

Chapter 32: Seeing the Eiffel Tower

Life Application Verses:

Isaiah 12: 12-14. Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? ¹³Who can fathom the Spirit of the LORD, or instruct the LORD as his counselor? ¹⁴Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding?

Back in the year, so long ago, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy Eight (wow, that was a long time ago), I had the opportunity to travel some thousands of miles in Spain, England, Germany, Israel, Portugal, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Tangiers, Greece, Netherlands, Italy, and of course, France—not to mention Alaska, Philippines, and FLORIDA! I may have missed some, but you must remember how memory fades when eons—I mean decades—pass. One of the most astonishing images that has not faded in my mind was walking up to and onto the Eiffel Tower¹ in Paris. I had seen it in photos, books, read about it in college classes---but it was something to behold for which I will remember until my Lord calls me Home. All I could say was, WOW! I could say it backwards, !WOW.



As you can see in the image here (not my photo, but I did take a lot of them), the Tower stands tall in the city of Paris—that is, ‘Paree.’ But what you cannot grasp in this photo is scale. Scale is everything in life, just as when you first walk up to the Tower, scale makes you feel so small. The beams of the Eiffel Tower are ... **HUGE!!!!** When you look up, your neck can’t rotate at those angles, so you have to step back...and back...and back to get perspective. You can climb stairs to the second deck and catch the elevator to the top, which is 1,063 feet from ground to

¹ http://www.tour-eiffel.fr/images/PDF/all_you_need_to_know_about_the_eiffel_tower.pdf

radio broadcast antennae. It's slightly less if you stand at its top platform. In any case, it is a long way off the Earth. But, setting that aside, what created sheer amazement for me was the Tower's huge scale to its surroundings. For example, the beams that are the base of the Tower are simply staggering; how wide the base was from corner to corner was like mind-blowing; and, just the stark contrast between photos and reality is hard to describe. To understand this discussion, you really have to stand at its base and look up. When you do, you will see Heaven above and if you do go to the top of the Tower, you will see Earth below. Get it? ...Heavenly Minded, Earthly Good!

So, maybe I should come to the point of this chapter, you think? If you look at the Life Application Verses, in v. 13, there is a very interesting reference: "weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance." Translation: Scale. God is asking the question, "Who is My Equal?" In terms of scale, which one of us can make the mountains to contain the volume and mass of the mountains of the Earth? In fact, which one of us can make even a stone that weights 1Kiloton? How about a pebble that weighs 4.82 ounces? Let me give you another example.

During WWII, when the world's first nuclear devices were being made at Los Alamos, New Mexico, the design of "Fat Man²" and "Little Boy" were undertaken as a means of ending the war with Japan. As these bombs were under development, it was not a surety that when they were tested, Oppenheimer and his design team knew the exact outcome. They knew it was going to be the most powerful explosion the world had seen, but the extent was unknown. The bombs used materials that were supremely active when in combinations with other elements. In other words, these reactions had no equal on the measurement scale. Yet, God created these most active elements, the Earth, the Universe, Love, H₂O, oxygen, the Sun, the mountains, the oceans, all living things, and the stars: "He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name" (Psalm 147: 4). In terms of scale, our most powerful Hydrogen bomb—while ending life as we know it—is no match for God. If He has the Power to create all that we see before us, no thing that exists was created by any other than He Himself. Thus, God

² <http://www.atomicheritage.org/index.php/component/content/article/42/146-fat-man-and-little-boy-bombs.html>

created **SCALE** to our scale in comparison. Think of it this way: God's **SCALE**, i.e., Heavenly Minded provides ALL that we need, i.e., Earthly Good. In other words, if God has made all that we see about us, we have a **POWERFUL** Heavenly Minded resource to help us achieve Earthly Good. Do we not?

