

The Lakeside



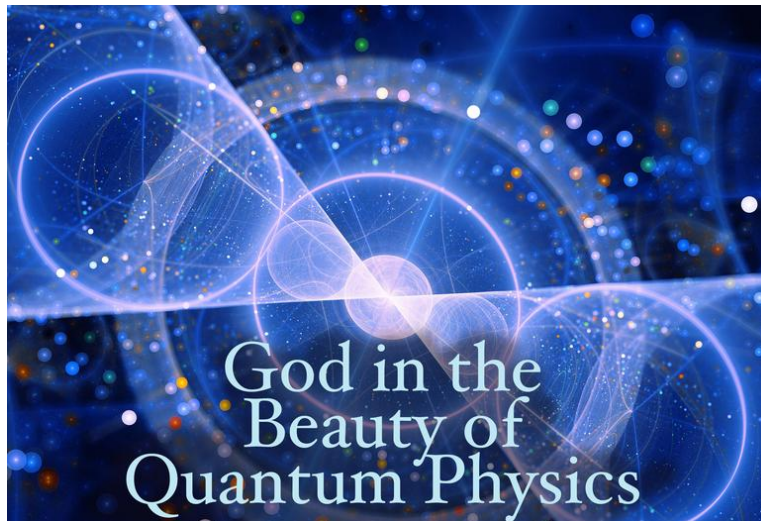
Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday March 31, 2025 - Psalm 121: 1-2

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?

2 My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Read Psalm 121 for meditation and inspiration.



Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

The historical novel entitled "The Robe" (by Lloyd C. Douglas) explores the aftermath of the crucifixion of Jesus through the experiences of the Roman military official Marcellus Gallio. In one scene, a woman named Miriam tells Marcellus the story of Zacchaeus, the tax collector, whose life was changed after he had spent an hour visiting with Jesus. "But what had happened?" Marcellus asks. "Nobody knows," Miriam replies. "Maybe He didn't say anything at all. Perhaps He looked him squarely in the eyes until Zacchaeus saw reflected there the image of the person he was meant to be."

Jesus has come to look us squarely in the eyes until we see, reflected there, the image of the person we were meant to be.

An astrophysicist reflecting on the age of our Universe once quipped, "Sure, thirteen billion years is a long time, but it's nothing compared to eternity." Do you remember when you first began studying our universe in science class. Among the incredible facts you discovered was that light travels at a speed of 186,000 miles – per second. That's right! In the blink of an eye a beam of light can make it around our planet almost 8 times! So, if light can travel 8 times around the earth in a single second, how much distance does it cover in a year? If you said 6 trillion miles, you'd be in the right ballpark. It's mind blowing to think about. Now consider this astonishing development reported by astrophysicists just in March of the year 2022. The Hubble telescope, which orbits about 340 miles above Earth, has captured an image of a star 28 billion light years away! That's billion with a "B." And not 28 billion miles,

but 28 billion light years. To calculate that distance from earth you need to multiply 6 trillion miles – times 28 billion years. The star, which astronomers have named Earendel, is said to be 50 to 500 times more massive and millions of times brighter than our sun. And if that doesn't impress you consider the fact that it is the farthest star ever detected.

Unless you are an astrophysicist -- and maybe not even then -- concepts as big as these are very hard to put into any kind of perspective but as the astrophysicist reflecting on the age of our Universe once quipped, "sure, thirteen billion years is a long time, but it's nothing compared to eternity." We can also say that all of the distance between stars and galaxies is nothing compared to the expanse in the realm of the entire Kingdom of God's.

No one can even begin to imagine the Awesome realm of God's Kingdom and Power and love. Time and Space have no hold on our God who is good all the time!!

But it will be our home into eternity!

To all the Kingdom Kids, Power and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger".

Roger