

John's notes on

Exploring the techno-nature of God

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[Shuttle Launch Clip]

- [SLOWLY]** (1) May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
(2) may the LORD rejoice in his works-
(3) he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
(4) who touches the mountains, and they smoke.
(5) I will sing to the LORD all my life;
(6) I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Psalm 104:31-3

There is something about a shuttle launch fills me with **awe!**... makes me **tremble**... glory in its **wonder!**... **PAUSE**... this **pinnacle of technological progress...** of **human potential**... causes something to **rise up** in me... something that is just **so right, so good, so true!** ... An event like this causes me to “rejoice in what we’re able to accomplish as a human race!”...

Rejoice... just like God (our creator) does... **PAUSE**... “(7) May the glory of the Lord endure forever, may the Lord rejoice in his works.” **PAUSE** And here in this community believe that God does rejoice in Atlantis’ take off!... smiling at a **creation doing what it’s meant to do!**

We believe that shuttle is His!... **belongs to God**... in a way co-created it with us **[EXPLAIN...** designing **engineering capacity** into human minds.. & implanting **yearnings for space** into our hearts!... by **providing raw materials...** **laws of space O made a way...** **room for us to conceive “Kennedy space centre”!**]

And this technological feat is a good thing... God **honouring** thing... **PAUSE**... also a God **reflecting** thing... that the tech products we create are a reflection of who God is!... **PAUSE**...

(SLOW) The presence of God makes the earth tremble The mind of God is filled with possibility!... crammed w/ ingenuity... overflowing with ‘rocket science’ creativity! **“(8)I will sing praises to my God as long as I live!...”**

This week thinking about the internet & what it teaches us about God & ourselves... **PAUSE**... What do you think?... **PAUSE**... First thing came to my mind how it brings us closer to God’s Omni’s... reflects his Omni’s... **[EXPLAIN Omni attributes. --...presence, ...potency, ...science]...**

(9)Omni-presence... [JVS living room go to webcams around the world... South Africa, Moscow, London, Times Square (in 60 seconds!)]... not perfect O!... but **gets closer than I’ve ever been!**... “I want to be like you God!!... know you in your omnipresence...” **[GOOGLE EARTH – where do you want to go?]**

PAUSE... can you imagine God’s omnipresence? ... the ultimate webcam/view on most spiritually broad and integrated web... next time view a webcam/ Google earth remember who’s watching you!...

(10)Omnipotence & Omniscience... if **knowledge truly is power** then we ball about a huge power download! Unbelievable dispersal of information... more **accessible than ever before** (history of humanity)... internet has blown the doors open on what we can now know!... **PAUSE**... when I try to take it in... get so overwhelmed... so much out there... not enough time...

not enough RAM... **PAUSE**... as I engage this **portal into omniscience** I'm deeply humbled by God's "Godness"... *"I want to 'know more' God... you made me with this capacity to know... grow in knowledge... eat up wisdom... I want to be like you... show me who you are... know your glory... but I can never be like you!"*... can't come close to even fathoming you God... **[(11) EXODUS 33:18-23 and Isaiah 6:1-4]**

Huge **Omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent** power in the internet... humanity **reaching out for God**... expressing the **capacities and yearnings** he built into us... and in coming up with the idea of the web reflecting **his very Being!**...

God is/like a web... a network... THE world wide web! (one unifying all powerful force... connecting all of us!)

OK... other ways technology teaches us about the nature of God... "(12) **God gives individuals the ability to build and develop pieces of the pie and others the ability to pull these things together..... it is never one individual**" **Brilliant observation**... the development of Technology over time teaches about O's nature!