Another example: when the family is going on a trip, we travel on the Interstate at about 70 MPH—posted speed. The formula, $e=mc^2$, provides for c as the speed of light, or some 186,000 miles/second. That's 70 miles in **ONE HOUR** on the Interstate; for c , that's 186,000 miles in **ONE SECOND**. At this writing, Voyager³ I and II are still travelling to the outer banks of our Galaxy. It takes between 28 & 35 hours approximate round trip in c to speak to the spacecraft and get a response! Talk about scale?! How do we know all this is real? God gave us the skills to develop these technologies to be able to fathom His 'CraftsManShip' in the Spirit. There is no equal!

When I arrived in Paris by car, I could see the Eiffel Tower from a distance. It was like being a young lad again in school, and something amazing was happening that was exciting to learn. Who built the tower?—Men. Who designed the layout, the engineering drawings, and began building?—Men. Who made the steel, the concrete, the cables for the elevator?—Men. But, who provided the raw materials to make all of these things?—God. When I got closer to actually seeing it, the Eiffel Tower was one of those things that implants itself into your mind forever. There is a sort of 'park+road' area that sits on a slight uphill from the Tower. As I walked down this area, the Tower began to consume my entire thoughts and vision. It grew in stature, size, and magnitude—**SCALE!** You might could say it left me speechless!—which it did.

On this trip through several European nations, I was sort of speechless when I saw the Mona Lisa, Stonehenge, The Autobahn, The Alps, Dachau, and so many other sites that I can only name just a few here. But...The Eiffel Tower—to this day, that stands out in my memory (Dachau was the most heart-breaking place I had ever been on this trip or elsewhere in all my life and I will never forget the smell in the gas chamber). Again—Scale! When I think on these things or look through the Slides (yes, Slides in those days) of all the places and things I saw, I can't help but compare them to God's Work. The Alps were so beautiful, but they were massive

³ <http://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/>

in height, ruggedness, and scale. The German Autobahn was the most beautiful highway I had ever seen, even to this day, but the speed of those cars in the ‘fast lanes’ blew by our car so fast all we heard was, “phoooo.” (Say it fast to gain perspective and Scale). The cathedrals, famous paintings, historical sites, and all of it—does not even compare to the most ordinary creation of God. When you place The Eiffel Tower next to God’s Work in comparison, The Eiffel Tower is no more than an attempt to compare God’s work to man’s work—not even close!

How is our Scale-Vision? Do you see the wonders around you and wonder about the wonders? Do you fully understand what it took to create them? Or do you see them as something that just happened in The Big Bang of the Universe? Maybe it was a big bang, but the God of All Creation did the work. Thus, if He can do all of that—the stars, planets, Earth, and us—then He can meet our needs. Our job is to be Faithful, to be Heavenly Minded to do as much Earthly Good as we can—that is, never Scale down, always Scale up. In terms of Scale, our Prayers should be never ceasing, our Work must never be finished, and our Love for Christ Jesus must never be put under a basket. In the Book of Acts, when Saul of Tarsus became Paul for Jesus, that was on par with the work of Christ on Earth. Right after Saul’s conversion, most of the Christians at that time could hardly believe this to be possible. Yet, on a Scale of Disbelief, the followers of Christ were pegging the needle towards, “NO WAY!” But, Jesus had other plans and those plans changed History, Hearts, and Hell!

The Eiffel Tower is a magnificent creation—of man—but it has zero comparison to God in His Creation or The Cross. When you place The Cross next to The Eiffel Tower, which one do you think is The Greatest event in our Lives? One is magnificent because of its scale, beauty, and bronze; the other is magnificent because of its Eternal Scale. The Eiffel Tower is man-made and is capable of being torn down or brought down; Eternal Life is a Creation of God in Christ Jesus and it cannot be torn down or brought down. In fact, Eternal Life is for all time, while The Eiffel Tower is temporal in this world. Let me talk about time for a moment.

