

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

INTRO: Describe the most beautiful place you've seen and the most beautiful sound you've heard.

Today, we want to explore the true meanings of 'beauty,' comparing the secular and sacred, and discover the ultimate and infinite beauty that is in God alone.

"Only the beautiful is loved . . . we cannot help loving what is beautiful." - Augustine
"We cannot live without beauty." - John Navone

I. Beauty defined secularly

- A. Random House College Dict. - "1. a quality that is present in a thing or person giving intense aesthetic pleasure or deep satisfaction to the senses or the mind. 2. - an attractive, well-formed girl or woman. 3. - a beautiful thing, as a work of art, building, etc.
- B. Merriam-Webster Dict. online - "the quality or aggregate of qualities in a person or thing that gives pleasure to the senses or pleasurably exalts the mind or spirit." [Let's add the elements of rarity, perfection, brightness, and color.](#)
- C. Big takeaway: Beauty is relative. How and to what? - [Show photos](#)
- D. Beauty is not just what can be sensed outwardly, but is also defined by feelings about what is inward. These are the Facebook posts that bring tears and lumpy throats. ["Beauty isn't about having a pretty face. It is about having a pretty mind, a pretty heart, and most importantly a beautiful soul."](#)
-Anonymous

II. Beauty defined biblically - Greek world (outward appearance) vs. Hebrew world (holiness) - ["True beauty goes beyond the eye of the beholder."](#) D. Skinner

- A. Biblical definition - O.T. "tip'eret" - glory, beauty, ornament, distinction - Exodus 28:2; Proverbs 4:9; Proverbs 16:31; I Chronicles 29:11. "pa'ar - to glorify as in Isaiah 60:9.
- B. Biblical definition - N.T. "kalos" - lit. 'to call' - good, beautiful, worthy: well proportioned, intrinsically excellent; "horaioi" - seasonable, best time as in Romans 10:15. Used especially in Genesis and S. of S. five times (used in the realm of nature); "asteios" - a city elegantly civilized and adorned (used in the realm of art).

III. Beauty exemplified scripturally

- A. Creation - Genesis 1:31; Genesis 2:9; Job 38:4-7; Psalm 8:3-5; Isaiah 40:6,7; Matthew 6:28,29 - [Abigail Hutchinson](#) - ["She often expressed a sense of the](#)

glory of God appearing in the trees, the growth of the fields, and other works of God's hands." - Narrative of Surprising Conversions by Jonathan Edwards

- We see beauty in all of creation: seen and unseen. From mathematics to the starry heavens (an ordered universe) - from rainbows to sunrises -

- We see symmetry - in the plant world, molecular world, art world

- We see complexity - DNA; in the microscopic world and macroscopic (human body)

- All pointing to the beauty of DESIGN, and therefore the DESIGNER!

- "There is not one blade of grass, there is no color in this world that is not intended to make us rejoice." - John Calvin

- B. Human relationships - Rebekah, Rachel, Joseph and Abigail, David, the Shulamite, Esther; Others? - We are wired to be sexually and emotionally attracted by beautiful faces and bodies, strength, stability and wisdom. Who was NOT attracted to your husband or wife when your relationship began?
- C. Music - II Chronicles 5:12,13; Psalm 33:1-3; Imagine a world w/o music. - and the added bonus: harmony! orchestras! variety! rappers!
- C. Holy places of God: Tabernacle - Exodus 25 - from the artistry of the curtains to the cherubim to the priestly garments ; Temple - I Kings 6; Heaven - Revelation 21 - Should church buildings reflect God's holiness?
- D. Holiness of God - Psalm 27:4; Psalm 29:1,2; - God had revealed His holiness to Israel; and He wished them to consider it the "beauty" of His nature. If we take a portrait of a man, we try to represent his face, not his hand, nor his back, nor his foot; we try to delineate his beauty, to refresh our minds with that which is most memorable and distinguishing in his exterior semblance; so, while the hand and finger of God denote His power and skill, and His throne is used for majesty and dominion, He considers His holiness as the true luster of His character, as that by which He will be best known." - Edward Reynolds, Puritan
- E. Crown and holy garments - Isaiah 28:5; Exodus 28:2 - "for glory and beauty"
- F. Jerusalem - Psalm 50:2; -"because there especially was God's glory set forth in his holy ordinances, and more clearly manifested than in all his handiwork besides." John Trapp Isaiah 52:1; 62:1-4
- G. God's Word - Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119:103,111,162
- H. God's people - Isaiah 61:3; Psalm 133; Psalm 90:17; 149:4; Romans 10:15 Proverbs 20:29 (gray head)
- I. Majesty of God - Isaiah 35:2; Psalm 104:1,2; Psalm 96:6,7
- J. Christ - Psalm 45 especially; John 1:14; Colossians 1:15; John 12:32; II Corinthians 3:18; I Peter 2:7 - What about Isaiah 53:2?

K. Others? - Salvation, babies, taste, smell, touch, speech, written literature, poetry, etc.

IV. Beauty's ruin

- A. In creation - Romans 1:20-24 (rejecting the true source of beauty); Romans 8:19-22 - We are surrounded by death: gas, oil, asphalt, plastic, coal, deserts, Grand Canyon, earth upheavals, storms
- B. In a sinful world - How has true beauty been distorted? - "Woe unto those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter." Isaiah 5:20; I John 2:15,16 - Love not the world, nor the THINGS in the world . . .

IV. Beauty's complete restoration

- A. New heavens and earth - Revelation 21:1; II Peter 3:13
- B. Heavenly mindset - Colossians 3:1-4; I Corinthians 2:9; Romans 8:18