

questions. We need to recognise more and more how we, and the whole universe, are dependent on the very presence and person of Jesus, and that without Him the universe would fly apart.

We need to discover again the importance, the excitement, the awe, the power, and the magnificence of the Glory of God, and particularly that revealed in Jesus Christ.

Super Nova

During a prayer meeting on 7th Nov 1999, in the context of praying about revival, and seeking Gods face, I saw a picture of what appeared to be an 'implosion' - where matter was drawn in to a central core, followed by a massive explosion. I felt this referred to the Lord drawing his people to Himself, in preparation for a massive outpouring of His Spirit.

Someone else at the meeting linked the picture to how a 'super nova' operates. It draws matter to its core, and then shoots it out again at incredible speed. This causes an immense brightness, so that the super nova becomes brighter than any other star in its galaxy. I then remembered the above picture, I felt the Lord was saying something like the following: -

Jesus as the centre of the universe is drawing to Himself His people, as a Super-Nova draws matter to its core. This 'implosion' is the preparation for such an explosion of Gods love and power that the very foundations of the earth will be shaken that the gates of heaven & hell will be blown open, and Gods Kingdom at last established. Jesus, the centre of the universe will then shine brighter than all other stars in the sky. Then will the entire world bow the knee and proclaim that Jesus is Lord.

Let us join with Gods people throughout the earth in seeking Gods face, His heart, His life, for from this will come the power to change the World, for good - and for God!.

Ron Kingsmill, Pastor Freshwaters Christian Fellowship.

GLORY IN THE MOMENT

God's Glory

A good overall definition for the meaning of Glory that is appropriate to what I am about to share, is "the weighty importance and shining majesty which accompanies Gods presence". Please make a mental note that such glory is continual in Gods presence. Its not that it appears on occasion at great events in history, its not that it will one day appear when the Lord Jesus returns again, but rather that now, in this moment and every moment that has ever been and ever will be, God is surrounded by this Glory.

The Hebrew word used for glory is Kabod, the basic meaning being heavy in weight (see 1 Sam 4:18, and Prov 27:3) and can be used to refer to a heavy burden (see Exodus 18:18, Psm 38:4). It is also sometimes used to describe great numbers, or extreme prosperity (see Gen 13:2, and Exodus 12:38)

The verb often comes to mean, "Give weight to honour", that is honour given by one person to another, recognising the place of the honoured person in the community (se Ex 20:12, Psm 15:4). Such honour, or glory, can be attributed to nations (Isa 16:14; 17:3). It should be noted, however, that what we are talking about is recognition of the glory that someone or a nation has. So what we are giving is not the glory itself, but the recognition of the glory that exists.

This is particularly important when we are talking about God. We cannot give God glory, He already has it, and it is an integral part of His nature. What we can do is to recognise and respond to Gods glory.

Dark Matter

While travelling back from work one evening in September 1998, I listened to a radio programme, dealing with a particular theory

that astronomers have been working on. The following is my description of their theory, and my own conclusions. I cannot claim that I am accurately relating their theory verbatim, what I have done is to share what I believe the Lord spoke to me as I listened to, and thought about the programme.

Astronomers' theories of how the universe stays together have come under increasing pressure. The more they can see through telescopes & other equipment, the more they recognise the inadequacy of their own theories.

They have now discovered that if their theories are right (and they do not, of course, question their theories) then there is not enough matter in the universe to hold it together. Basically their theories state that there needs to be a weight of matter to keep all the planets in orbit. Their calculations, however, show that the sum total of all known matter is insufficient to keep the universe together. There is not just a slight gap; there is a massive difference between what they calculate would be needed to hold the universe together, and what actually exists.

Recognising this as rather a significant flaw in their argument, the astronomers have now concluded that there must be far more matter in the universe than can be seen. They have therefore come up with the theoretical existence of 'dark matter'. Now this matter (so the theory goes) is very heavy, because it is what holds the universe together, but it cannot be seen, because it is not 'shiny' i.e. it does not reflect light. It is also of a different nature to the matter we know, and it can pass through ordinary matter. This then means that we cannot see it, or its effects, other than its amazing capability of correcting the wild inaccuracies in the calculations of the astronomers!

A further development of the theory is that dark matter must exist on the earth, since it probably takes up 95% of the matter in the universe. It may be that it can occasionally be seen, or its effects can be seen, when a particle of dark matter collides with an atom. There are, therefore, some scientists who have set up

equipment in an old mine shaft below the earth's surface (to prevent interference from radiation from the sun etc) so that they can catch & record when a piece of dark matter collides with an atom.

Jesus holds together the universe.

I think the scientists need to humble themselves and admit that they do not understand. I think they then need to look to Gods word, which tells us that it is Jesus who holds all things together.

Look at the following verses: -

"He (Jesus) is before all things, and in Him all things hold together" Coloss 1:17

"He (Jesus) who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens in order to fill the whole universe" Ephes 4:10

"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, who He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of Gods glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So He became as much superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is superior to theirs". Heb 1:1-4

If the astronomers looked at these verses, they might also take note of the definition of Gods glory, and that it is 'weighty'. They may then come to the conclusion that this is the very thing that they have been labelling as 'dark matter', that is an invisible force that holds the universe together.

Even if the scientists do not come to this conclusion, I think that we must. We need to look to Jesus for more of the answers to our