

Something Extra

- I. Introduction: We all like to get something extra
 - a. Examples:
 - i. Prize in the Cracker Jacks
 - ii. Bonus footage on our DVDs
 - iii. Super-sized combo meals
 - b. God is a God who likes to give something extra
 - i. In Creation
 - ii. In Dealing with Man
- II. Something Extra in Creation
 - a. Varied terrain – The mountains
 - i. Ps. 65:5-6: ⁵By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of the far off seas; ⁶Who established the mountains by His strength, being clothed with power;
 - ii. Amos 4:13: ¹³For behold, He who forms mountains, And creates the wind, Who declares to man what his thought is, and makes the morning darkness, Who treads the high places of the earth—The Lord God of hosts is His name.
 - b. Varied seasons -
 - c. The stars – Why any stars? Why so many stars??
 - i. Genesis 1:16: ¹⁶Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.
 - ii. Genesis 15:5: ⁵Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”
 - iii. How many Stars are in the night sky?

If you mean how many can we see, the answer is it depends. On a dark night, the average person can see a few thousand stars (about 2,500). If you mean how many stars are visible from the earth at large, that would be about 8,400. If you mean how many are in the Milky Way Galaxy, the estimate is anywhere from 100 – 400 billion. If you mean how many stars are in the universe at large, the math gets even more muddled. One estimate, as of July 2003, puts the number at 70 sextillion stars (7 followed by 22 zeros). That is more stars than there are grains of sand on all of the beaches on Earth.

From <http://newton.physics.wvu.edu:8082/telescope/CQuestions>

Western Washington University astronomy site

- iv. Hubble Deep Field Survey

1. 2004 – Pointed Hubble telescope at an mostly “empty” patch of sky about the size of the eye of Eisenhower on a dime held at arm’s length near the Big Dipper
 2. Collected light for about ten days in that “empty” part of the sky
 3. What did they find? Thousands of galaxies further away than human beings had ever seen before
- v. Psalm 147:4-5: ⁴He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. ⁵Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.
- d. Varied animal life – Birds w/ their songs, Butterflies with their infinite variety
- i. Psalms 148:9-13
- III. Something Extra in Dealing with Man
- a. Not just miracles but abundant miracles- Matthew 14:14-36
 - i. Feeds 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish
 - ii. Walks on water
 - iii. Enables Peter to walk on water
 - iv. Caused the wind to cease
 - v. Accepted worship from His disciples
 - vi. Healed ALL the sick in the town of Genessaret
 - b. Not Just Laws, but the ability to keep the laws: Romans 5:6-9; Romans 6:5-6, 10-13
 - c. Not Simply Justice, But also mercy: Romans 3:21-26
- IV. Are we doing something Extra?
- a. We cannot do anything extra for God: Luke 17:7-10
 - b. Something extra in resolving conflict: Matthew 5:38-42
 - c. Something extra in courtesy and respect: Matthew 5:43-48
 - d. Something extra in our work: Ecclesiastes 9:10; Colossians 3:22-24
 - e. When we put something extra into how we live our lives, we demonstrate that we are enjoying the abundant life promised by Jesus: John 10:10
- V. Conclusion
- a. God delights in doing something extra
 - i. In His Creation, He went far beyond the call of duty to provide a place of infinite surprise and wonder to provide for our bodies, delight our souls, and to call attention to His glory
 - ii. In His Redemption, He went far beyond the call of duty to provide a way for us to come to him, and to draw us to that way by every means of persuasion available
 - b. We can bring glory to God, and hope to the world, by living abundant lives and giving something extra to all that we do.