

REFLECTIONS

Thoughts on nature and the Christian faith - 4/30/18

"Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the Lord will do before your eyes." - I Sam. 12:16



This is a ruby-throated hummingbird, a marvel of flight. These tiny birds can hover in one spot while beating their wings up to 53 times a second! In fact, wings are about the only way they can get around since their legs are almost nonexistent. This particular bird is a male whose brilliant ruby red throat is on full display. Being such small birds, you might think they can fly only limited distances. But you would be wrong. Not only do they fly to central America each year, but many do it by crossing the Gulf of Mexico without stopping. Sometimes the creative power of God comes in small packages. We try to attract these little jewels by planting flowers and putting out feeders for them around our property. Their nests are so small and so well camouflaged that we seldom find them, and their flight is so rapid we seldom see them until they pause in mid-air to feed or look around. Trying to photograph them is not easy. Setting a fast shutter speed is mandatory, and even a shutter speed of 1/1000 of a second will still blur their wings. Samuel told the Israelites to stand still and they would behold a great thing that God would do by sending a sudden rain storm. By sending me this ruby-throated hummingbird, God caused it to stand still so that I might see the greatness of the things God can do. I often wonder how many things God puts into our lives that are there to point to his greatness. And I am saddened by how many of those things are ignored. This little fellow came into my life as a witness to its creator. I am so thankful it did not go unnoticed. Indeed God, even in the tiniest of his creations, does great things. -

John