It was a long time ago when I saw all those things in those nations I mentioned earlier. But, time is always and forever; it never stops, sleeps, or backs up. Oh, it may seem to do some of these things, but it is one of God’s Greatest Creations. For with Him, a day is like a thousand years; with us, sometimes a day can seem like a thousand years. Yet, time is our friend if we

believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior. When we commit our lives to Christ, time eternal is our friend...

My Friend Time

By Ken Scott

Long ago, when I was young,
Nursery songs were gladly sung;
Time was known not unto me,
Youth was young, I was free.

Soon therein, my friend arrives,
And as to others, it changed our lives;
From youth to aged, my *Friend Time* says,
'You'll travel fast, you'll be amazed!'

I tell *Friend Time*, "Go slow my friend,
For if not, you'll bring my end;
Just yesterday, my youth was strong,
Now I sing a young man's song."

Friend Time responds, 'Young man I see,
How my arrival, unsettles thee';
I say, "My Friend, how old art thou?"
A whispered 'Old', with furrowed brow.

I shudder in thought, I'll soon be gone,
For I am now, middle-aged, I've grown;
Friend Time smiles, as if to say,
'Mirror, mirror, has he grown gray?'

Retirement looms, that day unspoken,
My aged body, scarred, unbroken;
For suddenly, I feel so old,
Friend Time says, 'You were told.'

The sunset years, so soon, no tears,
For My God, I Trust, no fears;
Friend Time says, 'No Worries for Thee,
For in Thy God, I am Eternity.'

In terms of time, it was just yesterday when I stood before The Eiffel Tower; however, I haven't even consumed the equivalent of a fraction of a second in God's Time of Eternity. You see, the point of this message is that God is the Creator of all Things—Time, Talents, and Territory. We can't get out from under the Creation of God. Yet we try, we run, and we fail. Seeing The Eiffel Tower, that was a life's dream; but, it was only in this Life, not Eternal Life. That is found in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Heaven's Eiffel Tower can only be imagined and there is no equal!

We may be ordinary Christians, but there is nothing ordinary about our Lives in Christ. It is extraordinary; He gives us Hope, Help, and Blessings. Christ Jesus is our Spiritual Eiffel Tower. He stands above the landscape and the Scale of His Love is measureless. Because of our Lord Jesus, we can know that our Heavenly Minded Guide will be there for our Earthly Good if we but Trust Him, Follow Him, and seek the Face of God—for at the Right Hand of God sits Christ Jesus. Talk about Scale! That's it by Holy and Glorious definition.

A Question of Curiosity:

What man-made or natural site have you actually visited or seen? Does it stand out in your memory? Do you remember the sights and sounds of being there and how it made you feel to see that man-made or natural site? Translate that into how many days, years, decades, or eons it has been since you witnessed your own Eiffel Tower? Then imagine that in Eternity your memory will never fade because we will be with God The Father and Christ Jesus The Son. Can you imagine anything better than that? By comparison, The Eiffel Tower pales by a magnitude that I can't even imagine... And you say?

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Isaiah 12: 12-14. Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? ¹³Who can fathom the Spirit of the LORD, or instruct the LORD as his counselor? ¹⁴Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding?

Questions to Ponder:

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?

Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?

Who can fathom the Spirit of the LORD, or instruct the LORD as his counselor?

Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way?

Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding?

***** Do we have the answers for these questions of Eternal Scale? Yes we do...God Himself!**

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My Prayer For You:

Heavenly Father, Words fail to express Who You are. We use words of all types every day in our lives—hopefully for the good, but sometimes we may slip and fall. There is no building, tower, or structure that holds a wisp of air in comparison to Your Creation. In terms of Scale, You are the Prime Designer of All Things, and we are but Your creation. When We consider Your Eternal Works as it was given to us in *Isaiah 12: 12-14*: Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? ¹³ Who can fathom the Spirit of the LORD, or instruct the LORD as his counselor? ¹⁴ Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding? These questions are Eternal in nature and Who but You can answer them? I pray that when we view some great thing on this Earth or in the Heavens, that we would be mindful of Who made it possible? Let us be mindful that while many of these things have been in existence for hundreds or thousands of years, Eternity has no end and your Creation should point us to Remembrance of Who we serve; that we should be Heavenly Minded to do the Earthly Good that we can while we have time. For in the name of Christ, I offer this prayer. Amen.

