

## Theology of Oil: Oil and God

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By John Van Sloten

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1... **“out of nothing but his imagination (we believe) he made everything that is!”** ... his heart was filled with a **‘desire that other beings exist’**... his mind was exploding **with the limitless resources**; of creativity, wisdom, power, & ingenuity... and his **soul/very Being was so fully alive with the possibility of it all!! PAUSE...**

He generated **10-100 billion galaxies**... each galaxy exploding with as many as **100 billion stars**... w/some of those stars having their **own orbital solar systems!** **PAUSE...** around one of those stars he created the **‘planet that we call Earth’**... (a planet with—according to ‘anthropic principle’ -- **the perfect, universally fine tuned, conditions for life!... down to last detail!!!**)

**PAUSE...** Everything that is **out there** is in tune with life on this planet... **WITH YOUR LIFE!... PAUSE...** and then, **onto** this planet, **God implanted all that we would ever need to exist**... he **built ecosystems** w/land/water/fire and air... he provided multiple and varied **food sources**... and he gave **us minds and cultures** within which to develop ideas... ideas like **shelter, community, tools, & economic growth**... so that we could **flourish and multiply on this earth**...

"Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth." Genesis 1:28, MSG

**(SLOW)** And in order to **fuel the fulfillment of this God given responsibility** God gave us energy

sources! **LONG PAUSE...** all kinds of sources/over the ages!... but for today, in our particular time and place, **industrial/post industrial age**

**God gave us oil!... LONG PAUSE...**

“...Oil is such a compelling fuel. Why? Because of its flexibility; you can use it in everything from a cruise ship to an airplane to a car, right down to a leaf blower or whatever. It's just so flexible, it's very robust, it's easy to transport -- if you want to get technical, the energy density is unbeatable by other fuels. So you have this product that is compelling. It's easy to talk about things like ethanol and whatever else and people tend to focus in on the technical merits, but the truth is, from an overall utility perspective, it is not compellingly better than gasoline, in fact it is not as good, because you cannot travel as far on a gallon of ethanol as you can on a gallon of gasoline.” P. Tertkzian

and then add to that descriptor all other ‘downstream’ uses for **oilpetro-chemicals, plastics, carbon composite bicycle frames**... **[Google it]... PAUSE...** and then add up the economic and societal impact of all of that energy... **prosperity** yielded... **technological explosion** enabled... **opportunity** unleashed.. **PAUSE**

(TONE) “I know... I know...” allowed **greed to flow** and the **envy erupt, gluttonous gorging**, and a **raping & pillaging** (literally in war, & **environmentally** in another kind of war)... **WEEK THREE!!! PAUSE...** I know oil has left a lot of messes... managed poorly at times... **BUT** that does not make entire resource evil... or it's reasonable pursuit wrong!... “It's still a good God given gift/ divinely provided resource.”

**[CBC HOST DEBATE-b/c mess up everything it's not all bad!]**... **It's still** pretty amazing energy re-source & one that, **if you believe Genesis 1**, must have it's source in God!... **LONG PAUSE...** “*And if God is Oil's creator, then it stands to reason that this creation just might have a lot to say about who God is.*” **PAUSE...**

About his **heart** (in choosing to put it there at all)...

About his **nature and his mind** (how actually did it)

**PAUSE**...Q been asking self for weeks “**What does this all have to say about you God? What is this part of creation in particular telling us? Point to?**”

First things **God is a Provider**... (huge biblical truth) in particular **energy provider!**... more specifically **long view strategist** in that regard [**F thinks ahead!**] old hydrocarbon fuels (4-500 m. years ago)... new stuff (100-150 m yrs ago!)...**PAUSE**... **Consider this!**

Consider the **eternality** of God... **LONG PAUSE**...

We didn't show up much b/f 10,000 yrs ago!... and yet knowing our **future needs**... **pooling deep within the earth**... **PAUSE**... **it's BRILLIANT!**

“Have you ever come on anything quite **like** this extravagant generosity of God, this deep, deep wisdom? It's way over our heads. We'll never figure it out.” Romans 11:33

“God's wisdom is something mysterious that goes deep into the interior of his purposes. You don't find it lying around on the surface. It's not the latest message, but more like the oldest-- what God determined as the way to bring out his best in us, long before we ever arrived on the scene.” 1 Corinthians 2:7

Is Paul talking Oil or **something** else? **Someone** else?

**PAUSE**... And that God provides such an efficient source of energy Hit Me (read Tertkazian)... **like efficacy matters to God?...** **make H-C bond so strong?...** allow for **geological events to play out in such a way** organic matter become H-C fuel Diagenesis (loose stuff becomes rock)... Catagenesis (fluid H-C released)... Metagenesis (Who knows?)...

“Dia- genesis” dia – “*because of, through,*” Genesis!

**Take millions of year to do it!** start w/ancient sea-beds come sedimentary rock... as process plays out

conduits(fissures/ rivers) lead H-C's to pools... storage tanks... b/c nature of fuel floats to top finds pools!

**PAUSE**... pools under **pressure** so when tapped (built in earth pump) That's an **amazing process, thoughtful... wise... profound in it's mystery**

“Do you think you can explain the mystery of God? Do you think you can diagram God Almighty? God is far higher than you can imagine, far deeper than you can comprehend, Stretching farther than earth's horizons, far wider than the endless ocean.” Job 11:7-9

And to then think God mysteriously provides in such **abundance [HEADY AB TIMES]** (I know stewardship stress!)... but need to also see energy abundance is a pointer heart of a God who **longs to lavish**... seeks to give us **pleasure...rest... security... freedom** sometimes in proportions that are more than we dare dream of... “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine”... Generous to a fault, you lavish your favor on all creatures. Ps 145:16 with Oil? Yeah... **PAUSE**... **but with so much more as well...**

Yes, we've received this amazing energy gift... yes, if you believe God made it all can tell us a lot about who God is... **PAUSE**... but it does not tell us everything!

This week spoke to all kinds of oil folk (chemists, services, geologists, business people)... all kinds of great info... one call geologist shook me... **[TEARS]** I asked him how “faith and oil” fit for him 1. **Kid loving rocks** (beauty, complexity)... [of course OF GOD]... 2. **How Oil industry** allowed practical way love rocks! 3. Ethical, environmental issues... complexity there... 4. Came back geology side “Geology confronts me with the issue of time... it's like looking into the mind of God... **[JVS MOUNTAIN STEADFAST/DYNAMIC]**

Really hit him idea **Jesus being there**, whole time... **[JESUS only incarnated 2000 years ago]... to hear**

**it from this guy infinitely longer view than I to know** only Jesus Christ open eyes really see/know mysterious God (provider, eternal, hold all together) blew me away!!

**[READ Colossians 1:15-25, MSG]...**

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