

Sept 12, 2021

Esther: Hi Emmett (Emmett is looking into the sky)

Emmett: Hi Esther.

Esther: What are you doing?

Emmett: (whispering) I'm listening.

Esther: (looks up) Listening to what?

Emmett: I'm listening, to the heavens.

Esther: You're listening to the heavens!

Emmett: Yep, the heavens are going to tell me all about God!

Esther: (looks up) Really?

Emmett: Well, I hope so. The heavens told someone in the Bible about God, so I figure maybe the heavens will tell me also.

Esther: What someone in the Bible?

Emmett: I don't actually know. The Bible doesn't tell us the person's name, but it was someone in the part of the Bible that's not named after a part of our hands.

Esther: You mean the book of Psalms?

Emmett: Yes...the book of Psalms...not to be confused with palms...which is part of our hands...that's a little Bible humour.

Esther: Which Psalm have you been reading?

Emmett: I've been reading Psalm 19...it begins by saying, "The heavens are telling the glory of God..."

Esther: Yes...and then it says that "the firmament proclaims God's handiwork."

Emmett: Yep...that's what it says...the firmament...actually that's when I stopped reading because I didn't know what a firmament is, so I thought I'd just listen for the heavens for awhile.

Esther: Psalm 19 is a neat psalm because it's talking about everything God created.

Emmett: So God created that firmament thing?

Esther: Yes, but remember, the writer was being poetic in talking about God.

Emmett: Sure....what do you mean?

Esther: I mean that we sometimes use words that suggest something rather than describe something. For example, if I say that you are as sharp as a tac, I mean that you are smart, I don't mean that you have a point on the top of your head.

Emmett: Although, if I did have a point on the top of my head no one would know because of my really neat hair! What's that got to do with the firmament?

Esther: Well, imagine that you are standing in a room made of glass, that the walls curve and there is a glass dome over top of you.

Emmett: (looking around and up) I can imagine that. Look at all those clouds up there! I'm imaging I'm seeing clouds through the glass dome.

Esther: When people were writing about God creating the world, they could see there were lakes and rivers and the water looked kind of blue in colour...and then they looked at the sky, and it looked kind of blue in colour, and they thought that maybe that meant that there was water up in the sky.

Emmett: That kind of makes sense to me!

Esther: But then they wondered, if there was water up above us, what kept it there? They thought that maybe there was something like a big strong glass dome between the water on the earth and the water in the sky...and guess what they called that something, that something that proclaimed God's handiwork.

Emmett: 'Proclaimed God's handiwork!' Wait, that's what this Psalm says... wait, that means that they called that something 'the firmament!'

Esther: Right!

Emmett: Under this neat hair there's a sharp tac you know!

Esther: I know...I also know that after the writer of the Psalm said that the firmament that tells of God's glory doesn't say any words, doesn't have a voice that can be heard.

Emmett: You mean I won't hear anything when I'm listening to the heavens?

Esther: No you won't...but yes you will!

Emmett: Whew! I'm glad we cleared that up...no we didn't! How can I both hear

something and not hear something?

Esther: Well, if you listen...you might hear a bee buzzing, or hear a bird singing, or hear the wind moving through the grass...

Emmett: I've heard all those things...

Esther: You've heard sounds of God's creation. Without hearing words we are reminded that God created everything.

Emmett: Those things proclaim God's glory without saying any words! Hey, sometimes I see some flowers and think, "those are beautiful flowers," and then I think that God must have a beautiful heart."

Esther: Because the flowers proclaim God's glory!

Emmett: We just have to listen...to the flowers and the heavens and the sky. We can hear God even though we don't actually 'hear' God! You know what? I think whoever wrote this Psalm was also as sharp as a tac!

Esther: Well, that's make two of you!

Emmett: I'll say Amen to that!

Esther: Amen!