

January 2, 2022

In Awe of God's Creation

Psalm 19:1-6

New Year's Day always feels so hopeful. No matter what has happened (or is still happening), things feel more possible at the beginning. As I write this, days before Christmas, the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is raging around the world. Borders are closing again, mandates are coming down, and masks are going up. Headlines say this is the most contagious variant so far, sending infection numbers into the stratosphere. It's starting to feel unnervingly familiar, and yet I am hopeful. A new year is starting, and we have tools in our arsenal we didn't have two years ago. Maybe this time will be different.

As the student book author writes, "Of course, we are always living in the midst of captivity and pandemics of one sort or another, aren't we? We are captive to our materialistic culture, to our personal prejudices, to our addictions. There are always diseases of the body, mind, and spirit. . . . God is the Creator and Sustainer of everything. God is in control of our world and has promised never to forsake us."¹ There will always be darkness, but as Christians we will always have light. Our God is an awesome God, and the dawn of a new year is the perfect time to focus on that.

Regardless of the darkness around us, let us cherish the good works of the Lord. "Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming his handiwork. One day gushes the news to the next" (Psalm 19:1-2). All of creation praises God, and we should join in that praise. The future is promising and laid out in front of us here at the beginning of a brand new year of chances. May we focus on the hope offered to us through Jesus Christ.

1. What are you most looking forward to in 2022?
2. Are you more hopeful for this year than you were for last year? Why or why not?
3. How can you focus on the wonder of God this week rather than on negative things?

Rachel Mullen lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband and daughter. She blogs at www.travelwithgrands.blogspot.com and is mom to the world's worst behaved dachshund.

¹From *Adult Bible Studies*, Winter 2021-2022, by Gary Thompson (Cokesbury, 2021); page 53.