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Isaiah 46:11

The plans and purposes of God are for the most part enigmatic to human kind. Men who bother to think about the sovereign ruler and creator of the universe can find quick agreement with part of what the apostle said, (Rom 11:33) “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and **his ways past finding out!**” Some men in all generations become obsessed with looking into the mysteries of God’s awesome work. Few of them give God the credit for the stuff they are looking into, but they are nevertheless studying to try to know the so-called “mysteries of the universe.” These mysteries of course are common knowledge to God. Men want to know the size of the universe. God already knows...He set the bounds of it. Men want to unlock the code of genetic sequencing and peer into what makes organisms go together the way they do when they are conceived. God set the order for all of these thing. In His all-knowing capacity He has established the laws and circumstances for all things. The cosmos move according to the purpose of his design. The blood flows in your veins and mine according to a divine intent and program, as does the flow of electrical signals which cause our brains to think. Scientists have been working feverishly for thousands of years to unlock the secrets which are kindergarten concepts to God.

Among the many things that God has wrought in His infinite wisdom and planning are the circumstances which He governs for the unfolding of His purposes. Although we poorly understand either His purposes or the means which He uses to accomplish them, all things orchestrate together in the realm of His creation. I am persuaded that in the great scheme of the Almighty, not one microbe perishes, nor is one cell produced, nor one photon of light converted to another form of energy without His having coordinated it within His program for a purpose that goes far beyond our comprehension. God governs how things happen. He uses His universe to accomplish things. In that scheme, He manipulates, guides, influences, and integrates the components of His universe to make things happen certain ways.

It has pleased the Lord to give us His written word in which we may find a multitude of helpful indicators about divine work and purpose within the world of men. In our text we find a statement from God which is just one of those indicators. Within the words that He spoke we find mention of one aspect of His management of things. Notice that what He is talking about in these statements is the use of “agents” in the accomplishment of His purposes.

I. God Uses What Is At Hand

- The Maker of All Things Knows Precisely the Makeup of His Creatures
See Psalms 139:15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, *and* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

- He Can Use What Is Immediately at Hand Because Its Purpose is At Least That Which He Uses It For

See Proverbs 16:4: “ The LORD hath made all *things* for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.”

See also Romans 9:17

II. In Using Agents, God Need Not Warp Natural Order to Accomplish His Purposes

See Deut. 7:1-2, 20-22 (hornets and a plan of taking over little by little to hold the wildlife in check).

See also Exodus 10:13: And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all *that* night; *and* when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts.

The latter has been estimated in the laboratory by Weis-Fogh (l.c.), and on the basis of his estimates, the fattest swarming locusts so far sampled in the field would have been able to fly continuously for some 16-18 hours (Waloff, unpublished).

Other examples of long-range flights (of desert locusts), involving traverses of 1400-1500 miles over the Atlantic, are quoted by Waloff (1960a).

Observations on solitary and transient populations (of desert locusts) in the Red Sea area have shown that they did not fly by day but flew regularly at night (Waloff 1963)

See also Matthew 17:27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast a hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

Thought: In His scheme, He can accomplish what He wants using agents we call “natural” and His successes are just as complete.

III. In Using Agents, God May Intentionally Warp Natural Order to Accomplish His Purposes

- See Joshua 10:5-13 (sun and moon stand still)
- See Numbers 22:28-30 (A donkey talks)
- See II Kings 22:34 (The Law of Probability “Strained”)

IV. Agents May Be a Combination of Natural Forces and Suspending Natural Order

Ex 4:2-4 A stick becomes a snake

Ex 8: plagues of frogs, lice, flies

Ex 14:21-28 A sea separates in the middle:

V. Learning to Recognize and Acknowledge God’s Use of Agents Will Add a Dimension to Our Praise and Worship

It Strengthens Our Belief in the Sovereignty and Omnipotence of God

It Expands Our Understanding of the Wisdom of God
It Exercises Our Trust In God
It Gives Purpose to Events on Earth That Seem Incomprehensible
It Glorifies God