

SOMETHING TO CHEW ON

God's little green machines all run on solar power. Long before man discovered how to harness solar power, the Creator had installed miniature 'solar panels' in every green leaf, in every blade of grass.

A seed may be sown purposely or accidentally. Each one is programmed to remain dormant until water and warmth become available. With moisture, the stored food in the seed becomes soluble, and little roots creep down to seek more moisture. Only then do little leaves come up to seek light and air. Thus one of God's little green machines comes to life, instructed by the miniature computer implanted within it.

The leaves expand, and, unseen by human eyes, they expose their 'solar panels' to the light for energy to power the chemical factories within each leaf, that wonderfully combine light, air and water to form food for the plant. This amazing process for forming green chlorophyll has been taking place ever since the Creator said: "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself" (Gen. 1:11-13.)

In this amazing process of photosynthesis, using solar power to make complex chemicals, some of the sun's light falls on the green cells in each leaf (known as chloroplasts), empowering them to make such chemical changes as splitting molecules of water into their component oxygen and hydrogen, and dividing the carbon from the oxygen in carbon dioxide (CO²). Some of this oxygen is released into the air for us to breathe, while the hydrogen and carbon are combined with oxygen to make plant food.

This whole wonderful process is being performed all the time, all over the world, by countless numbers of God's little green machines. But it has proved to be beyond the ability of skilful scientists to replicate the process, although they are still trying to do so. (New Scientist magazine 8 June 1996 p 18). We can only be amazed at the wonder of it all, and, if we are wise, learn the lesson that it teaches. For it is this process that provides all of our food supply, directly or indirectly. It was created before any living creatures were placed on earth, and is evidence of the practical, loving care of the Creator for His creatures, man and beast.

God's little green machines were created on Day 3 of Creation (Genesis 1:11). On Day 4 the sun was revealed to provide the solar power for the waiting plants. The interval could not have been longer than twenty-four hours or plant life would have lacked the essential solar power that keeps it living.

* * * * *

THE PIT

A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out
A SUBJECTIVE person came along and said
"I feel for you down there."
An OBJECTIVE person came along and said
"It's logical that someone would fall down there."
A PHARISEE said "Only bad people fall into a pit."
A MATHEMATICIAN calculated how he fell into the pit.
A NEWS REPORTER wanted the exclusive story on his pit
A FUNDAMENTALIST said: "You deserve your pit".
The TAX MAN asked if he was paying taxes on the pit
A SELF-PITYING person said"
"You haven't seen anything until you've seen MY PIT!"
A CHARISMATIC said:
"Just confess that you're not in a pit"
AN OPTIMIST said: "Things could be worse."
A PESSIMIST said: "Things will get worse!"
JESUS, seeing the man, took him by the hand and
LIFTED HIM OUT of the pit.

* * * * *

A phrase we are hearing more today is 'virtual reality'. It refers to creating by means of a computer an artificial environment that seems real. This can be very useful; pilots are trained to fly in realistic surroundings without the danger that they might write off an expensive plane by an elementary error. The phenomenal growth in power, and drop in price, of computers is now opening up the possibility of virtual reality technology becoming widely used for instruction and entertainment. By putting on a helmet and a pair of goggles linked to a powerful computer people will be able to be transported to another country or experience a thrilling ride or play a totally realistic war game. Initially it will be necessary to go to the equivalent of a cinema to enjoy a virtual reality experience. However, the availability of more powerful computers will mean that virtual reality technology will soon become possible on computers at home. The prospect may sound exciting. However, when we consider the use man has made of existing media to stimulate his evil imagination, one can only shudder at the thought of what could be put over by virtual reality technology. The wise man said: "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions" (Eccl. 7:29), and surely the implication is that these inventions are for evil. Before the Flood, "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen.6:5), and one wonders what the human race had achieved in technological developments by this time. And, as our days are compared by our Lord to the days before the Flood, we must not be surprised that modern inventions have such possibilities for evil.

The evil things that are put over by modern technology are an obvious danger. What we do need to be more aware of is how the increasingly sophisticated media can have their dangers for us, even if the material being put over is harmless in itself. We believe that if we are to be in God's Kingdom we must make the Scriptures our spiritual food now, seeking to absorb Divine teaching that it might develop our characters on right lines. There are two ways in which modern media can hinder us in this. Firstly, they can put over things in a far more exciting and interesting way than before, making cold printing seem uninteresting and insipid in comparison. How fascinating to be able to experience travel or the world of nature in more and more realistic ways, without leaving our armchairs! And how easy to justify it by saying that we are considering God's handiwork, but leaving little time for the Word! The other danger is that, by having our minds strongly stimulated by sounds and sights, we cease to be able to use our imaginations. Educationalists fear that young people today are growing up so used to being stimulated by the screen that they cannot use the imagination; the written Word has no affect on them. Yet the Bible demands the disciplined use of the imagination, for it is full of pictorial language with its visions and parables, similes and metaphors.

* * * * *