

JOURNAL

MADE

DY *Camp 2019*

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We are living in a ‘post-truth’ age, an age where truth is no longer determined by fact but by opinions, feelings and emotions. It is becoming more and more difficult with the rise of social media and activism to understand what truth is, indeed, the truth. Therefore it is becoming more difficult to understand who we are, what our purpose is, why we exist.

As Christians it is important to understand that the truth comes from God Himself, through His Word, the Bible. The Bible states that the truth is we are MADE by an omnipotent (all-powerful), omniscient (all-knowing) Creator. Over the next four days we will be exploring the theme of ‘MADE’ to help us understand deeper why we were made and what that means in regards to our relationship with God.

“MADE” Day One: You Have Been Made

What do you think about yourself?

God doesn't make mistakes. No matter how you feel about yourself, He created the universe, He created the Earth, He created every living creature, and He created you! He doesn't make mistakes.

Still not convinced?

Psalm 95:4-6 - "4 In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. 6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!"

"Earth's Surface Temperature

The average temperature at the earth's surface depends upon several factors, the two most important being the distance of the earth from the sun and the tilt of the rotational axis of the earth.

The most important factor affecting the surface temperature of the earth is obviously the distance from the sun. If the earth were moved a few million miles closer to the sun, the surface of the earth would become warmer causing our glaciers

to melt. With a decrease in the area of ice the total reflectivity of our planet's surface would thereby decrease and more of the sun's heat would be absorbed. The melting of glaciers would produce a rise of sea level, and, apart from flooding most of our modern cities, would create a larger total ocean surface area. Since seawater absorbs larger amounts of solar radiation than equal area land masses, heating of the earth would again be promoted. Furthermore, after increasing the temperature of the oceans, much of the ocean's dissolved carbon dioxide would be added to the atmosphere along with large amounts of water due to increased evaporation. The increased carbon dioxide and water vapor level of the atmosphere would again bring about a significant temperature rise. All things considered, a minor decrease in the sun's distance would have a drastic heating effect on the earth's surface.

What would happen if the earth were a few million miles farther from the sun? The reverse of the previous situation applies. We would have more of our planet covered by ice, with associated increased reflectivity of the sun's heat. The ocean would cover less of the earth's surface

and the important process of absorption of heat by seawater would be decreased. Since the ocean would be colder, evaporation would be less with less heat-trapping water vapor in the atmosphere. Much of the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere would become dissolved in the colder ocean. Calculations show that a decrease of carbon dioxide in the air to just one-half of its present level would lower the average temperature of the earth's surface by about 7.0 degrees Fahrenheit! Thus, increasing the sun's distance would have a profound cooling effect on our planet.

Earth's Tilt and Rotation

The earth's axis of rotation is tilted $23\frac{1}{2}$ degrees relative to the perpendicular of the earth's plane of orbit. This tilt causes the four seasons. During the months of May, June, and July the northern hemisphere is pointed toward the sun, causing the hemisphere to warm and bringing on the season called summer. During November, December, and January the northern hemisphere is pointed away from the sun providing colder temperatures and the season called winter. Why is this tilt $23\frac{1}{2}$ degrees? Why not some other value?

What if the earth had no tilt, and the axis of rotation remained perpendicular to the plane of orbit? We would have no seasons and the surface temperature at any point on the earth would be the same during both July and January. The equatorial region of our planet would be intolerably hot all year and the poles would remain fairly cold. Ice would accumulate at the poles. The weather patterns would be stationary with permanently positioned warm and cold air masses. Some areas would continually be very humid while other areas would be quite arid. Only the mid-latitudes would be comfortable for human habitation and suitable for cultivation. Only about one half of our presently farmable lands could grow crops.

What would be the effect if the earth had double the present tilt? Temperature extremes between seasons would be much more pronounced. Even the mid-latitudes would have unbearable heat in the summer and frigid cold in the winter. Most of Europe and North America would experience very prolonged darkness in the winter and very prolonged daylight in the summer. Life on most of the earth's surface would become intolerable.

