

Whenever I think about the complexity of the physics of the universe and the intricacy of life, I wonder at the power of the Being that created it all. But as great as we think God is, we still see it from our own little vantage point. I think that we should consider the overwhelming magnitude of God, far beyond our own little human circle. Perhaps we (or, our particular “Kingdom”) is only a tiny piece of a larger scene, like a puzzle (or puzzles) with many interlocking connections. Who says that God created only this physical universe, and that His creative activity is limited just to us?

Our view is too anthropocentric: how many other things might God be involved in? How tight is the weave? How dense the format? It is hard to believe that it is only one pixel (us)! We try to pit our intelligence against that of God, whose ways are infinitely (as far as the east is from the west¹ greater than ours, but this assumes that we are capable of some level of understanding the multi-dimensional (even the word “dimensional” is quite lacking) nature of God. There is a structure of Truth and Goodness that we cannot comprehend; we only know a few of the lowest-level rules. Our view of God, is far too small².

We are rightly concerned about the conflict between Good and Evil. The typical objections to God are that either 1) God is Good and impotent and cannot stop Evil, or 2) God is all-powerful but not Good. I believe in a third concept, that man’s intellect is too stunted to know the full depth of what is going on concerning the structure underlying Good and Evil. I cannot develop this very far due to my limitations, but I do know that Love is indeed the True Power in our universe.

One might ask, “How can God relate to man when we are an infinitesimal part (a speck) of this big picture? How can he personally relate to billions of souls, independently, with no cross-talk or confusion (while He maintains the running of the universe)?”

I am reminded of a piano player that can carry on a conversation with others as he plays a beautiful but complicated piece. This is one example of how even our finite minds can operate at several levels to accomplish different tasks. We may not be able to play the piano and talk (or do either credibly), but whenever we speak to other people we receive a variety of inputs that we process as we communicate our ideas.

God, in a sense, is like the piano player: He is able to play such beautiful and inspiring melodies (and blended harmonies) that we are inspired to reach out to Him. And He indeed stoops down from His great spiritual height to make us great (while never missing a note). We are great in His eyes because He loves us, and allows us to become a useful speck, standing in the gap where our puzzle piece helps the entire panorama of His work. Ultimately our piece is glued into place permanently, and we become one with the whole picture.

Part of what God wants from us is that we recognize the vast difference between us. If we come with “broken and contrite heart³”, then He knows that we have the proper perspective between ourselves (a speck) and God (the creator of all of the specks in our universe and quite possibly much, much more). I think that the word “broken” used here with respect to our heart may not just have the usual sense of sadness, but carries the idea of seeing how tiny it really is in comparison, like a broken chip off of a large vase. If we have pride in our own abilities, then this increases the spiritual distance between ourselves and God - perhaps beyond a limit that God does not choose to go beyond.

God has only shared the “skin” of His incredible plan; I believe that there is so much more than this glimpse that we have. We cannot fully comprehend the vastness of what God has done

and what He has prepared for us⁴, but He wants us to be as filled as we possibly can be with the glory of it⁵.

1. Psalm 107:3
2. See the book Your God is too Small, by J.B. Phillips
3. Psalm 51:17; My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.
4. 1 Corinthians 2:9; However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” - the things God has prepared for those who love him”; this is related to Isaiah 64:4; “Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him”.
5. Ephesians 3:17-19; “And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

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Your God is too Small, J.B. Phillips

SSM story: God's apparent thirst for worship and attention would seem self-serving; but consider that God is pointing the way to the Supreme Good through Him; a man telling the story of a guide on the human level that continues to say "follow me"; critics that speak of the "selfishness" and then fall away and do not follow any longer (as when He spoke of drinking His blood)

Storyteller parable

talking to a man who followed; some turned away; those who stayed saw the transition
The man is the map; like Christ saying, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"; He did not say He was just the way to salvation; but the way to Good (which is God)

Image/Dream: He is the "way" to Gold (treasure) and in traveling with Him we find that He is Gold; especially revealed when we get there; did we figure it out beforehand? Could we see that he was becoming more golden looking; a dream somewhat like the statue of Nebuchadnezzar (a complex image – not just a face and a body)

Do we see the True Goal?

God's great height; story: Not realizing the level of activities at AEDC, not thinking that my degree in Physics would be applicable there; not knowing the unique facilities there and that they indeed studied Physics to a large degree; not knowing what kind of work Dad really did, even though I went to a couple of open houses in my youth; I did not sense that the work there was the practical application of Physics; Being told by Mac that he thought that he had a job for me – and I didn't see how; think of God's full work, over and beyond what we understand of it; also, preparing to work there, getting a degree at Lipscomb, without full understanding of what to expect and what I really needed to work in the field; not knowing what to do with an undergraduate degree, so I kept going to school; I have a better understanding now after working there 40 years, and I have worked all over the base, but still can only scratch the surface of what all is done there

Feeling one with the Good; the inspiring, super-Joy; blending with harmony