

Seed time and harvest...a reflection

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Key words

Seed time, harvest, coherence of creation, providential care.

I was working on the tractor sowing grass seed. It was early winter but the days were still warm, the soil was moist and all the conditions were right for a good germination of the seeds.

The thing about that job was that, after a short period, it need occupy only about 20% of your mind; the job can be on 'auto-pilot' and your mind can be employed on other matters.

And so I got to thinking about soil and seed and seasons and the verse in Genesis where God speaks to Noah as he and the animals leave the ark:

While the earth remains, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease. (8:22)

Before the promise was given, the problem for Noah was that the dreadful flood had happened and presumably it could happen again. What guarantee was there that it would not?

God gave a visual promise (the rainbow) but also that verbal promise to Noah and to us that speaks of the certainty of His care for his people spoken in terms of the continuity of creation. For those with eyes to see, this promise is reiterated in the daily round of day and night, in the yearly return of the seasons and in seed time and harvest.

Now all of this and the little green shoots that have appeared in the weeks since I planted the seed have a scientific explanation as to their origins and growth. But what struck me and caused a sense of wonder was of their being part of a grand picture of the continuing existence— the consistence, the coherence of creation being 'held together' in Christ as Paul says in Colossians 1:17.

We spend a lot of time talking about how 'creation' originated, how it works and how we can make it work for us. But we spend little time thinking about this idea of coherence, of God's continuing, sustaining, providential care. We expect, on the basis of little scientific evidence, that creation will always be the same and hence we are startled when it seems

to change and we think that, as a result, our life style might be threatened.

Generally, as a society or as a scientific community, we don't believe in or, at least, recognise God's providential care. It may not be obvious to the casual or to the scientific observer but it is there none the less - for those with eyes to see. There in the seed time and harvest, in the green growing things of my experience — and in your daily experiences too?