Have you ever read one of those ‘books’ that speaks to the vastness of the Earth on which we live? For example, if you were to consider...let’s say...7 things about the Earth and the Universe in which we live, you might find that Scale is in the Eye of the Beholder—namely, in the Power of God to Create beyond our imagination. Think about the 7 things on the next page and reflect on the Scale of God’s Creation.

7 of God's Creations to Give You Perspective on the Scale of His Creation

1. How many stars are there in the Universe?⁴ Have you ever looked up into the night sky and wondered just how many stars there are in space? This question has fascinated scientists as well as philosophers, musicians and dreamers throughout the ages. Look into the sky on a clear night, out of the glare of streetlights, and you will see a few thousand individual stars with your naked eyes. With even a modest amateur telescope, millions more will come into view. So how many stars are there in the Universe? It is easy to ask this question, but difficult for scientists to give a fair answer! Stars are not scattered randomly through space, they are gathered together into vast groups known as galaxies. The Sun belongs to a galaxy called the Milky Way. Astronomers estimate there are about 100 thousand million stars in the Milky Way alone. Outside that, there are millions upon millions of other galaxies also! It has been said that counting the stars in the Universe is like trying to count the number of sand grains on a beach on Earth. We might do that by measuring the surface area of the beach, and determining the average depth of the sand layer. If we count the number of grains in a small representative volume of sand, by multiplication we can estimate the number of grains on the whole beach. For the Universe, the galaxies are our small representative volumes, and there are something like 10^{11} to 10^{12} stars in our Galaxy, and there are perhaps something like 10^{11} or 10^{12} galaxies. With this simple calculation you get something like 10^{22} to 10^{24} stars in the Universe. This is only a rough number, as obviously not all galaxies are the same, just like on a beach the depth of sand will not be the same in different places.

2. Depths nor Heights⁵:

- a. God: Earth's Highest Point: Mount Everest @ 29,035 Feet;
- b. Man: Planes fly @ 35,000 Feet;
- c. Who gave man the skills and resources to build and fly planes?
- d. Lowest known natural point on Earth: Mariana Trench @ 36,201 feet;
- e. Deepest artificial point on Earth: Kola Borehole @ 40,230 feet;
- f. Who gave man the skills and resources to drill a hole in the Earth so deep?
- g. Of these depths or heights, who has the greater creative power? Man or God?

3. Tallest natural living tree⁶:

Hyperion, the world's tallest living tree

The tallest tree in the world is a coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), named Hyperion after a person in Greek mythology. The tree is no less than **115.72 m (379.7 feet)** tall! This enormous tree was discovered only in August 2006 in a remote part of Redwood National Park, California by naturalists Chris Atkins and Michael Taylor. Their first preliminary measurements were done with professional laser measurement equipment based on goniometry. In September 2006 the tree was remeasured by Steve Sillett. This was done in the most accurate way: he climbed to the top of the tree to drop a tape from there straight to the ground. This tape drop was filmed for National Geographic.

⁴ http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Space_Science/Herschel/How_many_stars_are_there_in_the_Universe

⁵ <http://earthsky.org/earth/highest-and-lowest-points-on-earth>

⁶ http://www.monumentaltrees.com/en/trees/coastredwood/tallest_tree_in_the_world/