The earth rotates once every 24 hours producing the interval of time called “day”. If the earth rotated more slowly, we would have more extreme day and night temperatures. Other planets have “days” which are many times that of the earth, producing scorching daytime heat followed by freezing nighttime cold. The normal daily routine of plants and animals would be impossible if the earth day were much shorter than that of the present. The 24-hour day seems to be optimum, serving to evenly heat the earth (some-what like a turkey turning on a barbecue spit).

Thus, we could hardly improve on the present arrangement of tilt and rotation, which seems to be planned for both comfort and economy. Our present tilt causes seasons with associated fluctuations in weather, producing a maximum amount of farmable land and pleasant seasons. The present rotation of the earth helps to uniformly heat its surface and cause winds and ocean currents.” - (Planet Earth: Plan or Accident?, Institute for Creation Research, 1974)

There are many other factors to consider when we look at the Earth's survival, these were just two, but the point is, if the Earth were to be just slightly off course, we would not survive. It is exactly where it needs to be. This is not by chance, this is done by an infinitely wise creator. A creator who does not make mistakes. If He is able to create all of this with no fault, do you not think He is able to create you with not fault too?

Read through this scripture, answer the questions below and then discuss in your groups.

Psalm 139 - "1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me! 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. 5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. 7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are

there! 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. 13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you. 19 Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me! 20 They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain. 21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do

I not loathe those who rise up against you? 22 I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies. 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”

What from these scriptures speaks to you?

Do you believe you were created by God?

How does that make you feel?

Evening Notes

“MADE” Day Two: Made for a Reason

Why do you think you were made?

Isaiah 43:7 - “7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

John 7:16-18 - “16 So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. 17 If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. 18 The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.”

Matthew 5:16 - “16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

1 Peter 2:12 - “12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honourable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”

John 12:27-28 - “27 “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name.””

John 17:1 - “17 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,”

1 Corinthians 10:31 - “31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

1 Peter 4:11 - “11 whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Romans 11:36 - “36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.”

What is the conclusion of all of these scriptures?

Look at these two scriptures, **what do they tell us specifically?**

Romans 3:25-26 - “25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

John 16:13-14 - “13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

What does this mean in regarding us?

Colossians 1:16-17 - “16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

How do these scriptures show God’s glory?

Evening Notes

“MADE” Day Three: You Have Been Made for a Reason

Whilst God has a plan for all of His children as a whole, God has a personal plan for you. He created us all with a specific purpose, to bring glory to His name and bring people to Him through Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20 - “18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.””

As we have learned from yesterday, every Christian’s purpose is to bring glory to God, it is also to make disciples. It is our duty as people who love Jesus to spread the true Gospel to as many people as we can in our life time. This is our overall calling for being made. To do this, God has made us all individually, uniquely to accomplish these goals but how do we do it?

Answer these questions and then discuss them in your groups:

How do we discover what God has planned for our lives?

What things do you enjoy?

How can you use these things to speak to others about Jesus?

What ministry area can you serve in to start to develop your gifts?

Evening Notes

“MADE” Day Four: Reflect

What have you learned from Camp this year?

What is your biggest highlight from Camp?

What are you made for?

What would you like to change when you get home?

1.

2.

3.

4.

How are you going to change it?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Psalm 139

13 FOR YOU FORMED MY INWARD PARTS; YOU KNITTED ME TOGETHER IN MY MOTHER'S WOMB. 14 I PRAISE YOU, FOR I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE. WONDERFUL ARE YOUR WORKS; MY SOUL KNOWS IT VERY WELL. 15 MY FRAME WAS NOT HIDDEN FROM YOU, WHEN I WAS BEING MADE IN SECRET, INTRICATELY WOVEN IN THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH. 16 YOUR EYES SAW MY UNFORMED SUBSTANCE; IN YOUR BOOK WERE WRITTEN, EVERY ONE OF THEM, THE DAYS THAT WERE FORMED FOR ME, WHEN AS YET THERE WAS NONE OF THEM.