the guy in the story, is the victim of human, natural and divine forces. Job is wondering, is there wisdom here? Where does wisdom come from? Is it hidden? Where in creation is wisdom? Wisdom seems to be hidden from all creatures. Can this be? Maybe so. I mean, humans are the only creatures on earth who have become weather makers to our detriment. Over the last few decades the storms we are creating have become more and more frequent, intense and destructive. The consensus of the scientists is that things are likely to get much, much wilder.

In the meteorological phenomena that God has created, God exhibits an awareness of the world. God believes our world has value and worth. God found wisdom in this world, in this earth. We are invited to celebrate this wisdom along with God and to conduct ourselves as those who are honored to have been given being the gift of being co-creators, of being given stewardship and custodianship. That is characterized by justice and care. By fighting back when it comes to things that hurt and harm the earth. Are we passionate about doing more than just maintaining? By helping make our earth a better place to live? There is wisdom in this earth. Even in the storms. God cherishes his creation; all of it, even the storms. The storms help recover and revitalize our earth. So, are you going to let all the pieces fall into place and fall as they may? Or are you going to do your part and help rebalance God's creation?