

## The true origin of food and gladness

The immortal rulers in Christ's kingdom will have the joyful task of educating mankind about their Creator. Many people now have a natural dislike of feeling beholden to either their peers or to authority figures, regrettably including God. Until recently a majority, at least in the western world, felt obliged to give recognition to a God who created all things. Theirs was the Christian faith, presided over by a Church which was later blamed for the oppression of the ordinary people. The reaction, expressed during the revolution of 1789 in France, was to expunge everything connected with the Church, including the Bible. This is ironic for two reasons. First, the Bible argues against oppression - **Exodus 23:9**. Secondly, while a modern definition of faith is "belief, especially without evidence or proof", the Bible bases faith on evidence - *"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"* - **Hebrews 11:1**. In addition, *"whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him"* - **verse 6**.

There is no direct sensory evidence that the person of God exists, or that He moved men by his Spirit to put on record his promises. But that is not lack of evidence - to "see" also means to "perceive mentally". This perception begins when a young child learns by simple experience the connections between cause and effect. Still, as a dependent of loving parents, he can be blissfully unaware of their pains on his behalf. Later in the school classroom, with more discipline applied, he learns the basic rules of cause and effect, expressed mathematically or otherwise, in the physical realm.

In actual fact, God has shown mankind what can be known about himself and his invisible attributes, which are his infinite power and limitless intellect. These *"have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse"* - **Romans 1:19-20**. Earlier generations may not have known about the amazing and spectacular life cycles of the emperor penguin, the North American monarch butterfly or the red knot sandpiper. But there has always been a dynamic system for all to observe, without which these and all the other myriad species of life forms could find no support. *"God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them...did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness"* - **Acts 14:15**.

As a review of the first principles of meteorology will show, there are various elements that combine to provide the conditions for the annual harvest seasons which have been occurring for the many millennia past. The results of each harvest include not only the staples for satisfying hunger, but also gastronomic delights and mellowed vintage to accompany gladness and gratitude. He would be regarded a fool, who denied that what mankind does with each harvest, entails planning, organization, management and application of skills of many kinds. This acceptance that man's thought and effort are necessary for his maintenance is the simple result of both observation and experience. In other words, it is a hands-on result, assisted greatly by sight and hearing.

But no man set in motion the events which first made the annual harvests possible. Nor is there any mortal witness who can recount these events. But each learned early that cooking is impossible without the application of heat - but he soon noticed that preparation of the evening repast involved the intelligent application of that heat. While a lightning strike on a barn might result in some roast meat, the results are a far cry from a reliably provided and balanced meal. It really is unworthy of a human, *homo sapiens* - "man the wise", to put his feelings first - a dislike of an Authority figure telling him how he should act. How can he insist that the annual harvest seasons result from a random combination of forces, with no intelligent application of them? This is to ignore what he has learned from experience

about cause and effect. How truly reasonable is the explanation, *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” - Genesis 1:1.*