4. The longest rivers in the world:⁷

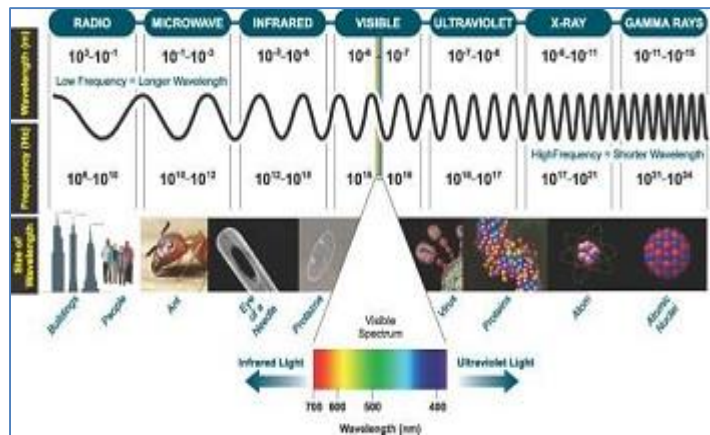
The longest river in the world, measured from its mouth to its most distant, year-round source, is likely the Amazon, which flows 4,345 miles from the Peruvian Andes through Brazil to the Atlantic Ocean. However, much depends on how you measure it. Until 2007, the title belonged to the Nile, which runs 4,258 miles from the mountains of Burundi to its famed and fertile delta fan, where Egypt meets the Mediterranean Sea. The two lengths are close enough that measuring techniques and philosophies can be quite controversial. In fact, the geographers who crowned the Amazon champion were funded in part by the Brazilian government.

5. What is the biggest fish in the ocean?⁸

Despite their tremendous size and intimidating appearance, whale sharks are commonly docile and approachable. Please keep your distance, giving them the respect and space they deserve. Whale sharks can grow to 12.2 meters and weigh as much as 40 tons by some estimates! The largest reported whale shark was 20 meters, but it is uncommon to see them longer than 12 meters. They have broad, flat heads with short snouts and their backs have an interesting white, yellow, and grey checkerboard pattern. It is unknown how long whale sharks can live, however, scientists believe they can live approximately 60-100 years. Whale sharks are found in all tropical and warm-temperate seas around the world, preferring water temperatures of 20-25°C. Whale sharks eat mostly small organisms like plankton, schooling fish, and squid, which they strain from the water as they swim with their meter-long mouths and specialized teeth.

6. Light vs. Dark:⁹

An overview of the properties of light: Light is part of the electromagnetic spectrum, which ranges from radio waves to gamma rays. Electromagnetic radiation waves, as their names suggest are fluctuations of electric and magnetic fields, which can transport energy from one location to another. Visible light is not inherently different from the other parts of the electromagnetic spectrum with the exception that the human eye can detect visible waves. Electromagnetic radiation can also be described in terms of a stream of photons which are massless particles each travelling with wavelike properties at the speed of light. A photon is the smallest quantity (quantum) of energy which can be transported and it was the realization that light travelled in discrete quanta that was the origins of Quantum Theory.



Darkness – the absence of light. Try finding that definition in the science community!!!

⁷ <http://www.history.com/news/ask-history/what-is-the-longest-river-in-the-world>

⁸ <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/bigfish.html>

⁹ <http://www.andor.com/learning-academy/what-is-light-an-overview-of-the-properties-of-light>

7. Mankind – the most complex creature of God’s Creation. If you doubt this, begin a life-long journey in the Study of God’s Word and correlate His Word to our existence today.

While there are 7 items of God’s creation provided here to give you and I a sense of Scale in our lives, it comes down to something simple: do we believe what God said about creation, eternity, Christ Jesus on the Cross, His death, and His resurrection? If we reject that Eternal Truth, I suppose nothing of God’s creation will give us Scale as to who He is through Christ Jesus. And, folks, that brings tears to my eyes.

Please read these words one more time, but consider your neighbors and friends and family who know not Christ Jesus. Is it because they reject Him not knowing that God is Sovereign in all things? At a loss for words, I offer the Holy Words of God Himself:

Isaiah 12: 12-14. Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? ¹³Who can fathom the Spirit of the LORD, or instruct the LORD as his counselor? ¹⁴Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge, or showed him the path of understanding?