

Easter 4  
Reformation, Media  
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Human beings are amazing, creative, resourceful creatures. Has anyone visited the pyramids of Egypt? - Amazing feats. I've seen section of Roman aqueducts – anyone else seen some of them? And if you watch Modern Marvels on the Discovery Channel, we can be amazed at everything from the Hoover Dam to The Alaskan Pipeline to the super-tankers that carry oil and huge steam shovels that scope up tons of earth and coal at a time. It is pretty easy for human-beings to become impressed with themselves.

In fact, sometimes we get pretty full of ourselves – like Job in our first lesson. He was so upset and so angry about everything that had happened to him that he began to question God – challenge God – talk as if God did not know what was going on or didn't care. Job probably had better reasons to be angry at God than any of us have – and he just let loose, challenging God to stand trial for crimes against humanity – namely Job – with Job as the chief prosecutor.

Job was pretty self-righteous and confident of his case – until God took him up on the challenge. That was our first lesson -- God's prologue in the case. Every once in a while, it is good for humans to understand the difference between themselves and God. Every once in a while, we need to regain a bit of respect for God – And, as good a place as any to show just how great God is, especially on Earth Day and Eco-Sunday us to look at creation.

How great is our God? A few months ago, I saw a video on You-tube that shows just how great God is using a golf ball – Yes, a golf ball. While Job might have been impressed with God's questions about the creation of the earth, we have to go a bit further. Today we have space stations, we've landed on the moon, we have the Hubble telescope. It orbits 593 km above the earth is 37 feet long and 12 feet wide, weighs 11 tons and takes pictures that show us so much more than Job ever imagined.

So I want you to think about the earth (1) as a golf ball. If the earth were a golf ball, the sun (2) would be 15 feet in diameter. (PACE OFF) You can fit 960,000 earths inside the Sun – fill a school bus with golf balls. That's pretty impressive isn't it? But listen to this – the sun is (how far away?) 93 million miles. It takes 8 minutes for the light of the sun to get to earth – light travels at 186,000 miles/second – 8 minutes it's here.

Hubble has photographed another significant star in our Milky Way – Betelgeuse (beetle juice) (3) Now Beetle juice is 427 light years away. See those light spots in the center? They are the size of the earth's orbit around the sun. More than twice the size of the earth's orbit around the sun. If the earth were a golf ball – Beetle juice would be as tall as six empire state buildings on top of each other! 262 trillion earths inside beetle juice (more than the stimulus package) Fill the superdome -- 3000 times – with golf balls. Where were you Job, (4) when Beetle Juice was created? Try to figure out which of those 262 Trillion golf balls is the earth and then find your spot on the golf ball.

But there is more – The Hubble has taken a photograph of Musheepi (5) It's the really bright star in the upper left of this photo. It's about 1550-3000 light years away. Just to give you an idea of the size of Mu cehpei, (6) One BILLION suns could fit inside Mu cehpei. If the earth were a golf ball – you could put two Golden Gate bridges end to end and that would be the diameter of Mu Cehpei. Linda and I walked across the Golden Gate bridge – it's about two miles long – I guarantee you, I would not be able to see a golf ball from the middle of the bridge – let alone 2 bridges away. 2.4 **Quadrillion** earths could fit inside Mu Cehpei.

What's a quadrillion? I can imagine a million – even a billion – which is 1000 million.

But what is a quadrillion? 1 million seconds ago is 12 days ago – April 13. A billion seconds ago would be - ready – May, 1995. A trillion seconds ago – 29,700 BC.

Whoa! But a Quadrillion – when I first heard this I could not believe it – any guess?

30,800,000 years ago. 2.4 Quadrillion earths inside Mu Cehpei. But, Mu Cehpei is not the largest star in that we know of.

The largest star is Canis Majoris (Big Dog) (7) and that is probably an appropriate name.

If the earth were a golf ball – Canis Majoris which is 5000 light years away, would be the height of Mt. Everest – If the earth were a golf ball – could fit 7 quadrillion earths inside

Canis Majoris – (8) That's enough golf balls to fill the State of Texas – 22 inches deep!

Just how important do you think you are now, Job? Just how far up on God's list of

things to do are you concerns? Because we still haven't gotten out of our Galaxy! (9)

And Hubble has taken photographs of Galaxies 114 MILLION light years away! (10)

And there are hundreds, thousands, millions of galaxies.

No wonder God would berate Job. No wonder God said, through the prophet Isaiah – my ways are not your ways ... For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my **ways** higher than your **ways** and my thoughts than your thoughts.

How can we even conceive the mind or power of God? And yet, -- and this might be the most difficult thing to believe and the most amazing wonder of all – GOD - - this God who created the earth and all that is in it – This God who created Beetlejuice and Mu Cehpei and Canis Majoris and the entire universe – THIS GOD cares about YOU.

With the Psalmist we can say, “what are human beings that you are mindful of them? Mortals, that you care for them?” And maybe that is what most astounded Job. That God cared enough to respond. Maybe that is what most astounded the disciples – that God cared enough to come among them and to reveal the power of God and the mind of God in the great LOVE that God has for us. A Love much deeper than the distant love of a God who created the universe – a love much more personal than anyone could expect as we live on this speck of dust called earth. If God’s love for us in Jesus does not astonish you – nothing in all creation will.

And all that God asks is that we learn how to love each other – and that we care for this fragile home (11) he has given us called earth. Amen.