

Question:

Listening to Simeon's sermon today, I think we can all understand how we can behold the glory of God in his creation of galaxies, mountains and flowers. How do we behold the glory of God in his creation of Covid-19 and other pathogenic micro-organisms?

Answer:

Firstly, it's an awesome question and a great thing to think about but before I answer that I think the statement "I think we all understand how to behold God's glory" isn't quite right.

We do a great job of the occasional "wow", but a very poor job in living a life that says "wow" and for that awe to lead to a discussion with God about his Creation and create a heart of worship and greater depth of relationship with the Creator. Once we truly master beholding Creation and the face of Christ, it's life changing and a huge mindset shift.

As for the dreadful virus we find ourselves currently facing, I wouldn't say its created by God but instead by humans. Man's greed and mis-management of Creation so often leads to these problems. It's the same cycle we find throughout Genesis. God says "A" is good and we try to redefine "A" and find ourselves in a mess.

Living through this pandemic is tough and can be incredibly painful depending on your personal circumstances. I do see in this time so many reasons to be joyful though, and so many reasons to be thankful as we see God move in the nations and move through His body. I love 1 Thessalonians 12-22 where Paul says to a people Going through much worse than us to be "always joyful", "Never stop praying" and "be thankful in all circumstances".

In this season, do we say "woe is me", or do we reflect on just how incredible the Gospel and God are, rather than get ourselves into a negative spiral as the world does. And a negative spiral will quickly affect our mental health as we have seen over the months. So in summary, we cannot behold God's glory in the creation of Covid-19 as He didn't create it, but we can sure behold his glory through the response of His body.

Now, I'm not the most elegant of speakers but there are a couple of articles here forwarded to me and written by some people way smarter than me which you may find really beneficial. Take a look at:

<https://reasons.org/explore/blogs/theorems-theology/read/theorems-theology/2020/04/16/covid-pandemic-god-s-fault-or-ours> and

<https://reasons.org/explore/blogs/reflections/read/reflections/2020/04/21/coronavirus-pandemic-the-problem-of-evil>.