Someone invents a 'stone wheel'... **(13)**then wooden with (14)steel tread pulled by a horse... (15)steel belted tread powered by many horses... (16)internal combustion is then enhanced and enhanced again... then a (17)jet engine is developed and attached to the already developing idea of a winged plane... and the (18)idea of a rocket germinates... from there someone thinks, "return trip" come up concept space shuttle(19)... can now build space stn (long trm)

And to think of a **God** who **superintends** over the **entire technological process**... is **working through it all!**

(**over time**, and in **real time** as a group of humans do technological development together) all of this reflects God's eternally **creating/tending/providential** heart (as co-creator, stimulator, "idea deity" for it all!)

Brilliant observation Phil!... can see God all over the process... reminded me "(20)garden to a city" Metaphor [EXPLAIN EDEN New "Jerusalem"] All affirming that **God is pro-tech** (to some great degree)... our ability to do more is his gift... ultimately, we believe, accomplishing his purposes... the development/ advancement of his world/creation!...

All of that brings glory to God!... **PAUSE**... but "all of that" is not the whole story re: humanity calling and place... **PAUSE**... there's a God/humanity relational story that runs parallel to Garden to City tech tale...

[**Eden was perfect**... but human's wanting to be like God (Omni-all) bit into a deceptive lie... "You'll be like him..." One massive, life altering decision later, everything changed, human potential got clouded, twisted, disconnected and dis-integrated... It wasn't totally lost, or gone forever, but it was broken badly...]

(21)The same video camera that films a 3 years olds birthday party films child pornography... **the same internet** offers such hope posts despicable materials... **the same ideas of nuclear fission and fusion** that provide peaceful power also killed hundreds of thousands in Japan!

Technology's trajectory was perfect at one time... that that trajectory fell... **[(22)PSALM 146 Thursday am]** hit by verses 3-4... Tech is an amazing gift of God cannot save us! (Modern experiment science/tech promise has failed!... can't save our souls!)

But God's plan hasn't... seeing a problem and wanting to fix it... assessing a need & wanting to meet it... reading the situation of a fallen creation...falling short humanity put all of his engineering, creative, omni-everything mind to the task... found solution... did what tech does mediated (matter to Spirit)... **[(22)FREEDOM** – do tech through/before him... live in the space it provides... utilize knowing he's present... see as an instrument of worship... a gift that we play before his throne... beneath his smile!]

"Moses said, "Please. Let me see your Glory."
God said, "I will make my Goodness pass right in front of you; I'll call out the name, God, right before you. I'll treat well whomever I want to treat well and I'll be kind to whomever I want to be kind."
God continued, "But you may not see my face. No one can see me and live."
God said, "Look, here is a place right beside me. Put yourself on this rock. When my Glory passes by, I'll put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with my hand until I've passed by. Then I'll take my hand away and you'll see my back. But you won't see my face." Ex 33

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Master sitting on a throne—high, exalted!—and the train of his robes filled the Temple. Angel-seraphs hovered above him, each with six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew. And they called back and forth one to the other,

Holy, Holy, Holy is God-of-the-Angel-Armies.
His bright glory fills the whole earth.
The foundations trembled at the sound of the angel voices, and then the whole house filled with smoke. I said,

"Doom! It's Doomsday!
I'm as good as dead!
Every word I've ever spoken is tainted—
blasphemous even!
And the people I live with talk the same way,
using words that corrupt and desecrate.
And here I've looked God in the face!
The King! God-of-the-Angel-Armies!" IS 6:1-4

Psalm 146

1-2 Hallelujah! O my soul, praise God!
All my life long I'll praise God,
singing songs to my God as long as I live.

3-9 **Don't put your life in the hands of experts
who know nothing of life, of salvation life.
Mere humans don't have what it takes;
when they die, their projects die with them.
Instead, get help from the God of Jacob,
put your hope in God and know real blessing!**

God made sky and soil,
sea and all the fish in it.
He always does what he says—
he defends the wronged,
he feeds the hungry.
God frees prisoners—
he gives sight to the blind,
he lifts up the fallen.
God loves good people, protects strangers,
takes the side of orphans and widows,
but makes short work of the wicked.

10 God's in charge—*always*.

Zion's God is God for good!
Hallelujah!